

Green Schools Resources

7/30/08

According to State of Michigan House Bill 5554, which was passed in 2006, any private or public school in the state may be designated as a “green school” by completing 10 of the criteria below. For consideration, schools in Washtenaw County may submit an application to the Washtenaw County Waste Knot program documenting how the school meets these criteria. Local, state, and/or national resources for each are listed below each lettered criteria to guide you in your application process.

1. The school recycles paper and reuses its magazines and newspapers.

Local

- Washtenaw County’s Drop Off Station run by Recycle Ann Arbor; <http://www.recycleannarbor.org/dos/dos.htm>
- Washtenaw County Recycling Guide & Map; http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/dpw/recycle_map.html
- City of Ann Arbor provides weekly mixed paper (and optional containers) recycling pick-ups from all schools and businesses located within the city limits. Recycling carts or paper recycling dumpsters are provided at no cost. Contact (734) 994-2807 or recycle@a2gov.org.
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National

- Kids Recycle! Examples of recycling programs in schools across the country; <http://www.kidsrecycle.org/recycling.php>

Craft ideas using magazines and newspapers:

- Magazine Mosaics; <http://www.kinderart.com/recycle/magmos.shtml>
- Kinder Art; <http://www.kinderart.com/recycle/>
- The Imagination Factory's Trash Matcher; <http://www.kid-at-art.com/htdoc/matchtmp.htm>

2. The school has adopted an endangered species animal from one of several organizations and posted a picture of the animal in the main traffic area.

Local

- Leslie Science & Nature Center Adopt-a-Raptor (none of species are currently endangered; Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons were taken off the Endangered Species List in 1999 and 2007, respectively); <http://www.lesliesnc.org>

State

- Detroit Zoo Animal Adoptions—make sure the species you choose is endangered;

[http://www.detroitzoo.org/Support the Zoo/Membership/Adopt an Animal/](http://www.detroitzoo.org/Support%20the%20Zoo/Membership/Adopt%20an%20Animal/)

- Endangered Species Act--is a species listed in Michigan?;
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/StateListing.do?status=listed&state=MI

National

- National Wildlife Federation's Adopt an Animal;
https://online.nwf.org/site/Ecommerce/?store_id=1641&s_src=nwfnaw&subsrc=wildlife

National/International

- WWF Adopt a Species; <https://secure.worldwildlife.org/ogc/>
- Look up information on endangered species: Animal Planet's Endangered Species Guide;
<http://animal.discovery.com/guides/endangered/endangered.html>
- Endangered Species Act—is a species listed in another country?;
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/SpeciesReport.do?lead=10&listingType=L

3. The school media center updates its print and non-print ecological materials regularly.

National

- National Geographic Magazine;
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazines/index.html?source=G1500&kwid=national%20geographic%20magazine|751128085>
- Ranger Rick Magazine;
<http://www.nwf.org/RangerRick/kzPage.cfm?siteId=3&CFID=4543350&CFTOKEN=60f8c9c71ddde6e-7488B8AA-15C5-5FE8-B0521D00EDB441DD>

4. The school has a composting project with daily scraps from the cafeteria.

Local

- Composting recipe from City of Ann Arbor;
<http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/solidwasteunit/Pages/HomeCompostingRecipe.aspx>
- Washtenaw County offers composting information;
<http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org> (scroll down to, and click on “composting”)

National

- Cornell University offers information on composting in schools;
<http://www.css.cornell.edu/compost/schools.html>
- Learn about San Francisco's *Food to Flowers!* program;
<http://www2.sfenvironment.org/aboutus/school/>
- US EPA info on composting; <http://www.epa.gov/compost/>

5. The school hosts a visit by an ecological spokesperson, a representative of the Sierra Club, an endangered animal species show or a similar presentation.

Local

- Leslie Science & Nature Center Raptor Programs; www.lesliesnc.org
- Tour of Recycle Ann Arbor's Environmental House; <http://www.environmentalhouse.org/>
- Instead of speaker coming to classroom, class can visit the Mobile Metroparks Learning Center; http://www.metroparks.com/education/education_zone.php
- Tour the City of Ann Arbor's recycling plant, the Materials Recovery Facility at no charge. Information at www.a2gov.org/recycle or phone (734) 994-4172.
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State

- Consumer's Energy has opportunities for energy experts to present in classrooms; <http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids>

6. The school has a birdhouse habitat project.

State

- Michigan DNR's Backyard Management: Bird and Other Wildlife Feeders; http://www.michigandnr.com/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/Landowners_Guide/Habitat_Mgmt/Backyard/Bird_and_Other_Wildlife.htm
- Michigan DNR's Backyard Management: Homes for Wildlife II: Plans; http://www.michigandnr.com/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/Landowners_Guide/Habitat_Mgmt/Backyard/Homes_II.htm

National

- NWF's Tips for Creating and Maintaining a Certified Wildlife Habitat – Click on bird-friendly habitat; <http://www.nwf.org/backyard/tipsheets.cfm>
- Offers specifications and directions for building birdhouses; <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/birdhous//index.htm#contents>

7. The school has a native Michigan plant garden project with native plants.

Local

- The Native Plant Nursery LLC—for information on plants native to southeast Michigan; <http://www.nativeplant.com/>
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum; <http://mbgna.umich.edu>
- City of Ann Arbor Natural Areas Preservation program provides lists of hearty native species and coordinates volunteer Adopt-A-Park programs at www.a2gov.org/NAP.

