



## Green Team Program - Beyond Recycling

- Fill out the Green School Report Card and set other goals for sustainability besides recycling.
- Focus on reducing trash output and creatively reusing items.
- Have students fill out pledge sheets with their parents to reduce, reuse and recycle at home.
- Encourage kids to use water fountains instead of bottled water or paper cups and teachers to use washable mugs and glasses instead of disposable.
- Encourage home lunches with reusable containers to cut down on trash.
- Hold aluminum can drives to make money for your green team program or a sustainability project like a tree planting.
- Have green tips included in your school newsletter.
- Hold teacher trainings/workshops to educate teachers on sustainability curriculum and climate change.
- Have a no idling policy to cut down on CO2.
- Start a composting programs and a school garden.
- Encourage kids to focus on water and energy conservation for their science fair projects and have a green ribbon award.
- Hold a swap shop around the holidays where kids can trade used clothes and toys instead of buying new.
- Encourage kids to stop buying “stuff” and find other ways to have fun – like getting outdoors.
- Have a re-use bin or table in your classrooms and try and cut down on throwing things away.
- Use both sides of a sheet of paper before throwing it away.
- Have the children write a letter to their mayor or newspaper regarding a sustainability topic. (like getting recycling back in Iron County)
- Encourage the library to have a green section with books on recycling, sustainability, the environment, watershed...
- Take advantage of local land agencies like the Forest Service and National Park Service’s education and outreach programs. See the SOP website for more information.

[www.southernutahsop.org](http://www.southernutahsop.org)

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## Green School Report Card

1. How Toxin-Free is your School? Has your School?
  - a. Switched to green cleaners certified by Green Seal or EcoLogo?
  - b. Implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and reduced pesticide use?
  - c. Chosen low-emitting paints, carpets, whiteboard markers, art supplies or other materials to improve indoor air quality?
  - d. Provided adequate ventilation (i.e. no strong smells in classrooms)?
  - e. Used air filters rated at or above MERV 11?
  - f. Prohibited smoking on campus and in public school buses
  
2. How sustainably does your school use energy and reduce carbon emissions? Has your school:
  - a. Switched to CFC or LED light bulbs?
  - b. Conducted an energy audit?
  - c. Implemented energy conservation measures for heating-ventilation-air-conditioning (HVAC), lighting, or computers?
  - d. Implemented a "Turn it off" campaign with students and staff (lights, printers, screens, copiers, etc.)?
  - e. Purchased energy efficient appliances or equipment?
  - f. Installed solar PV panels? Installed solar hot water?
  - g. Switched to biodiesel fuel, natural gas, or hybrid buses?
  - h. Promoted Safe Routes to School or other efforts to encourage walking, biking, carpooling, or public transportation to school?
  - i. Calculated its carbon footprint?
  
3. How sustainably does your school use water? Has your school:
  - a. Installed waterless urinals?
  - b. Stopped leaks?
  - c. Installed automatic faucets?
  - d. Installed drip and timed irrigation systems for landscaping?
  - e. Maintained working drinking water fountains?
  - f. Control water runoff with rain barrels or rain gardens?

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# Sustainable Operations

*Creating Habits Today, Conserving Resources for Tomorrow*

- g. Is the school's landscaping considered water-efficient and/or regionally appropriate?
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- 4. How sustainably does your school manage waste? Has your school:
    - a. Used reusable food ware at lunch?
    - b. Implemented an offer vs. serve approach in the cafeteria?
    - c. Promoted waste-free lunch days?
    - d. Recycled at lunch?
    - e. Recycled paper in classroom?
    - f. Recycled paper in office?
    - g. Composted organic food waste in worm bin, commercial facility, or other means?
    - h. Composted yard waste or used mulching mowers?
    - i. Switched to electronic communications or registration forms?
    - j. Set printers and copiers to default double-sided printing, or changed default margins?
    - k. Discouraged use of disposable plastic bottles?
  
  - 5. How sustainable are your school's purchases? Has your school:
    - a. Purchased copy paper with recycled content?
    - b. Purchased school supplies (notebooks, folders, dividers) with recycled content?
    - c. Purchased office supplies with recycled content?
    - d. Purchased PVC-free office and schools supplies?
    - e. Purchased computers, appliances, refrigerators or equipment that are energy-efficient, with an Energy Star rating?
    - f. Purchased furniture with recycled content and low formaldehyde?
    - g. Purchased reusable, compostable or recycled content food service items?
    - h. Purchased rechargeable batteries? Adopted a green purchasing policy?
  
  - 6. How green are your school buildings and schoolyards? Has your school:
    - a. Created an educational garden?
    - b. Received LEED or CHPS certification for newly planned or built schools?
    - c. Followed green building principles for new school construction?
    - d. Maintained a natural grass field?
    - e. Developed a creative play area?
    - f. Planted an edible garden and used the fresh food?
    - g. Installed outside seating?
    - h. Planted trees?

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# Sustainable Operations

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- i. Installed safe playground equipment, with no arsenic-treated wood?
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7. How fresh is your school food? Has your school:
    - a. Offered a salad bar at lunch on any day or every day?
    - b. Used food from a school garden at lunch or in classroom?
    - c. Implemented a farm-to-school program to source fresh food from local farms?
    - d. Offered some organic food at lunch or snacks?
    - e. Banned soda and candy vending at school?
  
  8. How does your school engage students in its greening efforts? Has your school:
    - a. Taught environmental education in at least one class or grade?
    - b. Taught environmental education at all grade levels?
    - c. Environmental and sustainability concepts are integrated into student assessments?
    - d. Offered outdoor or nature education?
    - e. Used a school garden for teaching?
    - f. Developed hands-on environmental projects in the local community?
    - g. Involved students in solving environmental problems at the school, such as a garbage audit or other activities?
    - h. Appointed students to the school's Green Committee?
  
  9. How committed is your school to being green? Has your school:
    - a. Established a green team that includes parents, teachers, students, staff, and administrators?
    - b. Adopted a vision statement, school board policy or resolution?
    - c. Done environmental audit of school resource use?
    - d. Developed an action plan for greening?
    - e. Integrated hands-on student activities into curriculum?
    - f. Implemented a plan for monitoring resource use and progress on action plan?
    - g. Created opportunities to celebrate achievements and engage the wider community?
  
  10. What is your green dream for your school? Open-ended question, please share your vision for sustainability at your school or something green you'd like to see your school do.

(The Green School Report Card comes from: <http://www.greenschools.net/form.php?modin=53>)

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