

Brighter Schools: Sustainability Education Activities

Name of Activity: Create a Green Team

Minimum Group Size: 3 students, and 1 adult mentor depending on ages of students

Age Group: All ages

Objective: To establish a core team of students and teachers that will organize actions to reduce their school's carbon footprint and make the school more sustainable.

Description: A Green Team will allow students a time and place to focus on the issue of climate change. With a group of peers and a mentor, students can discuss potential carbon-reducing activities and education on sustainability. The Green Team can be the driving force behind serious change within a school community.

Time: A half-hour to one hour per week, more if necessary

Materials Needed: A place for regular meetings

Steps:

- A Green Team can be initiated by a student or an adult in the school community, but a Green Team should select an adult mentor to assist students in various projects and consult during the planning phases of their activities. Ideally, a Green Team works together for a semester or the entire school-year.
- Upon first meeting, a Green Team should evaluate the current state of their school's environmental impact - we suggest using the Brighter Schools Carbon Footprint Worksheet. From the worksheet, students will be able to see which elements of their school create the most carbon emissions.
- Next, using the Carbon Footprint Worksheet, the Green Team can brainstorm ideas to help make their school greener. Students should consider which projects will help reduce the school's carbon emissions and choose projects that are the most do-able for their group.

Wrap-up: The Green Team should periodically assess the effectiveness of the group and their projects, and identify better ways that the group could function to make a bigger impact on the school community.

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