State

- Michigan DNR’s Backyard Management: Special Feature Gardens; http://www.michigandnr.com/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/Landowners_Guide/Habitat_Mgmt/Backyard/Special_Gardens.htm
- Michigan Native Plant Producers Association; <http://www.mnppa.org/>
- Native Plant finder by state; http://www.enature.com/native_invasive/

National

- NWF’s top 10 native plants of the Midwest; <http://www.nwf.org/backyard/midwest.cfm>
- NWF’s Garden for Wildlife program; <http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/>

8. The school has solar power presentations or experiments, such as a solar cookout. A wind project may be substituted.

National

- Alternative Energy Club: Projects; <http://altenergyclub.org/projects/>
- U.S. Dept. of Energy: Energy Science Projects and Activities; http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/science_projects.html

9. Classes do energy audits of their classrooms and make improvements, such as placing film on windows, caulking windows or using kits to make windows more energy efficient, putting up “turn it off” signed under light switches, de-lamping, etc.

National

- Conduct a scientific energy audit in the classroom; http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/energy2_procedures.html
- Greening Schools provides different ways to do an energy audit inside and outside the classrooms, for all ages; http://www.greeningschools.org/resources/view_cat_teacher.cfm?id=192
- Interactive energy site for students and/or adults; <http://energyhog.org/>
- Greening Schools offers an entire website devoted to energy savings, including “greening” lesson plans; <http://www.greeningschools.org/>
- Alliance to Save Energy, Saving Activities for Schools; <http://www.ase.org/content/article/detail/639>
- EPA Healthy School Environment resources for energy efficiency; http://cfpub.epa.gov/schools/top_sub.cfm?t_id=23
- Ideas for energy usage decrease in schools from Energy Design Resources; <http://www.energydesignresources.com/category/schools/>
- Energy Star for K-12 schools, including guidance for energy strategy plans; http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=k12_schools.bus_schoolsk12
- Energy Star Appliances for reducing energy use; http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_index

- For the latest on home energy improvement ideas and regulations; <http://homeenergyimprovements.com/>
- Energy efficiency tips and resources for consumers from the Alliance to Save Energy; [http://www.ase.org/section/ audience/consumers](http://www.ase.org/section/audience/consumers)

State

- Energy Education tips for students and teachers, designed to correlate with Michigan Curriculum Framework; <http://www.consumersenergy.com/kids>
- Programs available for students, teachers, community. Mini-grants available for teachers and students; <http://www.dteenergy.com/community/programs.html>

10. The school has a printer cartridge and cell phone recycling program and selects a cartridge company which pays the school for the cartridges.

Local

- We are asking all our schools to recycle their cartridges with a Michigan based company in Coldwater that uses solar and wind power. LLC Cartridges will supply labels and free shipping and will cut a check to each school for their cartridges on a regular basis. They take Epsoms which nobody accepts so these can start getting recycled as well. The address for LLC Cartridges is 355 South Willowbrook Rd., Coldwater, MI, 49036
- ReCellular of Dexter, MI pays for the selling of old cell phones, <http://recellular.com/sell/index.asp>
- Both items accepted at Washtenaw County’s Drop Off Station run by Recycle Ann Arbor; <http://www.recycleannarbor.org/dos/dos.htm>

National

- Recycle cartridges as a fundraiser through the online store Empties4Cash, <http://www.empties4cash.com/>
- Get paid for recycling ink cartridges and cell phones; <http://www.freerecycling.com/Fundraiser/Fundraising.htm>
- For the past five years, The Cell Phone, Inkjet, Toner Return Program through Planetpals has assisted hundreds of schools and organizations to recycle inkjet and toner cartridges, and old cell phones, <http://www.planetpals.com/inkcellreturn.html>
- Pays schools and non-profits for ink cartridges, cell phones, laptops, PDAs and iPods; <http://www.cartridgesforkids.com/>
- EcoPhones helps schools to create their own cell phone, ink jet printer cartridges, laptop / notebook computers, iPods, digital cameras & digital video cameras recycling fund raisers; <http://www.ecophones.com/GetStarted.aspx>
- Motorola’s “Race to Recycle” program for schools cell phone recycling; <http://www.racetorecycle.com/index.asp>
- Green School Project; <http://www.greenschoolproject.com/>

- Pays schools and non-profits for old cell phones, ink cartridges, laptops, PDAs and iPods; <http://www.cartridgesforkids.com/>

11. The school recycles batteries and has a designated representative to return them to an appropriate recycling program.

