

EcoSchools U.S.

National Impact Report 2023-2024

A Sustainable Future Begins at Every EcoSchool

68% of states participated in EcoSchools, with these states submitting the most action plans.

#1 Virginia **#2 New Jersey** **#3 Texas** **#4 Idaho** **#5 Florida**



North Star Elementary School



Warren T. Eich Middle School



Wildwood High School

1,173

**Actions
Taken**

1,300

**Schools
Registered**

9K

**Hours of
Outdoor Learning**

165K

**Students
Reached**

Data collected from all schools participating in the EcoSchools program 2023-2024 as of June 7, 2024.

To learn more about how EcoSchools gathers and interprets school data, [see Viewing Your Schools Environmental Impact in our FAQ.](#)



About Participating Schools

Our EcoSchools action plan is the starting point for incorporating a holistic whole-school environmental-based learning that revolves around the three pillars of sustainability. This initial action plan will create opportunities to involve all students at Richland Northeast High School in environmental education and action.

~Northeast High School



42% Elementary Schools
20% High Schools
13% Middle Schools
5% K-12
20% Mixed grade levels



German International School



74% Public Schools
11% Private Schools
12% Charter/Magnet Schools
2% Home Schools
1% Parochial Schools



No Tribal Nation, Department of Defense, or juvenile justice schools participated.

Acero Jovita Idár Elementary School

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Collective Impact

Student by student, school by school, district by district, community by community, we are proud of the collective impact of the program. Here's to a job well done by all our EcoSchools!

4,902

leadership opportunities taken by youth across the nation

116

days of service

27.2k

native trees, flowers, shrubs, and grasses planted

498.5k

square feet of habitat created

597.1k

pounds of waste diverted from the landfill

1,904

actions taken to support or improve the community's health, wellness, and resilience

41.2k

water and energy conservation actions taken

79%

of the actions undertaken by schools are established practices

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Certification Breakdown



8

schools



23

schools



9

schools



59

schools

Top Actions By Theme

The EcoSchools U.S. action library offers a comprehensive selection of 30+ actions to choose from, spanning three themes, *Wildlife and Biodiversity*, *Climate Change*, and *Healthy and Resilient Schools*. Here are the top five most popular actions taken by EcoSchools across the country.



Single Use Plastics

Energy Vampires

Divert Textile Waste

Climate Escape Room

Active & Sustainable
Transportation

Create Wildlife Homes

Restoring Biodiversity
Balance to the Schoolyard

Bird-Friendly Schools

Species Diversity

Fish Stewards

Paper & Cardboard
School Recycling Program

Indoor Gardening &
Greenhouses

Clean Earth Challenge

Days of Service

Sit Spot

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Connecting to the SDGs

With each action taken as part of the EcoSchools program, schools are making a meaningful contribution to our global effort to achieve the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#).



 **SDG 13**

1,370 schools took actions to benefit the environment

 **SDG 11**


413 school actions taken to support sustainable cities and communities.




Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo




Wilbert Tucker Woodson High School

 **SDG 15**

349 school actions taken to protect and support healthy wildlife populations.

 **SDG 12**

380 schools addressed responsible consumption and production.

 **SDG 3**

324 schools focused on actions that contributed to good health and well-being.

Connections to the Curriculum

As an element of the EcoSchools Framework, educators collaborated to engage students across multiple action cards through numerous content areas. Here's the top five!



Discovery Elementary School

- 1 Life and Earth Science
- 2 Arts
- 3 Social Science and SEL
- 4 Language Arts
- 5 Math

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Create Your Own Action Highlights

The creative and innovative initiatives that schools across the country undertake as part of the Create Your Own Action is inspiring. These initiatives demonstrate a passion and commitment of action teams to improve the sustainability of the school community and beyond! Here are some of the exciting ideas that schools implemented.

Host a Green Screen

Rye County Day School, New York

Host a Green Screen at your school! Choose a documentary film to show to your community and inspire viewers to take action. Films that take a critical look at unsustainable industries, explore potential earth-saving efforts or examine consumerism and waste are all great places to start when picking what you'll screen. Take it to the next level by tying in student projects and inviting relevant guest speakers. For example, in conjunction with a screening about fast fashion, hold a zero-waste reception and a student fashion show.

Kindergarten Invasive Ant Education Reform

Lemon Road Elementary School, Virginia

Concerned students wrote a email to FCPS informing how FCPS uses invasive ants for the kindergarten science project on life cycles. We consulted with the elementary science specialist from FCPS, to talk about sustainable alternatives for kindergarten classes to observe. They have committed to researching native (or at least non-invasive) creatures that the 534 kindergarten classes across FCPS could have in their classrooms. Our education reform action could improve a school system's education program and reduce invasive and aggressive ant usage.

Roseville Student Sustainability Summit

Warren T Eich Middle School, California

Students developed models and presentations to solve for a problem connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Student presentations were sent to relevant community stakeholders in the city government. The individuals read and commented on all student ideas about making our community a more sustainable place to live. City, community, and district personnel attended the Roseville Student Sustainability Summit in person to meet with the top students face-to-face and hear about their proposals.

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Come Grow With Us

Members of our Sustainable Solutions Club traveled to Lincoln Hills Cares to examine biodiversity in the wetland area and learn the history surrounding the park. Lincoln Hills Cares was the first green space in Colorado that was accessible to people of color, and as we learned about this important area, we tested the pH, acidity, and dissolved oxygen levels of the water, while also looking at the biodiversity of the ecosystem, which included snail eggs, microorganisms, larvae, waterbugs, and more. This allowed members to learn about civil right surrounding equal access to green space, ecosystem species and services, and habitat conservation.

~Denver North High School

EcoSchools and environment-based learning/action have strong roles in our school. We have utilized both in a variety of ways. As an environmental charter school, our students spend a significant amount of time learning, playing, and exploring outside-- we strive to connect nature and the environment to all aspects of the school including core curriculum, recess, specials such as art and gym, etc. In order to give our students opportunities for real world experience, we also participate in a variety of actions. From kindergarten through 8th grade, our students are involved in a wide variety of projects and initiatives. EcoSchools has now allowed us to take these initial projects further, connecting our efforts to the wider world. Our EcoSchool action team, (the "Green Team") consists of student and staff leaders who help to take the ideas generated from the school, and to turn those ideas into concrete plans so that our actions can have a larger impact. Between EcoSchools and our environmental-based learning and action, our students have a deep respect for and connection with the natural world, frequently sharing the desire to help the earth, and to keep it safe.

~Cannon River STEM School

To register your school, visit

app.ecoschools.us

To learn more about what we can offer you, visit

nwf/eco-schools-us

Districts and partners looking to work with EcoSchools or general questions, email us at

ecoschoolsus@nwf.org

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