

Green Team Program

The key to running an effective program (of course) is collaboration! To begin implementing sustainable initiatives at our school, meet with your principal and if possible, invite the school district's Energy and Sustainability Manager. Understanding what your school is currently doing is essential to developing a go forward plan.

Next, create a Green Committee and invite staff and family members. Utilize the [Michigan Green Schools](#) application as a starting point for your team. This is essentially check list to help get ideas to initiate sustainable programs in a your school. Using a list of 20+ environmental projects, your school will achieve the Michigan Green School status, win a flag and your schools name will be listed on the state listing as a "green school" by completing 10 out of 20 points.

Each county has a [coordinator](#) I highly encourage you to contact. Although the points are the same, counties have different application processes (some electronic and others are hand written). [Click here](#) for the list of the points.

A student lead club offers invaluable leadership experience. Students become engaged in environmental initiatives by teaching peers the importance conservation which develops life long sustainable behaviors. All it takes is a dedicated adult willing to volunteer a few hours a month to organize meetings and help students determine, collaborate, and achieve their goals.

Checklist:

- Get permission from the school principal.
- Recruit Green Committee members consisting of teachers, custodians, lunch personnel, office administrators and parents. Schedule a meeting to share agenda and solicit ideas and help.
- Review Michigan Green School list and invite committee members to be responsible for one point.
- In a perfect world, a parent from each grade level will be present. Also, each coordinator will have a partner.
- Determine which grades to include on team and best time of day to for green team to meet. We used to meet once a month during recess but that does not give adequate time. Meetings either before or after school work best.
- Create a calendar and set meeting dates.
- Send out an invitation and green team application.
- The application helps students reflect why they are interested in joining team, establishes a formal commitment and provides you with parent contact information.
- At the first meeting, host elections for team President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary
- Review Mi Green Points with team and encourage them to brainstorm and select team focus for the year.
- Depending on number of members, divide team up into smaller groups; ie, Earth Day, Recycle Ninjas and Mi Green Team.
- Monthly meetings are fun and productive. Depending on school, your team responsibilities will vary. Some conduct school wide recycling due to lack of custodial support. Others take on larger projects like fundraising and creating "party packs" for teachers. These consist of reusable plates, cups, silverware and cloth napkins to reduce significant waste during holiday, classroom parties (including the never ending birthdays).

This checklist is intended to help you get started and has room for suggestions! Please share your programs and initiatives on our Facebook page to help other schools!