



Top Ten Ways Districts Can Help Schools Become Washington Green Schools

Support your schools' green efforts!

- 1. Participate on the Green Team.** Each Washington Green School is required to form a Green Team. District level involvement and support - by attending meetings and being a liaison between the school and district administration - is important for the school's ongoing success.
- 2. Facilitate access to information, such as utility bills.** This information will help schools set a baseline and to calculate potential savings in waste, water, and energy. Help facilitate communication between the school and your district's billing/accounting department.
- 3. Ensure green purchasing options.** If schools purchase supplies through the district, make sure that all schools have access to recycled-content paper products, least-toxic cleaning supplies, low-odor dry eraser markers, refillable pens, etc.
- 4. Supply recycling containers.** Successful recycling programs require proper bins. Repurpose or help purchase containers for recycling paper, bottles, cans, and food scraps. Some haulers and governments may provide bins at no-cost or offer grant opportunities.
- 5. Provide schools with signage or access to signage.** Clear text and images for behavior changes remind your school community about expectations. If the district, local government, or hauler already has signage about recycling, energy, no idling, and water conservation, etc. inform your schools.
- 6. Provide I.T. support for setting defaults on equipment for double-sided printing.** This is an easy inexpensive way to save paper (and therefore, money, trees, other resources) immediately.
- 7. Support presentations.** For certification, each Washington Green School is required to share their findings and successes with their community, including the school district. Help each school meet their requirement by suggesting venues for presentations and welcoming them at district-wide meetings.
- 8. Promote your district and schools' green efforts via email, newsletter, and announcements.** By sharing the successes and challenges of your Washington Green Schools with the rest of the schools in your district, you increase the likelihood of other schools participating.
- 9. Pilot a replacement project.** If your green school wants to install water saving toilets, air hand dryers, durable lunch trays, bulk lunchroom dispensers, or carpool only parking spaces, work with them to fulfill these efforts financially, programmatically, and/or through installation. Check with local agencies and/or grant sources for financial support.
- 10. Take it to the District level.** Form a district-wide Green Team with at least one representative from each school. If you don't already have one, consider hiring a Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) to help schools achieve Washington Green School status as well as save money and resources.

Washington Green Schools is a voluntary, web-based program that schools can use to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints. This program provides resources and tools to involve your school community in assessing the current status of their campuses and taking action in the following categories:

- Energy Efficiency
- Recycling & Waste Reduction
- Toxics Reduction & Indoor Air Quality
- Transportation & Outdoor Air Quality
- Water Conservation

Schools earn points by completing six steps for each level. For more details on program structure and benefits, visit www.wagreenschools.org