



SO YOU WANT TO START A GREEN TEAM?

Congratulations on beginning your journey towards becoming a Washington Green School! You may be wondering where to start or what next steps you can take to further your school's sustainability goals. The first step is building your Green Team and deciding when you'll meet.

WHO WILL BE PART OF YOUR GREEN TEAM?

Consider students, staff (i.e. teachers, administrators, custodial staff), parents, community members, and local partners. How will you recruit them?

WHEN & WHERE WILL YOU MEET?

Consider meeting during class, before/after school, or during lunch. What materials will you need?

WHY?

Consider the broad sustainability goal(s) you want to accomplish this year. (ex. "We want to establish a Green Team that meets weekly. We want to teach our classmates about environmental issues.")



WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORY DO YOU WANT TO CERTIFY IN?

Ask your students! The most successful projects have student input from the start. We have six different environmental categories to choose from. Take notice of your school surroundings and decide what makes the most sense for your campus. Below are some project ideas to help get you and your Green Team thinking!

PROJECT IDEAS FOR EACH ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORY

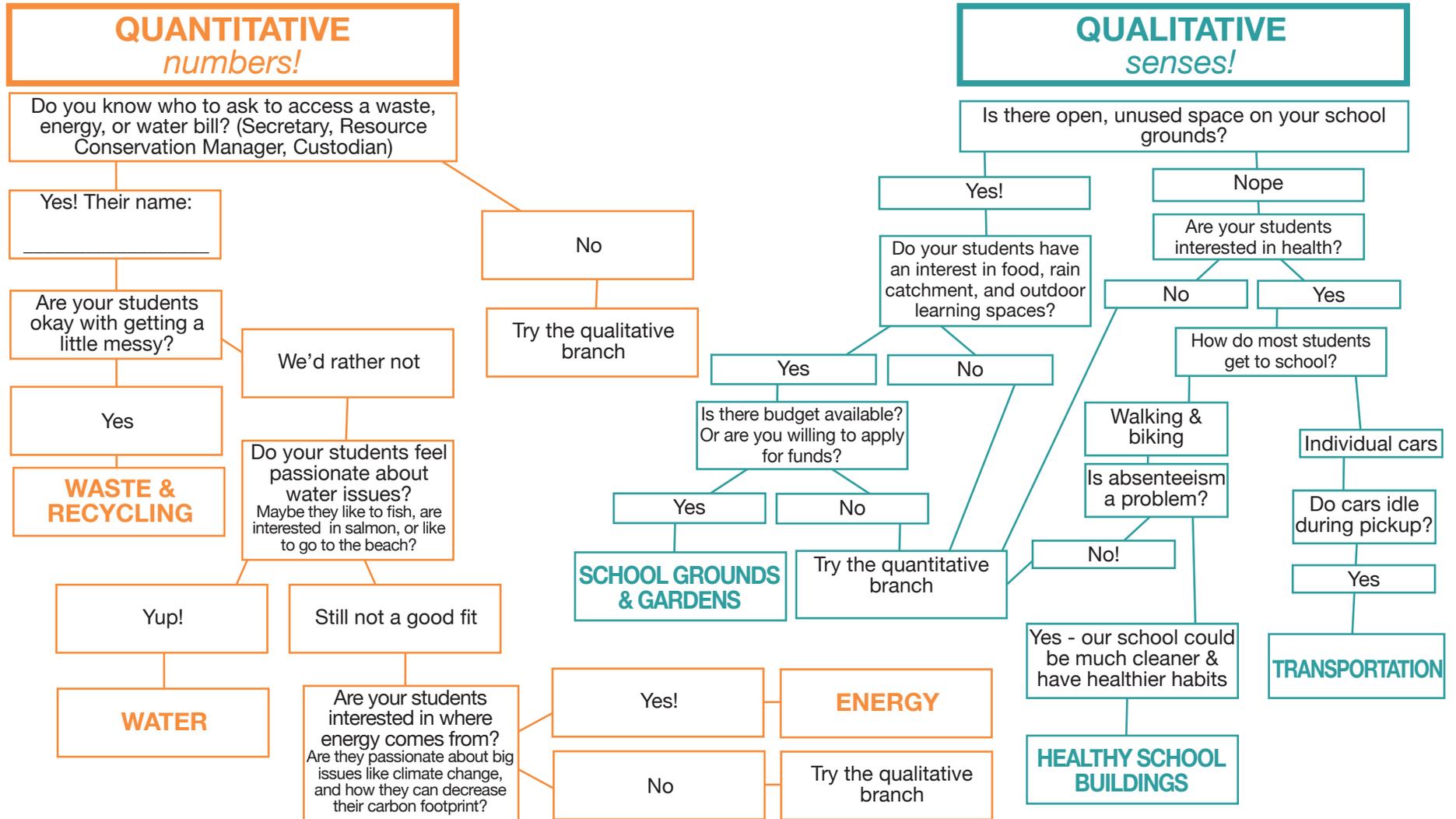
ENERGY	HEALTHY SCHOOL BUILDINGS	SCHOOL GROUNDS & GARDENS	TRANSPORTATION	WASTE & RECYCLING	WATER
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce energy usage through a “Watt-Watchers” campaign • Replace traditional incandescent light bulbs to more efficient compact fluorescents • Replace weather stripping on doors and windows 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve hand washing procedures • Switch to environmentally-friendly cleaners • Reduce/eliminate the amount of harmful chemicals used on school grounds 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an outdoor classroom by planting trees or native plants • Paint murals • Build an edible, rain, or pollinator garden 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a no-idling campaign during pick up and drop off • Encourage walking, biking, carpooling to school • Change pick-up/drop off systems at school 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish or improve recycling and composting practices • Switch to reusable trays and silverware • Reduce contamination rates in your waste bins 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the quality of a local waterway and educate the community about runoff • Promote water conservation • Fix any leaks inside the building and/or on school grounds

Still not sure what environmental category to certify in? Follow the dichotomous key on the next page to find the right environmental category for your Green Team!



WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORY DO YOU WANT TO CERTIFY IN?

Are you interested in using **quantitative data** (using numbers) to see changes in the environmental quality of your school? Or are you interested in seeing how **qualitative differences** (using your five senses) can improve the local environment? If you're unsure, choose a branch and see where it takes you!





WHAT WILL BE YOUR LASTING CHANGE?

You've built your Green Team, picked your environmental category to become certified, assessed your school and now you're ready to choose your environmental action project.

What part of the classroom supplement was most striking to you and your students?

Can you build a project around this?

What is your SMART Goal? How often does your Green Team need to meet to reach it?

Who will you need on your team to help you be successful? What partners will you need to help support your team?

Do you need funding? Consider how much time you have to receive funding and implement your project.

Who will keep track of your team's progress? How will you celebrate your successes and share out your progress? Social media? Newsletter? Community Night?



HOW WILL YOU SHARE YOUR STORY?

You've completed your Lasting Change project and made your school greener and healthier. Now it's time to share your amazing work with your community!

List the communication methods your school already uses. (i.e. Social media, school website, parent newsletter etc.)

Are any of the prior options possible for you and your Green Team?

How else can you reach out to your community? Would your Green Team be interested in leading a school event for the community?