

92 WAYS TO GREEN YOUR SCHOOL

Green Building Association of Central PA



1 REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

ENERGY

2	Post signs and reminders to turn off the lights
3	Open the blinds and use natural light instead of light fixtures when possible
4	Install energy efficient light fixtures, lamps and bulbs
5	Install motion or occupancy sensors
6	Set computers to sleep or standby during the day. Shut down computers at the end of each day
7	Install vending machine electricity regulators
8	Remove lamps/bulbs from fixtures in areas that have more light than necessary
9	When working after hours, teachers should consider using desk lamps instead of overhead classroom lighting.
10	Install carbon dioxide sensors to provide fresh air to rooms as needed (when they are occupied) and not wasted (when rooms are empty) - Demand Controlled Ventilation
11	Determine the ENERGY STAR rating of the building and get your school certified (www.energystar.com)
12	Install meters to measure and monitor the electricity used for lighting, heating, cooling and outlets - display results for everyone to see
13	Set and follow a schedule for temperature and lighting settings based on the different times, days and seasons
14	Set exterior lighting on a timer to turn on at dusk and turn off during the early morning hours
15	Improve the efficiency or upgrade windows, doors, insulation and the roof (the building "envelope" or "shell")
16	Install solar control window films to reduce heat gain in the summer and add insulation in the winter
17	Engage a commissioning service to make sure that building systems operate as intended
18	Install renewable energy sources at the school - solar, wind, geothermal, biomass
19	Consider installing individual photovoltaic solar panels for exterior lamps
20	Purchase offsite renewable energy - solar, wind, geothermal, biomass
21	Calculate emissions reductions based on your energy savings

TRANSPORTATION

22	Walk (or bike) to school when the weather is nice - www.saferoutesinfo.org
23	Carpool with other students when the weather is bad
24	Carpool with other teachers/staff or use hybrid/fuel efficient vehicles
25	Be bicycle friendly - install and maintain bicycle racks
26	Implement a policy of no idling for buses
27	Use hybrid/fuel efficient vehicles for school security service

WATER

28	Post signs and reminders in bathrooms and classrooms to reduce water use
29	Capture rainwater and reuse it to water indoor plants, greenhouses, courtyards or gardens
30	Install low flow toilet fixtures or waterless urinals
31	Install aerators/restrictors and motion sensors on sinks to reduce the amount of that water is used
32	Install meters for irrigation, hot water and toilet fixtures - display results for everyone to see
33	Drink water from the fountain or fill a reusable bottle instead of using bottled water

HEALTH & AIR QUALITY

34	Implement a green cleaning policy using non-toxic cleaning materials and sustainable products, equipment and paper products
35	Require procedures for safe handling and storage of cleaning chemicals
36	Set up a hand washing or sanitizing program to keep everyone healthy
37	Use high efficiency air filters
38	Install and maintain entryway mats or grills to keep dirt and particles from entering the school
39	Require a green indoor integrated pest management program to reduce human exposure to harmful chemicals

PURCHASING

40	Implement an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy
41	Purchase office supplies and consumables that contain recycled content (paper, pens, etc)
42	Purchase ENERGY STAR labeled electrical products for classrooms, offices, kitchens and outdoors
43	Replace gasoline powered equipment with electric powered
44	Use rechargeable batteries within the school
45	Purchase light bulbs, lamps and electronics with little or no amounts of mercury, lead and other hazardous substances
46	Use organic and locally grown food in the cafeteria where possible
47	Reuse furniture from within the school, other schools or from other people and places
48	Start an OSCAR (Office Supply Collection and Reuse) program for staff and students where they can find unwanted but usable school/office supplies. See an example at http://www.ithaca.edu/rempevents/oscar

U.S. Green Building Council - For more information or questions email:

Long Island: greenschools@usgbc-li.org

Upstate NY: dbdesign@twcny.rr.com

New York City: cnorsted@perkinseastman.com

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WASTE	
49	Implement a Solid Waste Management policy - list what gets recycled, composted, reused, land-filled
50	Start a school-wide recycling program, classroom by classroom - paper, bottles, cans (www.paperrecycles.org)
51	Print double sided paper, or on half the page
52	Send electronic correspondence instead of hardcopies
53	Donate, reuse or properly dispose of "E-waste" or electronic equipment
54	Set up a battery, cell phone and/or printer cartridge community collection center (fundraising)
55	Compost biodegradable materials onsite or offsite
56	Carry your trash around with you for 1, 2 or 5 days to get a sense of how much each students consumes
57	Look through the trash ("dumpster dive") to see what is actually being consumed within the school
58	Donate leftover/unwrapped food and used goods or equipment - www.rockandwrapitup.org

OUTDOORS	
59	Start a tree planting program
60	Plant and maintain a garden
61	Mulch or compost landscaping waste (grass clippings, leaves, branches) to divert it from the waste stream
62	Use landscaping that is native to the region and will not require additional irrigation
63	Eliminate landscape irrigation or use efficient techniques
64	Protect natural habitats, open fields and wooded areas
65	Do not use chemical fertilizers
66	Require a green outdoor integrated pest management program to reduce human exposure to harmful chemicals
67	Use downward pointing outdoor light fixtures or less outdoor fixtures to reduce "light pollution" that can disturb wildlife and neighbors
68	Use effective ice and snow melt that is not harmful to the environment and water supply

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	
69	Commit to installing energy and water efficient fixtures for construction or renovations
70	Consider using alternative materials for new exterior surfaces (vegetated roofs with plants, pervious pavement that will drain water back into the ground)
71	Require sustainable purchasing for construction materials and improvements (local, recycled content, rapidly renewable)
72	Require sustainable waste management for construction and improvements (reduced waste, recycling)
73	Require air filters and other Indoor Air Quality management practices during construction
74	Use paints and coatings that have little or no odor (no Volatile Organic Compounds - VOCs)
75	Use adhesives and sealants with no VOCs
76	Use environmentally certified carpeting
77	Use certified wood that has been responsibly harvested

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS, CLASSROOM & MORE	
78	Start or join an environmental club
79	Participate in a green school challenge
80	Organize a beach or park clean-up day
81	Have a Green Team of students monitors in charge of recycling.
82	Set goals or competitions within classes, grades or school wide with prizes (e.g., least waste or most students walking to school)
83	Set up a fundraising program, with proceeds going to a green fund to buy carbon offsets, a compost bin, a solar panel, etc
84	Fundraising can include savings from recycling of cans, bottles, setting up a community collection center (for batteries, cell phones and/or printer cartridges), fairs, bake sales
85	Teach a green curriculum in classes - http://www.buildgreenschools.org/resources/green_curriculum.html
86	Have a sustainability themed science fair
87	Take field trips to see how renewable energy works in action
88	Calculate the cost impacts of sustainable building and operations (how much money does it cost vs. save?)
89	Measure your saving results and brag about the school's accomplishments to spread awareness and recognition within the school and community
90	Pursue LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification award to recognize your school as a green building
91	Bring sustainability home to your family
92	Bring sustainability into the community

YOUR TOP FIVE FOCUS ITEMS TO GREEN YOUR FACILITY	
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2	
3	
4	
5	

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