

Earth Friendly School Initiative

Improving your education facilities to improve your education practice



Application Packet: Earth Friendly School Initiative

Purpose:

The concept of “going green” is gaining interest among educators and administrators, but teachers and school officials often do not know where to start or lack the funding and expertise to execute real change. In many municipalities schools are the leading consumer of energy, water and a leading producer of waste and greenhouse gas emission. In response, as part of ongoing environmental education programs, Natural Biodiversity is offering Earth Friendly School Initiative Assistance aimed at supporting a school or school district with greening their operations, thus reducing operational budgetary costs and “carbon footprint” while also incorporating educational opportunities for their students in the process of becoming a “green” school.

Requirements:

In order for a school to be considered for assistance by Natural Biodiversity in establishing a more “green” school district by revamping the standard operating procedures, the school district must agree to meet these requirements within the timeframe of the program:

- 1) The school district must be located within one of these 6 counties; Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset or Westmoreland.
- 2) Submit an application.
- 3) Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the school and Natural Biodiversity.
- 4) Keep an open line of communication with Natural Biodiversity.
- 5) The school must designate a Project Manager to oversee the project and to act as a liaison between Natural Biodiversity, the school and any/all additional groups.
- 6) Create a steering committee comprised of school administrators, maintenance staff, Natural Biodiversity staff and participating partner organizations to develop a Sustainability Plan with benchmarks.
- 7) Complete phase 1 implementation of the Sustainability plan by June 30, 2012.
- 8) Must be willing to involve the student body in the planning and execution of this project.

- 9) Achieve Bronze status with National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools program in 2012.
Information about NWF Eco-Schools program can be obtained by conducting an internet search for *NWF Eco-Schools* or by going to the following website: www.nwf.org/en/Global-Warming/School-Solutions/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx
- 10) Host an administrator/teacher workshop at the site in June 2012, to provide a prototype to other schools interested in becoming a "green" school or district.
- 11) The school must have the necessary personnel and equipment to provide adequate maintenance to the facility.
- 12) Submit a final report that includes work accomplished and a budget of in-kind and monetary expenses.

Application Instructions:

Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed. Schools must submit an application that includes all of the following:

- Please complete the Earth Friendly School Initiative Assistance Application Cover Sheet with signatures and attach to the cover of your essay.
- Application Essay should be single spaced in 12 point font and should not exceed two pages. Please provide a narrative for each of the 4 questions below:
 1. What steps have been or are being taken that exemplifies a commitment to being a sustainable school or district?
 2. Which 3 NWF Eco-Schools pathways would you like to implement first, in order of priority, and explain why these pathways are most important to your school or district?
 3. Please detail source funding, supplies and/or in-kind contributions you will use to meet the 1:1 materials and supplies match required.
 4. How will your school involve your student body in the planning and implementation of the Earth Friendly School Initiative? Similarly, describe how you will involve your community in the project.

Applications should be sent via email to Natural Biodiversity Assistant Director, Kristina Strosnider, at kstrosnider@naturalbiodiversity.org. Applications must be in PDF or Microsoft Word format, with a subject heading of "**Earth Friendly School Application – *School Name***". Applications may also be faxed to Kristina at (814) 534 – 0206. For questions, comments or concerns, call (814) 534 – 0204.



Earth Friendly School Initiative Application Cover Sheet

School District Name

School Name

County

School Address

Phone Number

Grades Served

Name of Authorized Official

*Signature of Authorized Official

Date

*By signing above I confirm that I am authorized to represent the applicant. In doing so the applicant agrees to the terms set forth under "Requirements" and "Application Instructions".

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