



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.
- **Estimated Time To Complete:** The estimated time it will take to complete the action card, keeping in mind a number of variables that impact activity, project, and campaign completion. Even actions designed to be conducted in less than a week could be repeated throughout the year like macroinvertebrate surveys to support conclusions on stream health. Short = Less than a week | Medium = Less than a Month | Long = 3+ months
- : This symbol represents an action card that's locked meaning you must complete these actions as a part of your action plan.

EcoSchools U.S. Action Card Library



SDG 3
Good Health and
Well-Being

SDG 6
Clean Water
and Sanitation

Action	Description	Theme	Point Value	Estimated Time to Complete
Active and Sustainable Transport	Run a campaign to encourage low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, busing, and carpooling to school.	● Climate	15	Medium
Indoor Gardening and Greenhouses	Bring gardening inside for hands-on, year-round learning about plants, food systems, nutrition, and health and well-being.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	20	Medium to Long
Let's Talk Air	Explore the properties of air and why good indoor air quality is important for human health.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	Short to Medium
Sit Spot	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	Short
Macroinvertebrates Survey	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	Short
Water Quality Testing	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	Short
Waterway Clean-Up	Help protect your watershed by cleaning up a local waterway and surrounding area.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	Medium

EcoSchools U.S. Action Card Library



SDG 11
Sustainable Cities
and Communities



SDG 12 Responsible
Consumption and Production



Action	Description	Theme	Point Value	Estimated Time to Complete
Create a Rain Garden	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	Long
Create Your Own Action Card	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15+	Short to Long
^a Create an EcoCode	Connect with the school community to create a representation of the diverse sustainability achievements and efforts in progress.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	Short
^b Getting Started	Start your year by building a strong action team, reflecting on student interests and community needs, then developing an action plan for success!	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	Short
^c Impact Storytelling	Use a public outlet to share a story about one of your EcoSchools' projects.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	10	Short to Long
Divert Textile Waste	Reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair, and recycle old textiles such as clothes, shoes, and bedding, and help to divert waste from the landfill.	● Climate	15	Short to Medium
Paper and Cardboard School Recycling Program	A step-by-step guide to establish a paper and cardboard recycling program at your school.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	25	Long
Repurposing and Innovative Recycling	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	Short to Long
Single-Use Plastics	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	Medium
Vermicomposting and School-Based Composting	Get your hands dirty and turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich soil.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	20	Medium to Long

EcoSchools U.S. Action Card Library



SDG 13
Climate Action



SDG 14/15
Life Below Water &
Life on Land



Action	Description	Theme	Point Value	Estimated Time to Complete
Climate Escape Room	Do you have what it takes to “escape” climate change? Increase your awareness of the global climate crisis while engaging in a fun and immersive online learning experience!	● Climate	15	Short to Medium
Create Your Own Action Card	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!	● Climate	15+	Short to Long
Energy Vampires	Identify energy vampires and opportunities to reduce power use to reduce greenhouse gases.	● Climate	15	Medium
Grow a Schoolyard Forest	Increase tree canopy within small places to improve the school's carbon footprint, support wildlife, and decrease heat island impacts.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	25	Long
Restoring Biodiversity Balance in Your Schoolyard	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	Medium to Long
Track School Transportation Emissions	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	Medium
Bird-Friendly Schools	Learn to identify local bird species and take action to make your school safe for birds.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	Medium
Create an Endangered Species Coloring Book	Engage students in the research, development, and design of a coloring book about an endangered species in your region.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	10	Short
Create School Field Guides	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	Short
Create Wildlife Homes	Support wildlife populations by creating safe spaces they can nest, feed, and play.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	Medium
Create Your Own Action Card	Do you have a plan for an action that doesn't quite fit? Let us know all about it!	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15+	Short to Long

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SDG 14/15
Life Below Water &
Life on Land



SDG 17
Partnerships for
the Goals



Action	Description	Theme	Point Value	Estimated Time to Complete
Endangered Species Awareness Community Event	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	Medium
Fish Stewards	Get hooked on fish! Learn about fish lifecycles, habitat, cultural connections, and stewardship actions needed to improve watershed health.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	25	Medium to Long
LEAF Learning About Forests	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	Medium
Species Diversity	Observing and identifying local wildlife in outdoor spaces at home or at school.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	15	Short to Medium
Become a Citizen Scientist	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	Medium
Students Rebuild	Join The Extraordinary Earth Project. Learn more about this environmental art project starting 8/17. This card supports the Days of Service Campaign.	● Wildlife and Biodiversity	10	Short
Clean Earth Challenge	Join the movement and take the Clean Earth Challenge! It's as simple as picking up trash on a walk, at school, or local park. This action card supports the Clean Earth Challenge Campaign.	● Healthy and Resilient Communities	15	Medium
Days of Service	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	Medium to Long