

School-wide Action Plan

Take time to discover the impact your school has on the environment. Divide the group into smaller groups and walk around your campus observing how your school affects the environment. Look for both positive and negative aspects to the way your school functions. A positive impact may be the planting of indigenous trees on your campus, recycling programs, and the use of environmental friendly light bulbs. A negative impact may be the lack of the proper recycling of cans, bottles, and paper, and wasted electricity by keeping computers on all day. Now that you know what your school is and is not doing, get the group together and take some time to develop a school-wide action plan to decrease the environmental impact of your school. It could be as easy as creating a rule that all computers must be in sleep mode while not in use to save energy, or more complex like composting wasted cafeteria food. Work with an environmental club at your school if you have one!

The Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawai'i has developed their own sustainability goals to be met by 2016. The schools initiatives including reducing the amount of waste, water and energy consumed, and building a cafeteria based on sustainable practices including buying locally grown food. Check out the school for inspiration!

Public Service Announcements

Help raise awareness at your school by developing Public Service Announcements. Take a large piece of paper and divide it into four equal parts. In the first block you will draw out a problem affecting the environment that you want to change. Add some facts to the block to help inform people about the issue. In the second block draw what needs to be done to make an impact. For block 3 draw what you would do to make the change. In block four draw the result of your actions. In addition to posters, students can create announcements to be read over a PA system or write facts on the sidewalk and black boards with chalk.

Climate Change Teach In

Time: 10-15 minutes

Have the group sit in a circle. Each person should think of an action that represents a problem with the environment. An example would be the action of throwing something to represent littering. Once everyone is ready, each person teaches the rest of the group their action, explaining what it represents. Have the group do the action a second time then move on to the next participant. As a response to the action of throwing out litter, the person could act out picking up trash. Once everyone has shared, think of a movement that represents something that will help to relieve the environmental issue. Go around in the circle sharing your first movement along with the second positive movement explaining how the particular action helps alleviate the prior issue. Reflect on the different

issues that were brought up through the activity and how the actions to help the issue could be implemented.