



## EcoSchools U.S. Action Card Library

Actions make up the foundation of EcoSchools certification and consist of a variety of fun and educational projects, campaigns, research, and challenges that help schools assess and improve their environmental practices. Action cards are designed to be flexible and adaptable to all curricula and school types to ensure that everyone across the United States can pursue certification. EcoSchools U.S. action cards also connect schools to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the global FEE network.

- : This symbol represents the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will denote an action card's primary connection.
- **Action:** Title of the action card
- **Description:** Brief description of the action card
- **EcoSchools U.S. Themes:** Wildlife and Biodiversity (**green**), Climate (**yellow**), and Healthy and Resilient Communities (**blue**). Each is associated with the same color found in the EcoSchools Certification Application's (ECA) Action Library.
- **Points Value:** Point total possible by completing the action and answering the certification questions. Annually, schools can certify at a Bronze (50 points), Silver (65 points), Gold (80 points), or Green Flag (100+ points) level.
- : This symbol represents an action card that's locked meaning you must complete these actions as a part of your action plan.









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Action	Description	Theme	Point Value	SDG Connection
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**These 3 action cards are a required elements of every EcoSchools U.S. plan.** They are integral components of the EcoSchools Framework. Note: the certification questions for About the Action Team are designed to be completed at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.

 <b>About the Action Team</b>	Building and convening a strong action team is a recipe for success. Here you will express the team's goals.	 Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	
 <b>Telling Your EcoSchools U.S. Story</b>	Use a public outlet to share an impact story about one or more of your EcoSchools' actions, campaigns, or projects.	 Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	
 <b>Create an EcoCode</b>	What is the school's EcoCode or purpose for this work? Connect with the school community to create a representation of the diverse sustainability efforts in progress at your school through a written statement or associated artwork.	 Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	










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<b>Active and Sustainable Transport</b>	Run a campaign to encourage low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, biking, and carpooling to school.	● Climate	15	
<b>Become a Citizen Scientist</b>	A citizen science project is a collaborative scientific endeavor in which members of the public participate actively in scientific research.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	
<b>Bird-Friendly Schools</b>	Learn to identify local bird species and take action to make your school safe for birds.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	 
<b>Build an Edible Garden (Coming Soon!)</b>	Learn how to build a food, herb and/or fruit garden to provide as an outdoor education tool.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	TBD	
<b>Build a Pollinator Garden</b>	Learn about the hidden life in a community waterway or at your school and how it can indicate a healthy ecosystem.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	25	
<b>Clean Earth Challenge</b>	Join the movement and take the Clean Earth Challenge! Pick up trash on a walk, at school, or local park. This action card supports the Clean Earth Challenge Campaign.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	
<b>Climate StoryMap: The Rise of Extreme Heat</b>	Use the National Wildlife Federation's Climate StoryMap: The Rise of Extreme Heat to make observations about and generate community-based solutions around the impacts of extreme heat in the U.S.	● Climate	15	









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<b>Climate StoryMap: Unnatural Disasters</b>	Use the National Wildlife Federation's ArcGIS StoryMap: Unnatural Disasters to make observations about and generate community-based solutions around the impacts of extreme heat in the U.S.	● Climate	15	
<b>Cool School Challenge</b>	The Cool School Challenge is for schools wanting to cut carbon emissions through a structured, step-by-step process.	● Climate	20	
<b>Create a Rain Garden</b>	A rain garden is a beautiful plantscape that filters polluted stormwater runoff. Students will choose plant species and plant a rain garden.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	25	
<b>Create an Endangered Species Coloring Book</b>	Engage students in the research, development, and design of a coloring book about an endangered species in your region.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	10	 
<b>Create School Field Guides</b>	Do you want to unlock the secrets and hidden treasures in your own schoolyard? Then, embark on this great project-based learning experience to create school-based nature field guides!	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	10	 
<b>Create Wildlife Homes</b>	Support wildlife populations by creating safe spaces they can nest, feed, and play.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	 
<b>Create Your Own Action Card</b>	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15+	
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<b>Create Your Own Action Card</b>	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!	● Climate	15+	
<b>Days of Service</b>	Throughout the school year, build in opportunities to bring the community together in the spirit of service--service to the school, to the community and to wildlife. This card supports the Days of Service Campaign.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	
<b>Divert Textile Waste</b>	Reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, and recycle old textiles such as clothes, shoes, and bedding, and help to divert waste from the landfill.	● Climate	15	
<b>Endangered Species Awareness Community Event</b>	Engage the community, educate participants, and inspire action toward the conservation and preservation of one or multiple endangered species and their habitats in your region.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	 
<b>Energy Vampires</b>	Identify energy vampires and opportunities to reduce power use to reduce greenhouse gases.	● Climate	15	
<b>Exploring Green Careers</b>	Contribute to changes locally and around the world by exploring green careers and mapping out how to help others.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	
<b>Fish Stewards</b>	Get hooked on fish! Learn about fish lifecycles, habitat, cultural connections, and stewardship actions needed to improve watershed health.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	25	 






