

100 IDEAS TO GREEN YOUR SCHOOL

one step at a time - within this generation

	Link	Description
SUSTAINABLE SITES - promotes responsible, innovative, and practical site maintenance strategies that are sensitive to plants, wildlife, and water and air quality.		
1	www.saferoutesinfo.org	Develop a Safe Route to School plan for walking or biking
2		Walk or bike to school weather permitting
3		Be bicycle friendly - install and maintain bicycle racks
4		Establish carpools for school days and school events
5		Conduct a transportation survey
6	www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/antiidling.htm	Implement a "no idling" policy for school buses and drop-off/pick-up lanes
7		Monitor CO2 levels at drop/off pick-up lanes
8		Create preferred parking for carpool vehicles, hybrid or electric vehicles
9		Start and maintain a kitchen garden
10		Mulch landscaping waste (grass clippings, leaves, branches) to divert from the landfill
11		Start a vermiculture compost project to divert kitchen waste from landfill
12		Start a tree planting program
13	www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation	Protect natural habitats, open fields, marshes and wooded areas
14	www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/	Implement Integrated Pest Management program to reduce use of harmful chemicals
15		When replacing outdoor lighting use light pollution reducing fixtures
16	www.epa.gov/sunwise	Become a Sun Wise Partner School
17		Consider using alternative materials for new exterior surfaces (vegetated roofs, pervious pavements, etc.)
18	www.neefusa.org	Construct a wildlife habitat, scholyard garden or outdoor classroom on your campus
19	www.neefusa.org	Use mobile technology to inventory wildlife on your campus
WATER EFFICIENCY - encourages the use of strategies and technologies that reduce the amount of potable water consumed		
20		Post signs in bathrooms and classrooms to reduce water use
21		Install aerators/flow restrictors on faucets to reduce water consumption
22		Replace toilets and urinals with low flow models to reduce water consumption
23		Capture rainwater and use for vegetable gardens and indoor plants
24		Install water meters and display results for everyone to see
25	www.gwwc.org_or	Use native plants that do not require additional irrigation.
26		Install irrigation controls with rain sensors to prevent overwatering & reduce consumption
27		Conduct a water fixture audit
28	www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/greencapes/pubs/tipsheet.pdf	Practice Xerascaping or Greenscaping.
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - addresses indoor air quality; occupant health, safety, and comfort; air change effectiveness; and air contaminant management		
29		Implement a green cleaning program using non-toxic products
30	www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/	Implement an Integrated Pest Management program to reduce use of harmful chemicals

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31		Implement a hand washing/sanitizing program to keep everyone healthy
32		Conduct an occupant comfort survey
33		Conduct a chemical audit of cleaning products used and stored in your school
34	http://www.epa.gov/sc3/chemicals.html	Implement The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign
35		Use high efficiency air filters and schedule regular replacements
36		Implement an Environmentally Friendly Purchasing Policy
37	www.epa.gov/iaq/schools	Implement an IAQ (Indoor Air Quality) Tools for Schools Program
38		Install and maintain entryway mats and grills to prevent dirt and particles from entering
39		Specify paint, coatings, adhesives and sealants that have low or no VOCs (volatile organic compounds)
40		Adapt an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan for all renovations and new construction
41	www.lung.org/afsi	Develop and assess a school wide asthma program
ENERGY - addresses reduction of energy consumption through a performance-based approach allowing energy reduction measures to be tailored to a facility		
42		Post signs and reminders to turn off lights when not in use
43		Utilize natural light when possible
44		Install energy efficient light fixtures, lamps and bulbs
45		Install motion or occupancy sensors
46		Set computers, copiers to sleep or standby during the day. When possible shut down at end of each day and during weekends and holidays
47		Install vending machine electricity regulators
48		When possible remove lamps, bulbs from fixtures that have more light than necessary
49		Install meters to measure and monitor electricity for lighting, heating, cooling and outlets and display results
50		Adapt a purchasing policy that requires Energy Star rated equipment
51		Set and follow a schedule for indoor temperature and lighting settings based on occupancy
52		Install sensors on exterior lighting or install timers set to turn on at dusk and off at dawn
53		Engage a certified building commissioning service to verify all systems operate as they are intended
54		Conduct an energy audit either internally or engaging an outside qualified company
55		Install solar control window film to reduce heat gain in the summer
56		Improve Building Enclosure/Envelope efficiency by replacing windows, doors, roof and insulation with higher efficiency products
57		Install renewable energy sources; solar, wind, geothermal, biomass
58		Install individual solar photovoltaic panels for outdoor lighting and signage
59		Calculate emissions reductions based on your energy savings

