



Top 10 Things You Can Do to Green Your School

1. Change Your Lightbulbs and Go One Step Farther

#2. Initiate a Recycling Program

- Paper, glass, cardboard, plastic, aluminum/tin, compost, printer cartridges – refill/recycle

#3. Reduce Paper Consumption

- Reduce handouts to parents - encourage email or district website postings

#4. Use Green Cleaning Products

- **NO:** APEOs, EDTAs, phosphates or potassium salts, butyl, toxins, animal testing, aquatic toxicity,
- **YES:** no or low VOCs (volatile organic compounds), low eye and skin irritation, biodegradable packaging, non-combustible
- Look for items with 3rd Party Certification (Green Seal, Ecologo)

#5. Incorporate Green Cleaning Best Practices

- Damp dusting, HEPA vacuum cleaner filters, Microfiber dust cloths and mops
- 3-step walk off mats (1lb of dirt = \$500)
- Establish list of prohibited chemicals/provide classroom teachers with one approved all-purpose cleaner , discourage air freshener use

#6. Responsible Building Maintenance and Renovation

- Low or no-VOC products, PVC-free materials, no added formaldehyde
- Floor refinishing: skip a year or two
- Integrated pest management

#7. Institute a No-Idling Policy for Buses and Parents

#8. Establish & Support Farm to School Programs

- Work directly with local farmers/food producers to bring their food to the cafeteria
- Request organic products, demand hormone-free milk/meat from food vendors

#9. No Waste Lunches

- Consider a recess followed by lunch schedule
- Provide metal utensils, biodegradable cups/napkins; set up a compost system
- Inform parents on how home lunches can be zero waste

#10. Educate your Children

- Build these principals into the culture of your school family