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<b>Green Screen: Host an Environmental Film Screening</b>	Hold a Green Screen event at your school, at which a film about responsible environmental practices is screened, local community groups come together, and students showcase sustainability efforts.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	20	
<b>Grow a Schoolyard Forest</b>	Increase tree canopy within small places to improve the school's carbon footprint, support wildlife, and decrease heat island impacts.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	25	
<b>Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses</b>	Bring gardening inside for hands-on, year-round learning about plants, food systems, nutrition, and health and well-being.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	20	
<b>LEAF Learning About Ecosystems and Forests</b>	Learning about forests involves gaining knowledge, understanding, and hands-on field experiences related to forests, including their biodiversity, importance, functions, services to ecosystems and humans, and conservation.	● Climate	20	 
<b>Let's Talk Air</b>	Explore the properties of air and why good indoor air quality is important for human health.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	
<b>Macroinvertebrates Surveying</b>	Learn about the hidden life in a community waterway or at your school and how it can indicate a healthy ecosystem.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	
<b>Mayors' Monarch Pledge</b>	Urge or congratulate your mayor's commitment to create healthy, sustainable habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators and to educating the community about how they can make a difference.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	

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<b>Multi-Year Actions: Point Request</b>	Continuing actions from last school year? Request points for up to three actions.	● ● ●	max of 25	
<b>Paper and Cardboard School Recycling Program</b>	A step-by-step guide to establish a paper and cardboard recycling program at your school.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	25	
<b>Planning for a Green Career</b>	Go beyond career exploration and create a personalized career path in sustainability!	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	
<b>Redesign a Product for the Circular Economy</b>	Explore the lifecycle of an everyday product and generate ideas for its redesign using circular design principles.	● Climate	15	
<b>Repurposing and Innovative Recycling</b>	Recycle, repurpose, or repair items that are not recyclable through the regular recycling stream and help to divert waste from the landfill.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	
<b>Restoring Biodiversity Balance in Your Schoolyard</b>	Let's focus on designing a plan for your school to remove invasive plant species and restore the habitat of your school grounds by planting native plants.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	20	
<b>RiSC: Climate Vulnerability Assessment</b>	A community vulnerability assessment (CVA) describes ways that climate change will affect a community. This Action Card helps you explore a local CVA and share it with your school and community in a way that is meaningful and easy to understand.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	25	

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<b>RiSC: Climate Impacts Field Experiences</b>	Now that you have identified local climate impacts, take a walk to identify what is affecting your community.	● Climate	20	
<b>RiSC: Listening to the Community: Creating Your Own Community Vulnerability Survey</b>	Hearing from community members about what they see and how they feel about the vulnerabilities in their community provides insightful information that can be used when identifying viable solutions.	● Climate	25	
<b>RiSC: Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife and People</b>	Students will explore the current and potential future impacts of climate change on their local environment, focusing on the effects on resources and ecosystems that are essential for human and wildlife well-being in their community.	● Climate	20	
<b>RiSC: Community Solutions-Mitigation and Adaptation Audit</b>	This action card encourages students to think critically about the design of solutions related to specific local vulnerability impacts.	● Climate	20	
<b>RiSC: Community Climate Action Project</b>	Using what they have learned from the other RiSC Action Cards, students plan and implement a project in their community that mitigates or adapts to local climate impacts.	● Climate	25	






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<b>Single-Use Plastics</b>	Conduct a single-use plastics audit and determine how to inform the school community about their harmful impacts on wildlife, communities, and the climate in order to change single-use plastic behavior.	 Climate	10	
<b>Sit Spot</b>	Cultivate awareness and well-being by regularly visiting one specific spot where you can sit, slow down, awaken your senses, and learn more about yourself and the local environment.	 Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	
<b>Species Diversity</b>	Observing and identifying local wildlife in outdoor spaces at home or at school.	 Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	 
<b>SYH: Engage the Community</b>	Informing plans to develop an area for wildlife habitat and outdoor learning, utilize the Schoolyard Habitats® Planning Guide (or similar resource) to assess the potential space.	 Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	
<b>SYH: Assess Your Site</b>	Informing plans to develop an area for wildlife habitat and outdoor learning, utilize the Schoolyard Habitats® Planning Guide (or similar resource) to assess the potential space.	 Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	
<b>SYH: Design the Habitat</b>	Informing plans to develop an area for wildlife habitat and outdoor learning, utilize the Schoolyard Habitats® Planning Guide (or similar resource) to assess the potential space.	 Wildlife and Biodiversity	20	

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<b>SYH: Maintain the Habitat</b>	Informing plans to develop an area for wildlife habitat and outdoor learning, utilize the Schoolyard Habitats® Planning Guide (or similar resource) to assess the potential space.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	
<b>Track School Transportation Emissions</b>	Track how staff and students travel to and from school to better understand transportation-related GHG emissions and the transportation options you have.	● Climate	15	
<b>Using Art to Represent Climate Change Data</b>	Through an artistic investigation, learn more about our changing climate using climate data.	● Climate	15	
<b>Vermicomposting and School-Based Composting</b>	Get your hands dirty and turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich soil.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	20	
<b>Waste Audit</b>	Data from waste audits provide insights into current waste and human behavior practices. This includes determining the composition and quantities of waste being generated and identifying opportunities to improve waste management systems.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	

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<b>Water Quality Testing</b>	Learn about the quality of water in a local waterway or at your school and connect to community and wildlife health.	 Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	
<b>Waterway Clean-Up</b>	Help protect your watershed by cleaning up a local waterway and surrounding area.	 Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	