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60	www.energystar.com	Benchmark and certify your building with Energy Star rating
61		Adopt a cleaning schedule to reduce night time hours which require additional lighting, heating and cooling costs
62		Install carbon dioxide sensors to provide fresh air to rooms as needed when occupied (Demand Controlled Ventilation)
63		Establish an after hours work policy to reduce lighting, heating and cooling underoccupied buildings
MATERIALS & RESOURCES - environmental impact of materials brought into a facility and ways to minimize the amount sent to the waste stream		
64	www.thinkgreen.com	Adopt a Solid Waste Management Policy - list what gets recycled, composted, reused, land-fill
65	www.paperrecycles.org	Start a school wide recycling program
66		Make signs for print stations to "Consider the Environment - Print Only When Necessary"
67		Adopt a policy of printing both sides of paper
68		When possible utilize electronic correspondence instead of printed
69		Adopt a purchasing policy to use as high a recycled content of paper products as possible
70		Donate or properly dispose of "E-waste" or electronic equipment
71		Set up an "E-waste, electronic equipment, or ink cartridge collection program or partner
72		Carry your personal trash around with you for 1,2, or 5 days to get a sense of how much each student creates for a landfill. Calculate daily, weekly, monthly, year amounts
73		Compost biodegradable materials
74	www.extraordinarycharities.org/education/resourcedepot/	Reuse furnishings from the school. Set up a "Reuse Bank" for your school or district
75		"Dumpster Dive" (with supervision) to see what is actually being discarded
76		Hold a book drive for used books, including text and library books. Sell for program funds.
77		Start a Zero Waste Campaign. Promote the 4 Rs, reduce, recycle, reuse and repair
78	www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/newscience	Adopt a purchasing policy that specifies low or no VOCs
79		Start a Plastic Awareness program to reduce use of plastics on campus, at home, in communities
80		Hold a plastic bag exchange. Find a partner to supply reusable bags and distribute in return for several plastic bags. Recycle the plastic bags.
81		If your cafeteria uses plastic table ware (plates, forks, cups) calculate the cost over a year and the amount sent to the waste stream. Present the findings to the school to consider alternative.
82		Hold a contest for the class who uses the least amount of unrecyclable lunch packaging
83		Distribute a weekly "Green Minute" public announcement to the student body on ways to become more sustainable

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CURRICULUM, CLUBS, COMMUNITY - encourages environmental stewardship by the community; students, staff, parents, district, city, county		
84	www.garbagegoneglam.com	Hold a design contest for costumes made of recycled materials
85		Write and perform a play or musical related to the environment
86		Form a 5 student team (high school level) to participate in the Green YOUR School competition
87	www.epa.gov	Organize a community Health Fair to illustrate the many reasons for creating and maintaining a healthy indoor environment for students and staff
88		Create a presentation on the importance of high performance healthy schools and present to the community; school assembly, PTO, Board of Education, City Council, etc.
89		Organize a class level spelling bee for all words "green" i.e., solar, photovoltaic, carbon, volatile organic compounds, xerandscape, etc.
90	www.ithaca.edu/rempevents/oscar	Start an OSCAR (Office Supply Collection and Reuse) program for students, staff to find/exchange unwanted but usable office supplies
91		Start an environmental club
92		Create a Green Team of student monitors for recycling
93		Set goals or competitions within classes, grades or school wide with prizes (least waste, most using alternative transportation, etc.)
94		Incorporate sustainable curriculum into the classroom
95		Hold a sustainability themed science fair
96		Organize field trips to observe renewable energy in action
97		Organize a fund raiser with proceeds used for a compost bin, a solar panel, recyclables containers, purchase of carbon offsets, etc.
98		Organize a community clean up day
99		Organize a school and community partnership to hold a Green Day of information and activities
100		Identify and post locations for recycling, reuse of materials (Goodwill, Salvation Army, community clothes closet, etc.)