Local

- Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station; <http://www.recycleannarbor.org/dos/dos.htm>
- Battery Solutions, Inc. provides cost-effective fully-managed battery-recycling kits, systems, also provide pick-ups; <http://www.batteryrecycling.com/about+us>

National

- Big Green Box battery recycling (also accepts electronics), school purchases box and sends in when full; <http://www.biggreenbox.com/>

12. The school teaches units on alternative fuels energy including ethanol, switch grass and soy.

National

- US Dept of Energy provides lesson plans, curriculum, and educational materials teaching students and children of ALL ages about energy, particularly energy efficiency and renewable energy; http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/lesson_plans.html
- South Carolina Energy Office provides lesson plans for alternative fuels for ages K-12; <http://www.energy.sc.gov/index.aspx?m=4&t=27&h=124>

13. The school observes Earth Day.

Local

- City of Ann Arbor and the Environmental Education Network of Washtenaw (EE-NOW) celebrate Earth Day, with an annual free April event. Details posted at www.a2gov.org/green
- The Michigan Association of Conservation districts organizes the "Envirothon" for high school students; <http://www.macd.org/envirothon.html>

National

- EPA offers ideas on how schools can celebrate Earth Day; <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

14. Art classes at the school have a poster contest to support ecology concerns and a school wide display in conjunction with Earth Day activities.

State

- Michigan Arbor Day Alliance; www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest

15. School science classes have an assignment to do several home energy improvements such as turning down hot water heaters, installing home window insulation kits, clean coils on home refrigerators and put in draft guards.

National

- US Dept of Energy provides lesson plans, curriculum, and educational materials teaching students and children of ALL ages about energy, particularly energy efficiency and renewable energy; http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/lesson_plans.html

16. The school has an ecology club, whose activities include such suggested activities as helping senior citizens make their homes more energy efficient, putting in new furnace filters, caulking windows, cleaning refrigerator coils in homes and setting water heaters lower. They should sponsor an endangered species, any environmental and energy savings activities the group decides to do.

National

- Starting an ecology club at your school; http://www.eco-pros.com/ecology_club_ideas.htm

17. The school's classes visit internet sites where clicking saves rainforest habitat.

National

- <http://ecologyfund.com/ecology/%20ecology.html>
- www.Ecologyfund.com
- www.TheRainforestSite.com

18. The school implements a tree planting program with at least ten seedlings which can be acquired free from a number of organizations, including Michigan United Conservation Club. The trees are placed in north and west building exposures to help conserve energy.

State

- Michigan United Conservation Club; <http://www.mucc.org/>

19. The school has established a recycling program for CDs and DVDs.

Local

- Washtenaw County's Drop Off Station run by Recycle Ann Arbor; <http://www.recycleannarbor.org/dos/dos.htm>

National

- CD Recycling Center of America has a program for school CD/DVD recycling; http://www.cdrecyclingcenter.com/pages/suggested_programs
- Free CD and DVD recycling; <http://cdrecyclingforfree.com/>

20. The school has a study unit on environmental health and issues facing the Great Lakes or participates in one of the many programs to help maintain the quality of the Great Lakes. The name of the program needs to be mentioned in the application form.

Local

- Teach Great Lakes; <http://www.great-lakes.net/teach/>

State

- Michigan Sea Grant;
<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/education/index.html>

National

- Center for Great Lakes Education; <http://www.greatlakesed.org/>

21. The school initiates a school door draft guard project. These are placed at the exterior classroom doors and can be sold at school events to help educate the public of this easy energy saving device.

National

- How to make a door draft guard, possible classroom project;
http://www.ehow.com/how_2195787_door-draft-guard.html

22. A unit on invasive species in the Midwest is presented. Solutions that ordinary citizens can participate in are implemented.

Local

- Washtenaw County offers invasive resources;
http://www.ewashtenaw.org/living/environmental_health_and_services/environmental_portal/invading_pests
- City of Ann Arbor Natural Areas Preservation program provides lists of local invasive species and coordinates volunteer invasives removal projects in Ann Arbor at www.a2gov.org/NAP

State

- MSU Invasive Species Initiative;
<http://www.invasivespecies.msu.edu/search.asp>
- Michigan Sea Grant; <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ais/index.html>

National

- USDA offers educational resources;
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/resources/educk12.shtml>

23. Students hold a letter writing campaign to local officials about an environmental issue such as suggesting a compact fluorescent bulb law or fuel emissions improvements. This is a wonderful exercise to promote critical thinking on ways to help the environment and then taking political action.

National

- Sierra Club offers advice on writing to elected officials about environmental issues;
<http://www.sierraclub.org/takeaction/toolkit/letters.asp>
- United States House of Representatives' contact information;
<https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>

24. School raises \$100 to go to a fund for all participating Green Schools. Each year land will be bought and donated to a Michigan state park or state forest.

25. The school keeps an active bulletin board or display case on the environmental news and what environmental activities the school is working on with pictures.