

Plant the seed for a Green & Healthy School



Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools Program

www.dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools

JOIN SCHOOLS ACROSS WISCONSIN

in demonstrating your commitment to a sustainable Earth,
stronger communities and healthier learning environments.



Mission Statement:

The **Wisconsin Green & Healthy Schools (GHS)** program aims to increase student knowledge and awareness of our natural resources, as well as the environmental, health and safety challenges that face our schools and communities. The GHS program helps students develop skills and expertise to address these challenges and to foster life-long attitudes and behaviors to make informed decisions and become active participants in their communities.



Program Highlights:

- Web-based resources
- Self-paced and flexible
- Available to all Wisconsin public and private elementary, middle and high schools
- Correlates to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in Science, Health, Environmental Education and Social Studies
- Encourages healthy, safe and environmentally-friendly lifestyles for students, staff and communities



The benefits of going Green & Healthy



- **Academic Achievement**
Provide a meaningful “real world” context for engaging students in mastering state curriculum standards and improving academic achievement. Schools can address over 70 standards through related program activities!
- **Healthy School Environments**
Create and maintain healthy school environments for successful teaching and learning.
- **Environmental Protection**
Conserve valuable natural resources by implementing green, healthy and environmentally sound practices and behaviors.
- **Financial Savings**
Enhance school budgets and save funds by improving school resource efficiency, recognizing cost saving opportunities and promoting environmentally sustainable practices. The GHS program offers grant opportunities for participating schools. Check out the GHS website for more information.
- **Community Involvement**
Empower students in developing life-long attitudes, behaviors and commitments to make informed environmental decisions and become active community participants.

Everyone benefits from a safe, healthy learning environment. Schools participating in the GHS program experience educational, environmental and economic benefits.





How does it work?



Becoming a Green & Healthy School is a three-step process:

1 In the first step, **Pledge**, your school forms a Green & Healthy Team and makes a commitment to complete the requirements to become a Green & Healthy School.

2 During the second step, **Discovery and Inventory**, students, teachers and staff conduct self-assessments to identify existing environmentally sound practices and uncover areas in need of improvement. The assessments address facilities, operations, curriculum and community involvement. The completed assessments can help formulate ideas for action.

3 As part of the third step, **Action and Implementation**, your school uses the assessments from step two, along with resources on the GHS website, to change behaviors and implement healthy, safe and environmental teaching activities and action projects. After accomplishing the targeted areas of improvement, your school can apply for official Wisconsin Green & Healthy School recognition.

Recognizing Excellence

As a GHS program participant, you will receive recognition and rewards every step of the way. From a pledge certificate to display your school's commitment, to a GHS flag flying proudly overhead, to statewide recognition on the GHS website, we will be there to help celebrate your school's progress!

To help make your school a Green & Healthy School, funding opportunities are available. The GHS program will also help your school find and develop the resources it needs to become successful in its endeavors.

The GHS website – www.dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools – offers a variety of resources, classroom activities and project ideas to help your school achieve its goals while fulfilling program criteria. Sample resources include:

- Tips and information for packing waste-free lunches
- Water cycle and water conservation curriculum and activities
- Web links to locate school speakers or plan field trips in your area

Combine these with your existing resources – your school, grounds, surrounding community, curriculum and an active student body – and you are destined for success! The program thrives on creativity and encourages new ideas and plans for action within your school.



We're here to help you!

www.dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools



Our Journey

The story of how Meadowbrook Elementary in Waukesha, WI became a successful Green & Healthy School

By: Sally Michalko

On Earth Day 2004, Meadowbrook Elementary pledged to become a Green & Healthy School. Our Green Team of teachers, parents, students and community partners in Waukesha County worked hard to determine what types of environmental activities were already in place and where we could improve our efforts.

One of our focus areas was reducing and reusing paper. In addition to recycling, we began two-sided copying. In the school newsletter, we requested paper donations from businesses changing their letterhead. One drawer of our copy machine is now stocked with this recycled paper. Leftover paper from art projects was put in scrap boxes to reuse for other projects. These changes have cut our paper budget in half!



Reuse and Recycle



Bicycle Safety

Many positive changes have also taken place in the lunchroom. Waukesha County Recycling Specialists made classroom visits to show students and staff how to pack lunches to create less waste. Each class also took a field trip to the Materials Recovery Facility to learn what happens to the bottles, cans and paper they recycled. Students are now recycling far more, and throwing away less. Our entire school worked together to become Green & Healthy, and we are proof that small changes can add up to a big difference!



Green & Healthy Schools is a partnership program between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Instruction.

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