

# Program Overview



## What *IS* a Green School?

*Green schools are healthy, safe, resource-efficient schools that educate sustainability-literate citizens while saving energy, resources and money.*

At Madison County, we focus Green School efforts in a few key areas:

- ✓ Creating green, healthy spaces and opportunities both in and around the schools
- ✓ Using resources sustainably
- ✓ Involving children, teachers, and other staff in greening their schools

Each school's approach may look different, but the desired outcome is to give students every opportunity to succeed with the best future possible.



## How Does the Madison County Green Schools Program Work?

- 1) **It's easy!** First, schools designate their own Green School Coordinator and develop a Green Team to work with the Madison County Green Schools Coordinator. *What does a Coordinator and the Green Team do? See next page.*
- 2) Next, schools benchmark their current sustainability actions and then create a plan for that year, and the following 2 years, for what they hope to accomplish. Madison County will offer a comprehensive list – or menu – of options for schools to select activities that are the best suited for their needs at that time. This will allow schools to customize their Green Schools program based on their staff, funding, needs and interests.
- 3) Coordinators and schools then carry out their plans for that year, participating in the activities they selected. Coordinators and the green team will check in with the Madison County Green Schools Coordinator through the year to see how things are going and make any necessary adjustments.
- 4) Finally, schools will be recognized (both throughout the year and at the end of the school year) for their efforts. This could be in the form of the Earth Flag and/or monetary awards for the Coordinator, students, school or more!

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What does a Green School Coordinator do?** Each school should have at least one person designated as their Green School Coordinator. **Coordinators spearhead the sustainability effort at their school, with the help of the Madison Co Green Schools Coordinator, students, other staff and the schools' Green Team.**
2. **What does the Green Team do?** To be successful, sustainability requires a whole-system approach, calling for individuals from across an organization to work together. We strongly encourage schools to form a Green Team. Green Teams meet once or twice during the year to discuss the Green Schools projects the school will undertake. It's up to the individuals on the Teams to decide how involved they want to be outside of these meetings.
3. **Who should be on the Green Team?** Teams can be any combination of: a) Green School Coordinator(s) = primary point person, b) administrator, c) facilities person, d) church rep (if parochial), e) other teachers, f) PTO member and/or parent, g) student(s), h) Whoever can help!
4. **What are some of the Green School activities that a school can participate in?** There are a number of possible sustainable projects a school can participate in during the year. Many schools have some type of recycling program(s). Quite a few are also expanding into air quality, energy, food, wellness and nutrition, water conservation and other initiatives. Additionally, the Madison County Green Schools Program offers a variety of opportunities throughout the year for both students and educators. Each program not only engages the participants, but also promotes sustainability. Visit the website listed below to learn more.
5. **Is there funding available to help with this program?** Many of the activities a school undertakes are low- and no-cost projects. Also, many of the County-sponsored programs involve competitions which allow for the school and/or students to win monetary awards. The County also offers stipends for completing the benchmarking process and environmental grants to assist with sustainability projects.
6. **I'm convinced. I want my school to participate! What should I do next?** If your school currently does not participate in the Madison County program, contact the Madison County Green Schools Coordinator at the phone number or email below.

### Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at

[http://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/planning\\_and\\_development/green\\_schools\\_program.php](http://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/planning_and_development/green_schools_program.php)