

Brighter Schools: Sustainability Education Activities

Name of Activity: Design and hold a school-wide contest for sustainability

Minimum Group Size: 5 students, and 1 adult mentor depending on ages of students

Age Group: All ages

Objective: To encourage classrooms to practice conservation and sustainability.

Description: Students design a contest to address some aspect of the school's environmental impact. Contest ideas range from using less paper, recycling, turning out the lights, reducing waste, etc. Other contest ideas are welcome.

Time: Ongoing – students will need to design ways to track the contest results.

Materials Needed: Varies, see steps below.

Steps:

- Choose a contest! Make sure your contest theme is appropriate for your school, and one that students will be excited about participating in.
- Design the contest:
 - What are you measuring?
 - How are you measuring and for how long?
 - How long will the contest run?
 - How will the students be evaluated?
 - How can you get the most students participating in the contest?
 - Will you be giving prizes to the winning classroom?
- Create materials to explain the contest to teachers and students. You may want to go around to each classroom to explain the contest and how the competition will work.
- Create a plan to promote the contest. You will want to be sure students and teachers know when the contest starts, when it's half-way through, almost finished, etc. Consider putting up permanent promotion (posters, stickers, etc) to remind students about the contest.
- Once finished, calculate the results, announce the winners, give prizes and thank everyone for participating in the contest!

Wrap-up: A contest is a great way to get the whole school thinking about their environmental impact. A successful contest will result in a change of habits and a smaller carbon footprint. However, some contests may show the difficulty in changing group habits. It will be important for your group to discuss their observations and the results of the contest to determine its successes and how it could have been better.

Feel free to contact us, schools@brighterplanet.com, with stories or suggestions!

