

Eco-Schools USA Environmental Review for Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS)
 Completed on 11/1/17 Grade Levels 6-8 School Population (students & staff combined) 947

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ★ To investigate environmental focus areas commonly found in schools.
- ★ To allow Eco-Action team members to prioritize the environmental needs of the schools

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The underlying principal of Eco-Schools USA and our pathways to sustainability

A. Do students consider how actions taken within the school affect people and the environment locally and globally?	☐ Yes	☒ No
B. Have the students had an opportunity to interact with students living in other parts of the country and around the world?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Have students developed an understanding of the relationship between the environment, society, economics.	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES: B - some opportunity

ENERGY

A. Are most lights turned off when no one is in the classroom?	☒ Yes	☒ No <u>10/13</u>
B. More than 10% of the teachers have personal appliances, i.e. refrigerators, microwaves.	☒ Yes	☐ No
C. Do students and/or staff frequently complain about the temperature inside the building?	☒ Yes	☐ No
D. Are classroom appliances shut off and unplugged when not in use? i.e. classroom computers, pencil sharpeners, projectors, lab equipment, lamps	☐ Yes	☒ No
E. Students know what type of energy is used to supply the school with energy, i.e. coal, oil, natural gas, wind, solar, etc.	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES: A - Room for improvement
C - Inconsistent or Extremes

D - some rooms have motion detection, not all

WATER

A. Do students know the name of the watershed the school is a part of?	☐ Yes	☒ No
B. Does the school have low flow toilets installed?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Do students know where used water goes after it is consumed?	☐ Yes	☒ No
D. Does the school have a sprinkler system?	☐ Yes	☒ No
E. Do you notice areas of erosion, standing water, and/or broken pavement?	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES: D - Manually water, not built in

SCHOOLYARD HABITATS

A. Does your school have a garden(s)?	☒ Yes	☐ No
B. Do students use the school grounds as an outdoor learning classroom?	☒ Yes	☒ No
C. Does your school have natural play areas, observation areas and/or gathering areas?	☐ Yes	☒ No
D. Would you say trees and other vegetation cover a quarter or more of the school grounds?	☒ Yes	☐ No
E. Does your school use an integrated pest management approach to maintaining the school grounds?	☐ Yes	☐ No

NOTES: B - Physical education & science classes & Reading

CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

A. Does the campus have a recycling program?	☒ Yes	☐ No
B. Is the school paper (that used for worksheets, etc.) made from at least 30% post-consumer materials?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Does your school have a place to compost school lunch waste?	☒ Yes	☐ No
D. Do you know who your trash and recycling hauler is?	☐ Yes	☒ No
E. Does the school communicate with the school community by electronic means only?	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES:

A - we could introduce Crayola Color Cycle
B - used to earn profit from recycled paper?

Where could we improve recycling?

- Cafeteria
- Hallways
- Classrooms

E - Report cards are electronic

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

A. Do the majority of students understand the difference between processed and fresh foods?	☒ Yes	☐ No
B. Does your school have vending machines for students and/or staff?	☒ Yes	☐ No
C. Do the majority of students know where their food comes from?	☐ Yes	☒ No
D. Does the school know the average number of students who eat in the cafeteria per week?	☒ Yes	☐ No
E. Does the school district and/or school have a wellness committee?	☒ Yes	☐ No

NOTES:

HEALTHY LIVING

A. *Do students spend 70 minutes or more a week participating in recess?	☐ Yes	☒ No
B. *Do students and staff spend at least three hours a week, beyond recess, outside?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Does the school yard have an outdoor space that is suitable to hold class?	☐ Yes	☒ No
D. Does the school encourage students to walk/bike to school?	☐ Yes	☒ No
E. Do students and staff participate in events that promote healthy living, i.e Jump Rope for Heart, School Fun-Runs, Play 60, Let's Move, etc?	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES:

B - 2 hrs? Maybe 3 hrs or less
D - one bike to work day
E - Scottie stamper

TRANSPORTATION

A. Are students encouraged to walk/bike and/or carpool to school?	☐ Yes	☒ No
B. Do students have enough safe places for bikes to be locked up?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Does the school have an idling policy?	☒ Yes	☐ No
D. Is the area around the school safe for walking/biking to school?	☐ Yes	☒ No
E. Does the school participate in the Safe Routes to School program?	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES:

Please remember this checklist does not apply toward requirements for receiving the Bronze, Silver, or Green Flag award.

Now that you have completed the Eco-Schools USA Environmental Review the Eco-Action Team is ready to prioritize the pathways and determine which comprehensive audit will be completed first. Other helpful tools as you move forward on your sustainability journey include the program timeline, individual pathway audits, and the awards checklists.



* Denotes question mainly for elementary/primary schools.

ECO-SCHOOLS USA ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

CLIMATE CHANGE

A. Do a majority of students know what a carbon footprint is?	☐ Yes	☒ No
B. Have students used a carbon calculator to determine their personal carbon footprint?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Have students used a carbon calculator to determine the carbon footprint of the school?	☐ Yes	☒ No
D. Do a majority of students believe climate change is creating problems around the world?	☒ Yes	☐ No
E. Do students know what greenhouse gases are and that they contribute to an increase in global temperatures?	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES:

BIODIVERSITY

A. Do students know threatened or endangered species in their region?	☐ Yes	☒ No
B. Do students know the difference between native and non-native vegetation?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. Do students understand the meaning of biodiversity?	☐ Yes	☒ No
D. Can students name types of vegetation and wildlife on the school grounds?	☐ Yes	☒ No
E. Do students have weekly opportunities to observe plant and animal species at school?	☐ Yes	☒ No

NOTES: A - we could put up pictures/posters of endangered species

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

A. Does the campus use green cleaning products to clean school surfaces?	☐ Yes	☐ No
B. Do students and staff know how to dispose of science lab waste according to MSDS guidelines?	☐ Yes	☒ No
C. D less than 15% of students and staff have chronic asthma or other respiratory problems?	☐ Yes	☐ No
D. Has the school been tested and/or treated for mold and/or asbestos?	☒ Yes	☐ No
E. Does the school use an integrated pest management approach inside and outside the school?	☐ Yes	☐ No

NOTES: