

Ideas to get you started!



Permission from the Principal: Once a small group of students and a teacher sponsor has established goals and objectives for the club, make an appointment with the school's principal to share your terrific ideas. Be sure to allow enough time.

- 1 - What do you want to accomplish?
- 2 - Will you have help from other adults?
- 3 - Write a mission statement or purpose to stay focused.
- 4 - What projects might require funding? Be prepared with sources and ideas.

Plan of Action may include the following:

- Faculty Sponsor
- Age of members
- Projects
- Length of meetings
- Meeting place
- Frequency of meetings
- Number of members
- Time of day

Club Activities may vary according to the members' interests, ages, experiences, time allotment, cost, other adult helpers, etc.

Suggestions:

- Make a video that highlights your school's waste prevention efforts and recycling program.
- Place member-made posters in school or the community promoting Reduce – Reuse – Recycle and Compost.
- Secure a column in the monthly newsletter and put a “flyer” in common areas of building.
- Create games or puzzles that teach in a fun way and could be shared with classrooms.
- Write a poem or song for the school newsletter or for an assembly.



- Repurpose materials - make recycled paper, jewelry, journals, and picture frames to possibly raffle off or sell at the holiday boutique. Visit swancc.org for instructions.
- Arrange a field trip to local a nature center or other eco-friendly site or invite SWANCC staff and other professional environmentalists to give a presentation.

Special Environmental Events:

America Recycles Day	americarecyclesday.org
Arbor Day	arborday.org
Buy Nothing Day	adbusters.org
Clean Up the World	cleanuptheworld.org
Earth Day	earthday.org
Make a Difference	http://www.makeadifferenceday.com/
National Environmental Week	neefusa.org
National Pollution Prevention	https://www.epa.gov/p2week
Unplug – Screen Free Week	screenfree.org
Walk to School Day	walkbiketoschool.org

Will Your Club Be Involved in Global Issues?

- Air
- Coral Reef
- Endangered Plants and Animals
- Energy Efficiency Measures
- Green Scapes and Gardening
- Pollution Prevention
- Rainforest
- Water Conservation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife

Roots and Shoots Program – rootsandshoots.org

The mission of Roots and Shoots is to empower young people to affect positive change in their communities. You can help build a better tomorrow. It starts right here. Right now.

How About the “Greening” of Your School?

- Worms anyone? Indoor composting with worms is fun or try composting outdoors!
<https://illinoiscomposts.org/start-composting/schools-universities/wormwoman.com>
- Waste-Free Lunches are a popular and easy way for kids to see waste reduction in action.
wastefreelunches.org
- Try a “Trading Tuesday”, where students trade books, toys, CD’s, prom dresses, etc.
- Display special projects and on-going information on a centrally located bulletin board
- Encourage the procurement of recycled-content school supplies for the school store – see SWANCC’s *Eco-Friendly Marketplace* Guide at swancc.org.
- Develop a garden or outdoor green space, install a rain barrel – ask the local garden club or Master Gardeners for assistance.

A Community Partnership: When your town becomes a partner, your audience will grow. If there is a specific issue pertaining to the community of which the school is part, perhaps the club will:

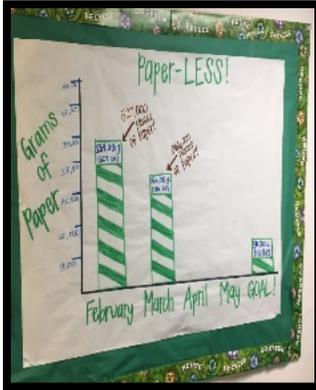
- Write letters to Village Officials
- Invite guest speakers (knowledgeable about the issue) to address the school
- Plan a meeting with the Village Administration
- Write a column in the local paper

The local officials could also be an ally for any of the special events (listed earlier).

Community Engagement Projects:

- Books and surplus supplies can be donated to SCARCE – scarce.org
- Collect prom wear and accessories for the Glass Slipper Project - glassslipperproject.org
- Collect old newspaper and towels for a local animal shelter – call first
- Shoes can be collected and donated to Sneakers 4Funds – sneakers4funds.com
- Work with Places of Worship to assist elderly with home chores, shoveling, etc.
- Volunteer at a local food pantry – collect unopened food or whole fruits to donate
- See SWANCC’s *Closing the Loop* brochure for other ideas – swancc.org

Promote Activities and Educate Everyone:



- Bulletin board in common areas of school
- Morning announcements
- Newsletters
- Posters
- School's student paper
- Student generated video
- School website
- Social media outlets
- Student generated video
- Word of mouth

Most importantly, be comfortable with the programs you and your club embrace!

Start Small
Be Successful
Create Momentum
Build on Momentum
Effect Lasting Change



"If you do not like the way the world is, change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time."

- Marian Wright Edelm

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is here to help! The Agency has books, curriculum, videos, teaching tools and more! Visit swancc.org for program information or contact us at info@swancc.org or (847) 724-9205.