

What Can We Do in Our Schools (Middle to High School Age)?

1. **Promote a Zero-waste Lunch Day** - Demonstrate how students can reduce lunch garbage by using reusable containers and eliminating leftovers and packaging that become a large source of trash.
2. **Take Virtual Field Trips** - Save some energy by exploring the planet virtually — you'll go farther than you could on a school bus! Highlight parts of the planet that are changing rapidly and other big global environmental issues.
3. **Build a Micro-composter** - Introduce students to nature's way of recycling by building a micro-composter made up of 2-liter soda bottles. They can see the decomposition process up close and personal. (You can find detailed instructions online.)
4. **Start a School Action Committee** - Create an environmental action club if your school doesn't already have one. You can meet monthly to find ways to reduce waste and help the environment at your school.
5. **Host an Environmental Expert** - If you can't find one locally, find an expert who can join your classroom via Skype. Prepare students to actively participate in the discussion with questions compiled in advance.
6. **Create a Green Idea Competition** - Challenge students to improve the school's recycling efforts. Create a contest to find the best ideas to encourage student and faculty participation.
7. **Let Students Create an Environmental Film** - Have them choose an issue that interests them and come up with the best ways to educate their classmates.
8. **Teach the Next Generation** - Ask older students to create lesson plans for an elementary school science class that discuss the environment. Include a hands-on science experiment and set up a visit the week of Earth Day to teach the lesson.
9. **Get Informed on Environmental Policies** - A social studies or government class or club can do an exercise where students research local and federal policies related to the environment. Students can make suggestions to improve policies, decide which they would vote for, and host a brainstorming session to come up with ideas they would legislate if they were in office.
10. **Create Posters with Earth Day Messages** - Encourage students to feature important statistics and post them around the school as well as in local merchant windows. (Get permission first, of course.)