



Next Generation Green Schools Program

Green School Operations Guide

Why Green Operations?

Greening the operations of your school has numerous benefits. Globally, we face climate change and resource limitations with potentially devastating consequences. By making reductions in resource usage, waste, and by choosing ecologically sound alternatives, your school can do much more than reduce its impact on our environment. Many changes lead to financial savings and a healthier learning environment. Showing the leaders of tomorrow by example how to operate effectively while reducing negative impacts on the planet will prepare them to enter the world and address the challenges ahead.

How to use this Guide

Contained in this guide is some basic information you need to make your school’s operations more ecologically sustainable, efficient, and healthier for students and staff. Each section outlines various steps that can be taken to green the operations of the school, as well as provide partners and other resources where further cooperation and guidance can be found.

There are three main categories that address many of the significant changes needing to be made: Energy, Resource Recovery-Waste, and Water.

Energy

By eliminating wasted energy use, increasing efficiency of devices, and incorporating renewable energy technologies whenever possible, schools can decrease their ecological and greenhouse gas footprint, while also reducing utility bills.

Resource Recovery-Waste Reduction

Schools produce lots of garbage, much of which could be recycled or avoided in the first place. This guide gives many solutions to reduce the amount of waste produced, reuse creatively materials that otherwise would be thrown away, and outlines a successful recycling program.

Water

It rains a lot here in Marin, yet we still don’t have enough freshwater to meet our usage requirements year-round. The key elements to sustainable water usage are conservation and pollution prevention. By using less water and keeping grounds and buildings free of toxins, schools can do their part to ensure future availability of clean freshwater.

Copies of this guide can be downloaded at our website, www.gonextgeneration.org

