

Go Green Tool Kit

Looking to make your child's school more green? Take a look at some easy, simple and fun ways to make your child's school environmentally friendly!

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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!

Green Team Activities

It is important for schools to have a Green Team. By actively engaging kids in student led initiatives, they develop life long sustainable behaviors. The green team can be headed by any interested parent or teacher willing to commit just a few hours each month. Here is an outline created for Gill Elementary School Green Team in 2011-2012 school year.

October	Limited Resources	Hersey Kisses. Pass out kisses calling them nonrenewable resources. "Run out" half way through and stop to explain renewable vs. non renewable. Show pictures of different types of energy and extraction processes to illustrate differences.
November	America Recycles Day	Feature "How To Recycle" video, created by green team in the morning. Conduct school wide recycling demonstration during recess teaching kids how to sort recyclables and develop understanding of materials.
December	Watershed Presentation	MSU graduate Jessica Getchum, presented watershed slide show and conducted experiments with students to illustrate contamination. Students learn about water table, impact of human activity and solutions for reducing pollutants.
January	Decomposition Timeline (aka Garage Graveyard)	Students analyze life of common everyday stuff we use and length of time it lasts in landfill. Develop understanding of importance of waste reduction and how "wastefulness" leads to negative consequences on planet.
February	Adopt An Endangered Animal	Students bring stuffed animals to school for 25¢ donation towards endangered animals. Partner with media specialist to conduct focus on reading on endangered animals to enhance student understanding regarding why animals are becoming extinct.
March	Energy Conservation & Celebrate Earth Hour on March 31st	Students celebrate Earth Hour by turning off all household electricity for 1 hour http://www.earthhour.org/ Learn about home energy consumption. Send home Free DTE Energy Audit information for families to help reduce energy costs and support families. Make door draft tubes to prevent heat loss at home.
April	Earth Day Playground Recycling fundraiser	Playground Water Bottle Recycling Bin Fundraiser. Students will donate \$ for recycling bin and in return receive a reusable water bottle. (Pending grant funding pending). The goal is to enhance awareness that recycling is important while providing school with a much needed recycling bin.
May	Student Garden & Nutrition: Understanding the food we eat.	Student Gardens are a multi faceted project where various classrooms, Garden Club, Boy Scouts, Green Team and families contribute to preparing, planting and maintaining garden. Garden Club meets monthly to work on garden. Green Team Activity: members learn about food chain, importance of eating healthy and incorporating fresh produce into diet. Study how to apply cafeteria compost and benefits. Students prepared garden beds and planted seeds.
June	End of the year party	

Waste-Free Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential part to funding your projects.

Here are some fun, simple and great suggestions to achieve your goals while being environmentally responsible.

- [Green Fundraiser Store](#)
- [Nature Vision](#)

“Be the Solution” Water Bottle Fundraiser

- By Peace, Love and Planet
- This is more than a fundraiser, it’s a fun, interactive, opportunity for your students to become part of a revolutionary, environmental solution!
- Fostering environmental stewardship is important.
- Reusable water bottles can be used over and over again, helping reduce precious resource consumption, landfill space and environmental degradation.
- See peaceloveandplanet.org for more information and for order forms.
- Choose from 3 different bottles to meet your needs.
- Order form and detail PDF and assorted colors.



Service First Fundraising

- Unique Green Products offered at a wholesale Price
- Partnered with Peace, Love and Planet
- Smencils
 - ⇒ Scent pencils
 - ⇒ 500 smencils for \$270
 - ⇒ Sell for \$1 per smencil, profit of \$230
 - ⇒ Wildly popular with elementary school kids
- Website: http://www.servicefirstfundraising.com/Home_Page.html
- Contact: s_f_f_r@yahoo.com



Available in 2 sizes!



