



# ECO-SCHOOLS USA PARENT FACT SHEET

## HELP YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL MAKE CHANGES TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

### IT ALL STARTS WITH THE SCHOOL AS A LIVING LABORATORY!

Eco-Schools is a fundamental way of learning which encourages young people to engage in learning and actions to actively conserve and protect the environment. Through this global program founded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), and recognized by and in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), youth address real-world and local issues around sustainability, ultimately driving change at school and in the community. The Eco-Schools USA program is community-based and student-driven. The program is hosted in the United States by the National Wildlife Federation and is an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path towards improving health and wellness, conserving natural resources and protecting wild places and wildlife.

### ECO-SCHOOLS USA PROGRAM BENEFITS

Place-Based Authentic Learning Experiences

Flexibility

Standards Alignment

Green STEM

Engage All Students

International Community of Eco-Schools

Academic & Financial Benefits

Career Readiness Skills

Environmental Literacy

Builds Stronger Communities



## GETTING STARTED

Want to launch Eco-Schools USA at your child’s school? Begin here:

- Browse the Eco-Schools USA website to learn more and familiarize yourself with the program, [www.nwf.org/eco-schools-usa](http://www.nwf.org/eco-schools-usa).
- The Eco-Schools USA blogs showcase the breadth and depth of what schools across the nation have accomplished. Take time to read a few. Get inspired! <http://blog.nwf.org/topics/students-and-nature/>
- The Eco-Schools USA program is a team effort. Share information with the entire school community, including teachers, administrators, staff and members of the broader community to gauge and generate interest.
- Recruit a teacher or administrator to champion the program, and register the school on the Eco-Schools USA website, <https://www.nwf.org/EcoSchools/Register.aspx>.
- Convene a core group of committed team members and to spread the word. Be sure to engage community leaders and be inclusive of the entire community.

## OUR PROGRAM

After a school registers, teachers and students follow the Seven-Step Framework to implement the Eco-Schools USA program. Students have the opportunity to think creatively and critically about sustainability challenges and develop place-based solutions. Schools are recognized for their achievements in sustainability, applying for the Bronze, Silver and prestigious Green Flag award.

## PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

As a team, students will address local issues by selecting one of the Sustainability Pathways. Students investigate related issues, plan for action, and drive change for the betterment of the school and greater community.

