



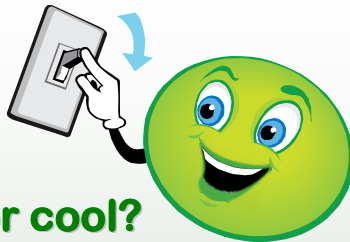
Green Your School



4 Students

Flip the switch!

- Form a student patrol group to check that lights are off in vacant rooms
- Make signs or stickers for your classrooms that say **"Flip the switch when leaving!"** as a reminder to turn off lights
- Ask your teacher if you can run an experiment by turning off certain lights to assess comfort in various lighting (often natural light is preferred)
- Request to move unneeded lamps away from unused spaces and windows
- Request to use CFLs or **LED bulbs** and compute the energy savings



Some like it hot, or cool?

- Bring in fans
- Request that air **vents** are kept **clear**
- Request 78 degrees for cooling and 68 for heating
- Ask to have programmable thermostats installed to reduce cooling and heating when rooms are vacant
- Ask to **close classroom doors** to trap heat in
- Work with custodians to fix drafty rooms; check that furnace filters are cleaned often
- Find leaks by making "draft-meters" from pencils and plastic wrap with your teacher
- Ask to make "insulation snakes" for the bottom of windows and doors as well as translucent window quilts

Monitor those monitors

- Make sure computers are set to enter **"sleep" mode** when inactive; avoid screen savers
- **Turn off monitors** that won't be used in subsequent classes
- **Turn off computers** when the day ends
- Patrol to check monitors and computers are off when not needed
- Request that **Energy Star** equipment be purchased
- Compute potential savings for Energy Star equipment and present the findings to administrators

Recycle!

- **Conserve paper** by using both sides of a page in your notebooks, buy recycled paper, and make sure there is a paper recycling bin in every classroom
- Start a **recycling program** for the school. If you already have one, evaluate the current program to find new ways to reduce waste and conserve more materials
- Collect used printer, fax, and copier cartridges to recycle

Out with the old

- Ask to discard old appliances & maintain others
- Ask that **unneeded appliances** be **removed**
- Study electricity consumption with a watt meter to reveal outdated appliances

Daily dose of green

- On Earth Day, have everyone write down one way to help the Earth. Take them to the principal and start a daily **Help the Earth PA announcement**
- Organize to have **healthy food** served at your school and reduce the availability of junk food, sodas, and other unhealthy options, as well as choosing reusable utensils, trays, and dishes in the cafeteria
- Start **walking or biking** to school and invite others to join you. If you do not have bicycle racks or a safe route to school, tell your school and local officials to add bike racks, safety courses or clubs, and a pedestrian/bike friendly trail to school



Be Earth smart!

- Become educated on environmental issues in all subject matters. Encourage teachers to include environmental themes and lessons into daily learning routines, such as inviting **experts** to speak and watching **documentaries** in class. Direct your teachers to lesson plans at www.earthday.net
- Organize **Earth Day events** for your school on April 22nd to better educate you, your school, and your community on environmental problems and solutions. Find info at www.earthday.net



Have fun!

- Organize a **clean-up day** for your school and the surrounding area. Beautification projects such as tree plantings are quick solutions to many common problems
- Create an environmental mascot for your school. Hold a classroom contest to see who can come up with the best mascot and slogan
- Put on a play, such as “Walden,” about the spirit and/or importance of honoring the Earth. Find out more at www.earthday.net
- Have a contest to **monitor the amount of trash** each class creates after lunch (the same can be done with recycling). Keep a graph for about a week to see which class overall disposes the least amount of trash (or recycles the most)



Engaging your school

- Talk to the principal and maintenance staff! Oftentimes, more knowledge and potential for change is available from your school’s staff than anyone else. Inquire about **non-toxic** cleaning products and **recyclable** materials. Find out what pesticides or chemicals are sprayed on school grounds
- Perform an energy audit with your on-site managers to determine your electricity’s source and potential for renewable energy. Examine your school’s air quality and ventilation, or investigate the possibility of creating a **green roof** for your school. And remember teachers and/or the school board can be involved in making your school a Green School