Snack Taxi Fundraiser

- Used as an alternative to plastic bags
- Designed to hold snacks like popcorn or carrots and can fit a standard size sandwich.
- Machine washable
- Can purchase individual bags on the Peace, Love and Planet Website. (www.peaceloveandplanet.org)
 - ⇒ \$7 for a small, \$9 for a large
 - ⇒ Schools receive 40% for gross sales
 - ⇒ See fundraiser Tab to apply
- Website: www.snacktaxi.com

Fundraising by Recycling

Funding Factory

- It is a 100% green fundraising program.
- Free Shipping
- Recycle Inkjet cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones and small electronics
- Easy way to earn money and help the environment.
- www.fundingfactory.com

Terracycle

- Recycle hard or unrecyclable items like juice boxes, candy wrappers and a variety of other items.
- Check out their website for a full list and more information about the program.
- www.terracycle.com



Abitibi Paper Retriever

- Get money for your school's paper
- \$5 per ton for up to four tons
- \$15 per ton for between four and eight tons
- \$20 per ton for more than eight tons
- Visit their website for more information: <http://www.paperretriever.com/>



Host these fun events at your school to promote the environment!

Events



Valentine Grams

- Using recycled paper create handmade valentine's cards during a green team meeting.
- Utilize paper can be from recycling bins in the school, by using the backside of the paper.
- Sell for \$1 during lunch and afterschool.
- Have green team members deliver to recipients' locker before school starts on Feb. 14.

Movie Night

- Show an environmentally friendly movie such as *The Lorax*.
- Offer healthy snack alternatives like fresh fruit and air popcorn for sale.
- Use compostable servingware* and provide recycle bins.

*Find compostable servingware at Detroit based Michigan [Green Safe](#)



America Recycles Day

- On November 15th, celebrate America Recycle Day at your school.
- It is a nationally recognized event created by Keep America Beautiful.
- Its dedicated to promoting recycling within the United States.
- It is a great event to teach children about the importance of recycling.
- The day hopes to get everyone within the community excited about recycling.
- The reason we like celebrating in November is to foster recycling within your school early in the school year instead of waiting for earth day.
- Register on www.americarerecyclesday.org to host a America Recycles Day event.
- Once register you will be able to access promotional and educational material.



America Recycles Day

11.15.11

Go Green Night

- Host a go Green Night at your school to promote environmentally friendly practices.
- Check out our Go Green Night PDF for activities.

Make lunchtime
green and
healthy with
these fun ideas

Lunch Activities

Lunch is one of the most important meals of the day. And it is one of the most wasteful due to the tons of trash which it generates each and everyday. It has been estimated that on average a school-age child using a disposable lunch generates **67 lbs.** of waste per school year. That equates to **18,760 lbs.** of lunch waste for just one, average-size elementary school! In other words, **3.5 billion pounds** of lunch garbage nationally every year. Our landfills are nearing capacity. Help reduce waste!

Educate

Teaching kids how to eat green is more than just bringing healthy foods. Consider how food is packaged. Plastic bags and bottles need to be recycled and unfortunately most of it just ends up in the trash. Using reusable lunch items not only can save families money, but also keeps waste out of our landfills

Here are a few ways to teach children how to be environmentally conscience at lunchtime.

Cafeteria Trash Sort

- Collect all cafeteria waste from one day (include all lunch periods and collect milk/juice in a bucket)
- Sort into 5 categories
 1. Items that could have been recycled
 2. Single use packaging (plastic bags, yogurt containers, etc)
 3. Food waste
 4. Unopened packaged food (oranges, boxes of raisins)
 5. Buckets of left over juice/milk
- Have each grade preview the piles of garbage to better understand the amount of waste generated each day and that your schools contribute to landfills.



Garage Graveyard

- Supplies: bring a bag of common household trash
- Explain what decomposition is to kids.
- Let kids sort the items by placing trash on a timeline from zero to infinity years guessing when they think they will decompose.
- Overall the most common items will take hundreds of years to decompose.
- See attachment for decomposition standards.
- The goal is to have kids understand the longevity of items they use daily
- Checkout the full instructions on Peace, Love and Planet website.

Waste-Free Lunch Program

Promote

Repeating your message is important. Up posters and add a green tip during morning announcements. The more you promote, the greater the impact and the longer your message will last.

