



**ECO-SCHOOLS USA  
(A Brief Overview)**

**Purpose:** To extend learning beyond the classroom and develop responsible environmental attitudes and commitments, both at home and in the wider community.

**History:** The Eco-Schools Program has been in existence since 1994, developed by the [Foundation for Environmental Education \(FEE\)](#) with support by the European Commission and identified by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) as a model initiative for Education for Sustainable Development in 2003. Eco-Schools is currently being implemented by 46 delegations in 43 countries around the world, involving 27,000 schools, 6 million students, 400,000 teachers and 4,000 local authorities. Through the Eco-Schools USA program, schools across the globe can network, share data and discuss successes and challenges of implementing the program in their school. Students can take what they have learned locally and [apply it on a global level](#) and create a platform for cultural exchange and improving language skills.

**Benefits through Participation:**

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|--|------------------------------|
| Student Academic Achievement                     | Financial Savings            |
| Increased Environmental Awareness                | Stewardship of our Earth     |
| Involvement of the Local Community               | Promotion of a “Green” Earth |
| School Waste Reduction/Conservation of Resources |                              |

**7 Steps:**

School/Community

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Establish an Eco-Action Team          | 5. Link to Educational Curriculum               |
| 2. Perform an Environmental Review/Audit | 6. Involve the Entire and                       |
| 3. Develop and Eco-Action Plan           | 7. Create an “Eco-Code,” or a Mission Statement |
| 4. Monitor and Evaluate Progress         |   |

**8 Pathways to become an Eco-School:**

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|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Climate Change        | Green Hour        |
| Consumption and Waste | School Grounds    |
| Energy                | Global Dimensions |
| Transportation        | Water             |

**Some Valuable Resources on Website:**

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Objectives and Learning Outcomes | Top 10 Energy Tips |
| Sample Audit                     | Sample Action Plan |
| Curriculum Connections           | Energy Resources   |
| Fast Facts                       |                    |

**3 Level Award System:**

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Bronze Award Criteria | Silver Award Criteria | Green Flag Award Criteria |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|

**How Do You Become an Eco-School?**

Once a school has registered and implemented the seven steps, then it can apply for an Eco-Schools award.

**Next Step:**

A meeting to discuss the details of the Eco-Schools USA Program will occur on October 6, 2011 at the Hollingsworth Science Center from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. or simply go to the Eco-Schools USA Program website and apply. Send an e-mail to [djohnso4@houstonisd.org](mailto:djohnso4@houstonisd.org) indicating that your school will participate in the program for the 2011-2012 school year. We will send you updates throughout the school year.

**Secondary Science Contact Person:**

Denise Johnson, Supervisor, Hollingsworth Science Center, [djohnso5@houstonisd.org](mailto:djohnso5@houstonisd.org) or 713.726.2111.