

Sample Green Schools Activities

- ❑ **Involve the whole school**, including services, in a year-long program of behavior change initiatives so that everyone helps to save energy. (Services are: food service, main office, nurse, counselors.)
- ❑ **Involve outside organizations** (such as colleges, businesses, non-profit organizations) in the school energy efficiency effort. Involvement could be presentations, tours, funding, materials, assistance, promotion, or special energy efficiency programs.
- ❑ **Create science fair-type projects** (experiments or demonstrations) based on school energy efficiency and enter them in science fair.
- ❑ **Make presentations on school energy efficiency** to the PTA/PTO, the school board and/or the superintendent/school district administration.
- ❑ **Have your students teach other kids** what they have learned about energy, environment, and saving energy.
- ❑ **Develop energy information through the arts** and present to an audience.
- ❑ **Create an educational display for your school** on energy efficiency, and/or environment.
- ❑ **Track monthly energy savings or classroom behavior changes** and post them in a common area at school.
- ❑ **Develop energy saving tips** for the school newspaper, weekly bulletin, or PA system.
- ❑ **Correspond with pen pals** about energy, environment and efficiency. You may use e-mail or regular mail.
- ❑ **Write an article for the local paper** on your Green Schools project(s).
- ❑ **Interview local energy professional(s) and publish** the interview(s) in a school or local paper.
- ❑ **Create a survey** on energy awareness and administer to people in your school.
- ❑ **Design and build a model** of an energy-efficient building, or a component of an energy-efficient building, for public display and/or for public presentations.
- ❑ **Do a "walk-through" energy audit of the school.** Make a list of suggestions for saving energy in the building.
- ❑ **Take home information about using energy efficiently.** Use the school newsletter, the PTA/PTO or another organization for families.
- ❑ **Organize an energy patrol** to encourage people to change energy-using behavior at school and to monitor the school's progress toward behaving in new ways when using energy.
- ❑ **Develop an energy efficiency manual specific to your school** or for another building that students have audited.

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- ❑ **Research the options for increasing the energy efficiency** of school windows, doors, lighting or food service. Define the problem, list the options, and include information about costs. Then note which option(s) the team recommends and why.
- ❑ **Landscape school for energy efficiency.** Plant appropriate plants in appropriate sites to increase the building's energy efficiency.
- ❑ **Complete a "walk-through" energy audit of student homes.** Make a list of energy problems in the home and suggest solutions. Each student talks about it with his or her family and makes a plan to change the family's energy-using behavior.
- ❑ **Develop a district- or community-wide energy policy.** After identifying successful energy savings behaviors at school, students can present ideas to the Superintendent or Board of Education in order to establish a district-wide policy.
- ❑ **Organize and present an energy conference, energy festival or energy workshop** for the rest of the school or for the community.
- ❑ **Make an Energy Efficiency Video** that highlights your Green School activities to help educate the school community on how to be energy efficient!
- ❑ **Help to build an energy-efficient building, a greenhouse, or a component of an energy-efficiency system** (for example, a daylighting retrofit).
- ❑ **Do a "technical" energy audit of the school, or an area of the school, such as an office, gymnasium, or library** (using actual data and calculating losses, savings, etc.). Include a list of suggestions for saving energy in the building and present to the school principal and other district administrators.
- ❑ **Create your own Web site.** The site should educate others about the importance of energy efficiency in stemming climate change and promoting a healthy environment.
- ❑ **Use the EPA benchmarking tool to rate your school.** The ENERGY STAR® Benchmarking Tool is an outline tool that evaluates building energy performance on a 0 to 100 scale, using detailed data on your building's physical attributes, operating characteristics, and monthly energy consumption.
<http://www.epa.gov/buildings/label/html/benchmarking2.html>
- ❑ **Establish a Student Advisory Council, Student Energy Management Team, or environmental club.** These groups should take a leadership role in the Program and be responsible for designing and implementing energy-related programs in the school and community.
- ❑ **Install Network Based Power Management software.** Work with your IT administrator to implement a school-wide computer power-savings program.
- ❑ **Start a "Friday Night Lights" club** to save energy. Kids spend a few extra minutes after school on Friday making sure everything is turned off in anticipation of the weekend. This can be done before longer breaks too.