Add recycling bins to cafeteria

- Make sure they are easy for students to use.
- Clearly mark with signs with pictures of what items go into what bins.
- Place adjacent to trash bin providing easy access.

Waste Free Lunches

- Once a month, create a day promoting no waste during lunchtime.
- Encourage kids to bring reusable plastic containers instead of plastic bags.
- For a child who buys lunch, encourage them to eat as much of their lunch as possible in order to reduce waste.
- Track waste generated by each class by either weighing it or whatever works best for your school.
- Recognize class with the least amount of waste during morning announcements or prize (like popcorn party).

Plastic Trays or Baskets

- Switching from Styrofoam trays to plastic trays is instrumental in reducing waste at lunchtime.
- Not only is it a more environmentally friendly option, but can actually reduce your budget for school lunches.

Check out Trays

- KaTom Restaurant Supply offers wholesale pricing on trays
- A great option for schools is item 370-FFT1014
- A variety of colors and only \$1.65 per tray
- www.katom.com

Baskets

- TableCraft
- www.tablecraft.com
- (800) -323-8321

Composting

- One of the most effective ways to reduce food waste at lunch time is composting food waste.
- Not impossible!!! Many schools throughout Michigan such as Pembroke Elementary in Birmingham currently have composting programs.
- Encourage students to compost at home too!
- Maxi containers offers discounts to schools.
- [Visit their website to learn more!](#)



Waste-Free Lunch Products

Waste Free Lunch Products

Fancy or free, waste-free is key. Check-out Peace, Love and Planet website we offers a variety of waste free lunch options. They are cost effective, stylish and dishwasher safe. Visit peace-loveandplanet.org to see all the options. Or consider reusing food storage containers you buy at the grocery store such as humus containers, cottage cheese, sour cream or deli type plastics!



Go Green Lunchbox
Price: \$33
Large 5 compartment box
with water bottle
No need for plastic bags!



Eco Lunchbox
Price: \$22
3 in 1 Stainless Steel Containers
Dimensions: 6.75 x 4.5 x 3



Oots! Waste Free Lunchbox
Price: \$32
BPA- and phthalate free
Dimensions: 7.25 x 4.25 x 8.5



Lunchbox Water bottle
Price: \$5.00
Leak Proof and BPA Free
Size: 8 oz



Stainless Steel Water Bottle
Price: \$10.00
Leak Proof and BPA Free
Size: 12 oz

Energy Reduction

Looking for a quick way to save money? Try these energy reduction tips in order to reduce your monthly bills!

Checklist from EcoIntelligent Homes. Visit their website for more tips and tricks.
<http://ecointelligenthomes.com/>

EcoIntelligent homes conducts extensive, comprehensive energy audits. Every school, business and home can benefit from a professional energy assessment as a effective way to lower long term cost.

For more information
 Call: (248) 992-7815
 E-mail: info@ecointelligenthomes.com

Energy Reduction Checklist

Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms (appoint a student committee "light police")	
Recycle or reuse paper, plastic, glass and cans	
Set computer monitors to turn off instead of running screen savers	
Make sure exterior doors and windows are closed	
Use stairs instead of elevator	
Fix leaky faucets	
Install faucet aerators (reduce water pressure)	
Make sure supply and return vents are not covered or blocked	
Lower water heater setting to 120 degrees when possible	
Use CFL or LED light bulbs	
Use natural light from windows to light room whenever possible	
Use dimmers and/or motion sensing switches in lights	
Make sure HVAC has clean filters and is operating properly	
Turn off copier at night	
Print double sided whenever possible	
Install automatic timer where possible	
Implement a 2 day/week laminating period and keep machine turned off on other days	



Recycling Bins

Class Room Recycling Bins



Cafeteria Recycling Bins Indoor Recycling Stations



Outdoor Recycling Containers The Super Sorter Series



Will not rust or dent and are more cost effective than concrete bins

Available in Sandstone, Greystone, Blue, Blue-stone, Greenstone and Black

Visit catalog.maxicontainer.com for more bins and to order the ones you see here