

Resources compiled by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County  
[SWANCC.org](http://SWANCC.org)



**Eco-Schools USA** through the National Wildlife Federation  
<http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA.aspx>

Eco-Schools USA is an internationally acclaimed program that provides a framework to help educators integrate sustainable principles throughout their schools and curriculum. Using the Seven Step Framework that involves a wide diversity of individuals from the school community – with students playing a primary role in the process, schools can select which of the ten pathways to sustainability that will best help students meet their goals. This program is intended to be a flexible process and one that any school should be able to implement.

**Green STEM Guidebook** – <http://www.slideshare.net/NationalWildlife/green-stem-guidebook-interactive>



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

**The Green Classroom Pledge and Green Thumb Challenge** through the Green Education Foundation - <http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/>

The Green Education Foundation (GEF) is a non-profit organization committed to creating a sustainable future through education. The GEF provides curriculum and resources to K-12 teachers and students worldwide with the goal of challenging youth to think holistically and critically about global environmental, social and economic concerns and solutions. The GEF couples standards-based curricula with active participation, acknowledging that children learn best through hands-on activities that enhance their critical thinking skills.



**Green Ribbon Schools Award** through the U.S. Department of Education  
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>

The Green Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that are creating healthy and sustainable learning environments and teaching environmental literacy.

The aim of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is to inspire schools, districts and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to strive for 21st century excellence, by highlighting promising practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs that:

1. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
2. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
3. Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

The recognition award is part of the Department of Education's effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about practices proven to result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness.



**Green Schools Alliance**  
<http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/>

Their goal is to redefine how schools approach sustainability, environmental action and conservation, focusing on building tools and programs to make it easier for schools to do more. Originally developed as a network "by schools for schools," the Green Schools Alliance now provides integrated and organized support to students, school professionals, schools, and districts to foster sustainability work. The work is conducted via our international coalition of schools, rooted in the idea that fostering collaboration among schools will bring the greatest change for sustainable learning environments and communities.



### Green Schools National Network

<https://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/>

The Green Schools National Network, a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2008, works with educators, government and non-governmental organizations and agencies, as well as private partners to create broad-based initiatives and successful strategies aimed at fostering healthy, sustainable K-12 schools across the United States. Founded by principals, superintendents, and teachers, GSNN is devoted to accelerating student achievement through the implementation of green, healthy and sustainable practices as outlined in our GreenPrint® (<https://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/green-print/>) for Green, Healthy, and Sustainable Schools.

### KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

Keep America Beautiful School Programs – [www.kab.org](http://www.kab.org)

Recycle-Bowl - a national competition for K-12 schools

Recycle-Mania - a national competition for colleges and universities

America Recycles Day on November 15 – [americarecyclesday.org](http://americarecyclesday.org)

*Waste in Place* resource guide for early childhood through sixth grade



### National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

<https://www.neefusa.org/>

Supports STEM concepts in reference to real-life environmental examples and provided grants.



### National Science Foundation (NSF)

<http://stemteachingtools.org/tools>

STEM Teaching Tools for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education



### **Afterschool Alliance**

[www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)

STEM Teaching Tools - *Getting Started with the Next Generation Science Standards*, a primer and resource guide for afterschool educators



### **Presidential Environmental Youth Awards**

<https://www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award>

The President’s Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement.



### **Project Learning Tree**

[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org)

Project Learning Tree uses trees and forests as windows on the world to increase K-12 students’ understanding of the environment and actions they can take to conserve it. PLT offers training for adults, tips on starting a student-driven GreenSchools program, how to obtain equipment and collect data, and ways to empower your students to design and lead an action project that uses their STEM skills.

### Local:



**GENERATIONS**  
| For Change |

### Generations for Change

<http://tinyurl.com/generationsforchange>

Generations for Change is an environmental education program built for highschoolers to take to elementary school classrooms to teach students how to reduce their carbon footprint. The lesson, which takes about 30-45 minutes, aims at helping kids build sustainable habits and teach them the importance of sustainable living. Any high school student can take the curriculum into any 3rd or 4th classroom that incorporates math in calculating a student's daily water consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> production is. The curriculum also incorporates discussion about why our environment is important to us, things we do that help our environment, and things we do that hurt our environment.



**The Geographic  
Society of Chicago**



### The Geographic Society of Chicago

<http://www.geographicsociety.org/programs/geography-programs/>

GSC offers two interactive programs designed to educate and entertain on geography, and how it's used today. Our experienced geographers share their wealth of knowledge with students and people of all ages wherever they're needed – private events, schools, and more.

Through their one-of-a-kind GeoSphere, GSC geographers lead an interactive program for 30 people at a time inside a 20' inflatable globe. Elementary and secondary level Students learn about the world from the inside out. The GeoSphere shows natural vegetation, mountains, water bodies, latitude & longitude, tectonic boundaries, and city symbols.

## Programs and Resources for Youth

**Change the World Kids** – community service to help the environment  
[www.changetheworldkids.com](http://www.changetheworldkids.com)

**Climate Kids** – [www.climatekids.nasa.gov/go-green](http://www.climatekids.nasa.gov/go-green)

**Do Something** – Volunteer *to make a difference by taking on a task individually or in a group*  
[dosomething.org](http://dosomething.org)

**Eco Kids USA** – *Trash talk and activities* - [ecokidsusa.org](http://ecokidsusa.org)

**EPA’s Environmental Kids Club** – [epa.gov/kids/index.htm](http://epa.gov/kids/index.htm)

**EPA’s – Energy Hogs** (Teacher and student guides) - [energyhog.org/childrens.htm](http://energyhog.org/childrens.htm)

**Kids for a Cleaner Earth** (FACE) – youth involvement for environmental projects [kidsface.org](http://kidsface.org)

**Kids Recycle!** – Learn how to compost outdoors at home or at school – and inside with worms - composting guides and manuals show kids how at [kidsrecycle.org/composting.php](http://kidsrecycle.org/composting.php).  
*Planet Connect Program* is a new online network for high school students to learn about the environment plus green college and career options and offers grants for environmental projects. Visit <https://www.neefusa.org/greening-stem/environmental-education-week> for details.

**The Lorax Project** – [seussville.com/lorax/index.php?section=home](http://seussville.com/lorax/index.php?section=home)

**PBS Kids** – [PBSkids.org/eeeworld](http://PBSkids.org/eeeworld) - interactive sections that teach all about our environment

**Population Connection** – curriculum and activities - [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org)

**Roots and Shoots** – a global program for youth through the Jane Goodall Institute  
[rootsandshoots.org](http://rootsandshoots.org)

**Science Kids** – [www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/recycling.html](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/recycling.html)

**Soils for Kids** – **Games, activities and careers to check out** – [soils4kids.org](http://soils4kids.org)

**Zero Footprint Kids** is a carbon footprint calculator for children, measuring the direct impact of a child's lifestyle on the planet, using terms kids understand: carbon, land, water and trees –  
[www.zerofootprintkids.com](http://www.zerofootprintkids.com).