



# LOUISIANA GREEN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

# 2013

## Ideas For Greening Your School

SCHOOL LEVEL		
Elementary School	Middle School	High School
LEARNING STAGES		
Become aware, experience, observe, involve	Practice, think, critically reflect, make meaningful integration	Analyze, apply, adopt, create, and serve
Open the blinds and use natural light instead of light fixtures when possible. Estimate energy savings.	Post signs and reminders to turn off the lights throughout the school.	Install energy efficient light fixtures, lamps and bulbs.
Remove light bulbs or lamps from fixtures in areas than have more light than necessary.	Set computers to sleep or standby during the day and shut down at night.	Install motion or occupancy sensors
Host a tree planting event.	Set and follow a schedule for temperature and lighting settings based on different times, day and seasons.	Install vending machine electricity regulators.
Plant a container garden in your classroom. Teach the students about the benefits of fresh food and buying locally produced food where possible.	Set exterior lighting on a timer to turn on at dusk and turn off during the early morning hours	Install carbon dioxide sensors to provide fresh air to rooms as needed (when occupied) and not wasted (when rooms are empty)--Demand Controlled Ventilation.
Raise awareness for recycling by creating an art project from recycled materials from the classroom or from home. There are hundreds of ideas on the internet.	Encourage walking or biking to schools when safe paths are available and weather permits. <a href="http://www.saferoutesinfor.org">www.saferoutesinfor.org</a>	Determine the energy star rating of the school and get it certified

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Plan a trip to the local farmers market and talk about what is grown in your area.	Encourage carpooling with other students when the weather is bad.	Install meters to measure and monitor the electricity use for lighting, heating , cooling, and outlets, display results for everyone to see
Create a classroom rag bag for cleaning up messes instead of using paper towels. Recycle t-shirts from home.	Make your school more bicycle friendly. Get parents involved in riding to the school on their bikes to encourage bike riding and safety.	Calculate emissions reductions based on your energy savings
Host a school clean up day.	Get your school to implement a policy of no idling for buses.	Install meters for irrigation, hot water, and toilet fixtures and display results for everyone to see.
Start a reusable water bottle program discouraging juice boxes, foil wrappers, and cartons.	Post signs in bathrooms and classrooms to remind everyone to reduce water usage.	Drink water from the fountain or fill a reusable bottle. Implement a policy to restrict use of disposable water bottles.
Host a book or toy exchange.	Capture rainwater and reuse it to water indoor plants, greenhouses, courtyards or gardens	Implement procedures for safe handling and storage of cleaning materials.
Create a policy of using both sides of paper. Discuss where paper comes from and estimate how many trees can be saved with simple paper saving ideas.	Install aerators/restrictors and motion sensors on sinks to reduce the amount of water used.	Lobby school administration to enact and implement green cleaning policy using non toxic cleaning materials and sustainable products
Create a lesson on endangered species.	Create a policy requiring rechargeable batteries be used throughout the school.	Set up a hand washing or sanitizing program to keep everyone healthy.
Create a lesson how things relate to one another and the earth. Such as learning about how insects pollinate flowers and food and how chemicals can kill insects, affecting your food.	Reuse furniture within the school.	Research local food vendors and work with the school to implement a farm to table food service policy.
Creat a sustainable transportation lesson incorporating cycling safety and community connectivity. Host a "Ride your bike day" challenge students to record how many miles they ride their bikes each week.	Start a compost site on campus.	Implement a solid waste management policy--determined what can be recycled, composted , reused, or land-filled and set up a program to collect waste. Measure and determine land-fill diversion rates.
Recycle paper in the classroom and create an art project and school art show.	Set up a battery, cell phone, and/or printer cartridge collection drive and dispose of collected materials appropriately.	Start an OSCAR (Office Supply Collection and Reuse) program for staff and students where they can share unwanted or unused supplset. See example at <a href="http://www.ithaca.edu/remp/events/oscar">www.ithaca.edu/remp/events/oscar</a>

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Create a lesson on the the importance of water conservation. Develop a way to measure how much water students can save at home by conserving water such as turning the water off while they brush their teeth.	Hold a tree planting event.	Plan a trip to the local land fill. Research the data associated wit the site and create a documentary about what you learn.
	Start a green club.	Research native plant species, create a landscaping plan, and landscape your school to reduce water usage and maintenance. Eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers.
	Organize a school/community clean up day.	Develop and lobby to have your school adopt a green outdoor integrated pest management system to reduce human exposure to harmful chemicals.
	Host a school recycling competition.	Calculate the cost versus the impact of sustainable building and building operations. Share your research with your school system administration.
	Conduct a water audit. Check your school for leaky faucets, fountains, and other water outlets. Report problems to school maintenance and monitor repairs.	Start a locavore club. Research places to eat in your community that focus on eating food grown within 100 miles. Publish a locavore directory.
	Implement an Un Plug policy making sure everything is unplugged at the end of the day. Computers are shutdown, chargers are unplugged, and all schools electrical equipment not used at night is unplugged.	Create your own shopping bags and grocery bags. Distribute to students and teachers in return for a commitment to be store bag free. Could be a fundraiser for the school.
	Calculate your carbon footprints, teach ways to reduce them and reward students who reduce it by the end of the project.	Host a swap meet.
		Learn about lighting and energy audits and conduct these at your school. Document your findings for school administrators.
		Start a <b>Go Green</b> initiative for your school with slogan, objectives, and measurable goals.
		Host an environmental impact symposium for your school and community. Involve local experts, colleges & universities, and state agencies.