



Next Generation Green Schools Program

Middle and High School Activity Guide

2008-2009 School Year

The Next Generation Green Schools Program fosters environmental education, youth leadership development, and green behaviors and operations in our schools. We offer local middle and high schools the following activities. Visit www.gonextgeneration.org for more information, including details about our Elementary School Program.

ECO ASSEMBLIES

Presentations for grades and entire schools that help students and teachers learn about environmental issues and become excited about working for sustainability. Featuring inspiring speakers, PowerPoint presentations, and interactive activities. Our assemblies work well in conjunction with our lessons and green schools campaigns.

Green Your School! – introduces environmental issues, global warming, and the concept of sustainability, and focuses on community, school-based, and personal solutions. A great overview and source of motivation.

Global Warming – an in-depth look at one of the most serious environmental threats of our time and how students can make a difference.

Food for Thought – Many young people are disconnected from where their food comes from and the environmental and social implications of its production. This assembly will help students look at these issues and everyday choices they can make to address them.

Green Energy (for Middle Schools) – focuses on the importance of energy in our lives and environmental problems associated with energy use; outlines renewable vs. non-renewable energy sources and stresses sustainable solutions.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (for Middle Schools) – reviews the consequences of littering, waste and over-consumption, and highlights what students can do at home and at school.

IN CLASS LESSONS

Interactive lessons help students learn about environmental issues and sustainable solutions. Next Generation staff present the lessons in the classroom and connect to curriculum and state standards. Lessons can incorporate or lead to student projects. They can be tailored to meet teacher needs and are generally 50 to 85 minutes in length.

Sustainability / Green Your School – We review environmental problems, introduce sustainability, and empower students to think about what they can do personally, at home, and at school to help the Earth.

Global Warming - This interactive look at what's happening to our climate focuses on the science behind climate change and what students can do to tackle one of the most serious environmental threats of our time.

Everything Starts With Water – Through considering local Marin water issues, students learn ways we can all help conserve. Students will develop a campaign to increase conservation at home, school and in our community.

Food for Thought - Everybody loves food! This lesson gets students thinking about their food sources and choices, introduces environmental and social issues surrounding food production and consumption, and stresses sustainable solutions.

Green Energy 1 and 2– The first of these two interactive lessons addresses the importance of energy, exploring both non-renewable and renewable sources, and problems associated with non-renewable sources. Students consider energy conservation and choices they can make to become more sustainable. The second lesson delves deeper and explores the pros and cons of various forms of alternative energy. (offered separately or as a series)

Waste Reduction & Recycling - Litter is an issue at many schools, but is also an indicator of a larger environmental problem of overconsumption. We focus on the need to recycle and introduce simple ways to use less stuff.

Deconstructing Advertising – By critically examining advertising messages and studying the relationship between consumerism and the environment, students are empowered to become more responsible and compassionate consumers.

Fair Trade – Exploring sustainability through the lens of social equity and worker rights, we highlight what students, schools and companies can do to promote social justice and ecological balance.

Vision, Care and Hope – This powerful lesson focuses on the reasons we work for the Earth, the challenges we face, and what we can do to stay hopeful in the face of mounting environmental challenges.

Economics of Sustainability (HS only) – We define sustainability in terms of social, environmental and economic needs, and empower students to weigh the costs and benefits of ecological problems and solutions.

Civic Engagement (HS only) – Outlines civic engagement, addresses strategies for making change, and provides students with the tools they need to choose a project, take action and make a difference.

Other lessons – including transportation, plants and garden-related topics. We can also find creative ways to relate sustainability to your curriculum, including basing a lesson around a class text, such as *The Grapes of Wrath*.

ECO ADVENTURE FIELD TRIPS

We take classes and student groups on hands-on field trips to sustainable sites throughout Marin where they have the opportunity to meet non-profit, green business and government leaders who are making a difference! Including...

- Organic farms and gardens
- Open space preserves and parks
- Green businesses and ice cream shops
- Eco-friendly homes

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

We train students in leadership skills including outreach, event and action planning, and public speaking to teach young leaders the skills they need to make a difference. We offer support for student clubs as well as connect students, teachers and schools with environmental service opportunities and guide them to plan and implement their own green projects.

GREENING SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND STUDENT BEHAVIORS

We help students and schools to consider their impact on the environment, provide consultation, and connect with resources, experts, and organizations that can help green individual behaviors and school operations.

- Sustainability Audits
- Waste Reduction
- Recycling and Composting
- Energy Audits and Conservation
- Solar Energy
- Organic and Local Food
- School Gardens
- Eco Pledges
- Walk and Bike to School
- Water Conservation
- Green Building
- Green Business / School Certification

YOUTH EVENTS

We host annual community and school-based events for youth and educators and help schools to plan their own sustainability events, including:

- Green Weeks
- Earth Day festivals
- Green Career Days

NETWORKING AND SUPPORT

We help to connect eco-minded schools, teachers and students with green businesses, government leaders, funders and non-profit organizations, as well as curriculum, training and other resources.

GET INVOLVED

During the past four years, Next Generation has implemented hundreds of activities at numerous schools throughout Marin. This year, we have enrolled 4 schools to become official Green Schools Program sites. These sites pay a modest site fee – matched by contributions from our funding partners – and receive an array of tailored activities. Schools that are not sites pay modest fees on an activity-by-activity basis. Water lessons and projects are free of charge, and no school is turned away for lack of funds.

For more information about this program, visit www.gonextgeneration.org or contact **Green Schools Program Director Rebecca Mullaney** at 415.459.6398 or rebecca@gonextgeneration.org.

The 2008-2009 Green Schools Program is generously supported by:

