



MICHIGAN GREEN SCHOOLS: 25 POINTS OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS ACTIVITIES

1. The school recycles paper and reuses its magazines and newspapers
2. The school has adopted an endangered species animal from one of several organizations that offer adoption. List of agencies will be provided.
3. The school media center updates its ecological and environmental materials regularly.
4. The school has a composting project with daily scraps from the cafeteria.
5. The school hosts a visit by an ecological spokesperson, such as a representative of the Sierra Club, an endangered animal show, Home Depot energy saving demonstration, etc.
6. The school has a birdhouse habitat project.
7. The school has a native Michigan plant garden project with native plants.
8. The school has a solar power presentation or experiments such as a solar cookout. A wind project may be substituted.
9. Classes do energy audits of their classrooms and make improvements such as placing film on windows, caulking windows, using kits to make windows more energy efficient, putting up turn it off signs under light switches, delamping, etc.
10. The school has a printer cartridge and cell phone recycling program and selects a cartridge recycling company which pays school for the cartridges. List of companies available.

11. The school recycles batteries and has designated a representative to take them to an appropriate county recycling program.
12. The school teaches units on alternative fuels energy including ethanol, switch grass, and soy.
13. The school observes Earth Day.
14. Art classes at the school hold a poster contest to support ecology concerns and a school display in conjunction with Earth Day Activities (April 22).
15. Some school science classes have an assignment to take 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
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 and setting water heaters a little lower. They could sponsor an endangered species, any environmental and energy savings activities the group decides to do.
17. The school's classes visit Internet sites where clicking saves rainforest habitat. These are totally free sites sponsored by corporations. Ecologyfund.com and the Rainforest site are examples.
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 at north and west building exposures to help conserve energy.
19. The school has established a recycling program for CDs and DVD's. It is estimated 10 billion of these will go into landfills over the next five years.
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 participated needs to be mentioned in the application form. See attachment on this point. .
21. The school initiates a school door draft guard project. These are easy to make Michigan Green School Commission has a project sheet available. These are placed at exterior classroom doors and or are sold at school events to help educate the public of this easy energy saving device.
22. A unit on invasive species in the Midwest is presented. Solutions that ordinary citizens can participate in are implemented.
23. Students hold a letter writing campaign to local officials about an environmental issue such as suggesting a compact fluorescent bulb law, fuel emissions improvements. Wonderful exercise to promote critical thinking on ways to help the environment and then taking political action.
24. School raises one hundred dollars 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 such as Hartwick Pines.
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.

Deadline for academic year 2007-08 is March 28, 2008