



Award Checklist: Silver

Use this handy checklist to help track your school's progress through the Eco-Schools USA program and confirm that you are meeting criteria to apply for a silver-level award. **200 points are required to qualify for a Silver award.**

CRITERIA	POINTS	COMPLETED	NOTES	TIPS
Eco-Action Team Total 30 points				
The school has identified an Eco-Action Team comprised of students, teachers and community members.	10			Consider connecting with resource professionals from local government, conservation or academic entities. Also tap into parent volunteers and local volunteer organizations.
The Eco-Action Team meets a minimum of six times a year.	10			Some schools meet more frequently in the beginning and then scale back meetings once their program has become established.
Students are part of the decision-making process and share responsibility for keeping minutes at each meeting, as age appropriate.	5			If age appropriate, give students the opportunity to lead some of the team meetings.
Student members of the Eco-Action team share information, actions and events with the whole school.	5			Allow students to determine how they will share information and in what formats.



CRITERIA	POINTS	COMPLETED	NOTES	TIPS
Pathway Audit Total 35 points Required documentation for upload: 2 Pathway Audits				
A baseline audits for two pathways have been conducted.	20			We recommend you complete the audit annually in order to measure and evaluate improvement in your school's environmental performance. Addressing sustainability is not a project with an end point, but requires continuous monitoring.
Students play an active role in conducting the environmental pathway audits.	10			Determine which audit steps are safe for students to complete and which should be completed with the assistance of or by an adult.
Results of the audit are shared with the whole school.	5			Go over audit results at an assembly, include them in a school-wide newsletter or other school-wide communications.
Eco-Action Plan Total 35 points Required documentation for upload: A total of 2 pathway action plans				
The Eco-Action Team uses results from the pathway audits to inform and develop an action plan that includes measurable actions.	20			One of the two pathways can be the pathway the team focused on when applying for the bronze-level award. They could also represent work toward two new environmental focus areas or be work addressed prior to joining Eco-Schools USA.
The Eco-Action Plan is used to take at least one action at the school for each pathway, addressing areas for environmental improvement.	5			Prioritize your actions by dividing them into what is achievable in the short, medium and long term.



CRITERIA	POINTS	COMPLETED	NOTES	TIPS
Eco-Action Plan, Continued				
The Eco-Action Plan is shared with the whole school and greater community.	10			Use morning announcements or other school methods of communication to share the team's plan.
Monitor and Evaluate Total 35 points Required documentation for upload: post-action audits for 2 pathways; optional-written summary, photos, videos				
The Eco-Action team monitors and reviews progress against the Eco-Action Plan's goals and timeline.	15			Your procedure for monitoring progress should be developed in parallel with the action plan.
A digital, oral and/or written progress report is provided to the whole school.	5			Successes and challenges should be recorded in meeting minutes.
The school shows significant progress on one large-scale project that is focused on the two selected pathways or one project for each selected pathway.	5			Develop a project that will include and impact as many of the school community as possible.
The post-action audits for the selected pathways have been completed.	10			Metrics data can be pulled from the pathway audit forms.
Link to Curriculum Total 25 points				
At all grade levels students are engaged in interdisciplinary and authentic learning experiences around environmental topics.	15			You may not be able to integrate across as many disciplines as you'd like, but you should make an effort to integrate across as many as possible to show it is a whole school effort.
Students' environment-based learning experiences are rooted in inquiry and allow them to hone and apply science and engineering practices.	10			Eco-Schools USA has several lesson plans and curricula available, including Ranger Rick and Schoolyard Habitats® content.



Engage and Build Community | Total 20 points

The school has a prominent, designated way to communicate with the whole school and greater community, such as a bulletin board, website or newsletter that details Eco-Schools activities and accomplishments.	10			Have students write op-eds or articles for the local paper, blogs, newsletter copy, or website content through their English or journalism class.
Multiple grade levels, along with community volunteers, engage in a minimum of three Eco-Schools USA related activities, such as, but not limited to, Eco-Action Team meetings, classroom or whole-school speaking engagements, audit support and professional services support.	10			Consider holding special events to raise awareness and educate the community. Encourage students and the community to take action.

Eco-Code | Total 20 points | Required documentation for upload: Eco-Code

The Eco-Action Team develops an Eco-Code with input from the whole school. The code is then agreed upon, adopted and prominently displayed by the school.	20			The Eco-Code should demonstrate, in a clear and imaginative way, your school's commitment to improving its environmental performance.
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APPLYING FOR A SILVER AWARD

Steps

1

Before applying ensure you have all your evidence ready to upload. We advise doing this over 2-3 sessions.

2

[Login](#) to your Eco-Schools USA dashboard.

3

Once on your school's dashboard, click on "Apply for an Award" in the left side navigation. Click on the "Silver Award" button.

4

Fill-out the award application and click 'submit'. If the application is only partially completed you can click 'save' and return to it at a later point.

5

If the application is successfully entered and all criteria met, your school will automatically receive the Eco-Schools USA Silver award. The Silver Award icon will appear on your dashboard. You will receive an email where you can download your certificate or you can also retrieve your certificate by going to, "Apply for an Award" on your dashboard.