

GREEN SCHOOLS INSPECTION CHECKLIST



It's great to be green—but how does your school stack up? Use this checklist to conduct an inspection of your school's energy and sustainability practices. Examine things like energy and water use, waste diversion, sustainable transportation, and other practices around the school that shape its environmental footprint. With a completed checklist in hand, regroup and discuss your findings. What's working? What can be improved upon? Talk as a team about the changes you want to make, and use this discussion to transition into a theme and create an action plan for the year.

WHAT TO INVESTIGATE:

GETTING STARTED WITH ENERGY

- Does your school use energy efficient light bulbs (e.g., compact fluorescents, LEDs)? How many do you have installed?
- Does your school use energy efficient electronics with an energy star rating? How many are in your school?
- Does your school use energy efficient appliances in the cafeteria/canteen and staff room? How many does your school have? Which appliances are they?
- Has your school implemented a “turn-it-off” campaign for light switches and/or posted related signage?
- Is there signage posted around the school to encourage sustainable behaviors (e.g., turn the tap off when not in use, use less paper towel, etc.)?
- Does your school recycle paper in classrooms and administrative offices? What about the hallways and cafeteria?
- Does your school purchase paper that has partial or 100% recycled content?
- Do school printers default to double-sided printing?



ADD ANY NOTES OR IDEAS YOU HAVE HERE:

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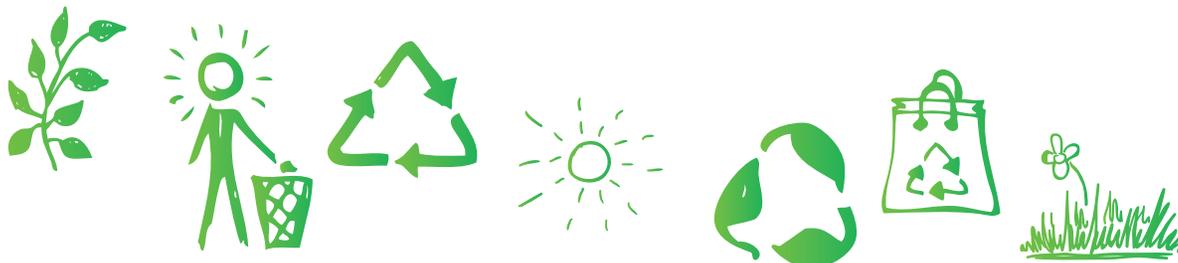
SUPPORTING LOCAL

- Does your school have a garden? If so, would it be useful or feasible to introduce the food grown in such a garden into student lunches, the cafeteria/canteen or the classroom?
- Could you establish a working relationship with a local farmer to help implement a school garden?
- Would it be possible or beneficial to use a garden as an educational tool for the school population?
- Does your school have the infrastructure to support rainwater catchment?
- Does your school have an active composting system? Is it a small, medium, or large-scale operation?
- Would your school benefit from implementing a composting system or improving the current system? What would these benefits be?



MINIMIZING WASTE

- What kind of waste does your school produce? Do you think your school is producing a lot of waste?
- What kind of recycling facilities are in place at your school?
- Is your school encouraging students to bring a lunch that does not produce waste (i.e., a litterless lunch)?
- What kind of litter do you see on the school grounds? Do you think there is a lot of litter?



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USING WATER RESPONSIBLY

- Does your school sell bottled water? Is your school creating an unnecessary amount of waste with plastic water bottles?
- Are water bottle refill stations present in your school?
- Is your school wasting water in your bathrooms? (e.g., leaking faucets/faucets that can be left on, urinals that require water, regular vs. low-flow toilets, etc.).
- Does your Green Team know where the water for their homes and school is sourced? Does the general student population know?



LIVING AND MOVING GREEN

- Do you have idle-free, bike or walk to school, or any other related transportation campaigns in place at your school? Would they be helpful or feasible in your school to help achieve a healthier lifestyle and cleaner air?
- How many trees are found around your school grounds? Could reforesting the grounds improve the productivity and health of the school environment and its population?
- Does your school have outside seating or outdoor spaces that could encourage classes to be held outside?



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