



GreenSpot Schools

TWO OPTIONS, ONE BIG IMPACT

Our Mission:

"Help students learn how to make Columbus cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally sustainable."

GreenSpot Schools was developed by the Columbus Public Health Department as an offshoot of *GreenSpot* to provide support and materials to schools and classrooms who would like to become more environmentally friendly. The aim of the *GreenSpot Schools Program* is to encourage schools and classrooms K-12 in Franklin County to incorporate sustainability into their everyday operation and teaching practices. Sustainable schools save money, protect human and environmental health, and prepare students to succeed in a green future. The three objectives of the program are to:

1. **Make your school cleaner by reducing environmental impacts and costs by improving water, waste, alternative transportation, alternative energy systems, etc.**
2. **Improve the health and wellness of all students and staff.**
3. **Educate students on environmental sustainability in hopes of encouraging greener behaviors in the future.**

For more information and to get connected contact David R. Celebrezze at GreenSpot@columbus.gov or call 614-645-6703

Joining GreenSpot Schools

Achieving your goals

Every classroom, school, and district is different. The two elements of GreenSpot Schools - GreenSpot Schools and GreenSpot Classrooms - help meet teachers and school administrators where they are, as well as provide reasonable opportunities and next steps on their unique sustainability journey.

Although either option can be implemented alone, we encourage implementing both options simultaneously for the most holistic educational experience and the greatest environmental benefit.

Option 1:

GreenSpot Schools *(for buildings and administrators)*

This option is designed to help school buildings become more energy efficient and to increase community involvement in sustainability.

STEP 1: Enroll your facility online as a [GreenSpot Business](#) and make the corresponding commitments

(www.ColumbusGreenSpot.org)

STEP 2: Select one or more school-wide Efficiency Commitment *(see below)*

STEP 3: Select one or more school-wide Engagement Commitment *(see below)*

Efficiency Commitments	Engagement Commitments
Replacing bulbs with CFLs or LEDs	Plant a rain garden
Purchase/use EnergyStar appliances	Build a school compost bin
Purchase/use electric maintenance equipment	Plant a vegetable garden
Install weather stripping, caulking	School plastic bag recycling
install programmable thermostat	School used clothing/toy/electronics donation drive
Clean refrigerator coils	School yard sale
Install high-efficiency water heaters	School lunch recycling/composting program
Install insulating curtains	Schedule a school-wide presentation on a sustainability topic
Purchase/Use recycled products	Establish "meatless" lunch day options
Dial back the thermostat	Establish anti-idle campaign for drop-off/pick-up lanes

Creativity welcome! Activities and projects not listed in the table can count towards your classroom's Engagement Commitment. Contact a GreenSpot representative for approval

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Option 2:

GreenSpot Classrooms *(for classrooms and teachers)*

This option is intended for individual classrooms, and teaches environmental stewardship by coupling a class project with environmental lesson plans that fulfill Ohio's Learning Standards.

STEP 1: Enroll your classroom online as a GreenSpot Community Group and make the corresponding commitments

STEP 2: Select one or more classroom Engagement Commitment *(see below)*

STEP 3: Select one or more classroom Educational Commitment *(see full GreenSpot Schools manual)*

Engagement Commitments	
Schedule a presentation on a sustainability topic	Visit a community garden
Reduce class car miles (bike or walk to school)	Class recycling (cans, paper, etc.)
Safe Routes to School/Walking School Bus	Visit Rumpke recycling facility
Learn how to take COTA	Set class printers default to double-sided and greyscale
Establish anti-idle campaign for drop-off/pick-up lanes	Environmental science fair projects
Perform a classroom waste audit	Poster/Photo Contest/Book report on climate change
Schedule a GreenSpot Kids presentation (grades 1 and 2)	Keep a food journal and track food miles
Schedule a visit or Skype call with a park ranger	Class rain barrel workshop/demonstration

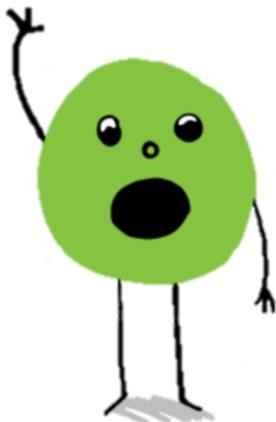
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Looking Forward

Schools have the unique opportunity to introduce environmental sustainability to students as a priority from a young age. *GreenSpot Schools* are forward-thinking and are focused on where our schools need to be in the future to address growing environmental challenges. Working towards the three *GreenSpot School* objectives teaches students about environmental issues and allows them to make meaningful contributions to their community. By adopting sustainable practices, schools help to ensure that their students will grow up into a world that is sustainable, meaning that it provides as much or more promise and opportunity as the world today. The *GreenSpot Schools program* hopes to focus the boundless energy and enthusiasm of students and the continuous innovation of schools to create a better future for us all.



St. Mary School German Village



Saint Mary School, 700 S. Third St., is the first school in Columbus to be designated as a *GreenSpot School*, after students there spearheaded a number of environmental projects the past two academic years. Students at the Catholic Preschool – 8th grade school developed a school-wide recycling project, a salsa garden, and a composting program designed to teach kids about the issue of climate change.

Student Council (pictured above) provides leadership by volunteering a portion of their lunch/recess time each day to guide their classmates in sorting their lunch waste into recycling, composting, unopened food, and trash bins, as well as, taking classroom recyclables to the school custodian each day. In the 4 months since the program was started, Saint Mary students collected over 8,000 gallons of recyclable material!

Last year, St. Mary 8th graders created a school garden where they grew tomatoes and cilantro that will be harvested and made into salsa. This year, the 8th graders have also decorated a rain barrel to water the garden, and are responsible for composting lunch food waste to fertilize their garden.

Christina Hickey, Saint Mary's Director of Marketing and Community Relations and art teacher, coordinated a school-wide presentation, where Public Health representative Stephanie Mitchell spoke on the importance of recycling and composting. Hickey also created GreenSpot necklaces for Student Council, and GreenSpot School certificates to reward participating students at a year-end assembly.