

How to be a Green School

In five steps

Recycle

Place recycling bins next to every trash can with each possible type of bin that makes sense for the area. The cafeteria is the best place to start. Make sure each bin is clearly labeled. In fact, a nice trick to ensure understanding and compliance is to show examples above the recycling bins. (See the picture from Whole Foods.)

Buy Local Food Whenever Possible

Sounds like a pretty cool field trip, too. This is a great opportunity to teach students where their food comes from.

Start a Garden

Grow your own organic food, and get the students involved. The best way to get students to start eating healthier is to get them involved in the process of producing healthy food. And gardening is therapeutic. Before you start thinking that you just don't have enough room to start, research gardening in small places, and ask the students for their thoughts. Don't forget to compost to further reduce landfill waste and as a means to enrich your garden soil.

Reduce Paper Consumption

Recycling is great, but reducing is better. Put used paper in the fax machine to print on the back side, or try web based fax services like eFax. Post important updates on websites and get parents to sign up for email lists. When you do buy paper, choose environmentally friendly, recycled paper.

Educate and Involve

Get the students and parents involved. Get them excited. Teach students and teachers the benefits of turning off lights when not in use. Make sure everyone knows how and where and what to recycle. Get feedback and ideas whenever possible. Create exciting projects. Why not encourage the shop class and the science class to team up to build a solar panel or a wind turbine for the school?