

GREEN BUCKS AWARDS 2020-2021

Green Bucks are provided to our Green Teams through the PPEL Grant. Each award is worth \$5,000 for teams to use for technology updates, and facility upgrades, and landscaping projects for their school.

Water Conservation Award

- Facility Updates: Replace showerheads, toilets, sink faucets with ENERGY STAR products with sensors
- Periodic building audits, check for leaks, drips, and meter reads. Share efforts with the school community.
- Create posters, videos, design bulletin boards and have morning/afternoon announcements encouraging water conservation actions for school wide participation—involve art teachers.
- Plan drought-tolerant native vegetation like grasses and flowers in unused areas of the campus grounds.
- Mulch plants and trees to reduce evaporation
- Set up a water collection system to gather rain water for watering indoor plants with buckets or rain barrels.

Energy Conservation Award

- Facility Updates: Replace light bulbs with LED bulbs, install light sensors in hallways and rooms, replace seals around doors and windows,
- Create a school wide campaign encouraging energy saving tips with posters and videos, ie: Flip the Switch: turn off devices and lights with not in use
- Educate staff and students through morning/afternoon announcements
- Perform Energy Audits and track your school's energy usage.
- Classroom specific and/or at home energy audits.

Teach to the Power of Green

- Team encourages sustainability practices school wide, i.e.: increase recycling efforts, neighborhood trash clean up, compost options, etc.
- Implementation of conservation awareness through posters, signage, announcements, social/video media to share with the school
- Invite guest experts to meet with students virtually from the Nature Center, Solid Waste Agency, RARE, Eco Care, Alliant Energy, etc.
- Students research and implement a nature project at school, i.e.: bird houses & feeders for native species, vermicompost, germinate seedlings, winter salt watch, etc.
- Teams create educational videos about environmental topics such as climate change, watersheds, pollinators, etc.

Waste Prevention Through Composting

- Teams interview and work with Eco Care , Nature Center, and Solid Waste Agency virtually, to develop a compost plan to implement

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Outdoor Learning

- Design a plan for an outdoor classroom with PTA, students, and staff
- Design an interactive green space, i.e.: rain garden, monarch habitat, nature trail, etc.
- Design and/or implement a school raised garden for vegetables and herbs
- Hold a virtual fundraiser to purchase materials for outdoor classroom or green space

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse

- Educate staff and students on upcycling everyday items to reduce waste through posters, videos, morning/afternoon announcements
- Start a school wide campaign to “Refuse” a wasteful item like straws or Styrofoam
- Commit to milk carton recycling school wide and develop a rinsing station
- Work virtually with local organization to reduce waste

Community Involvement

- Fundraise virtually through social media for sustainability and environmental education projects, ie: greenhouse, permeable pavement path, tree planting, landscaping
- Work virtually with a local organization or business to improve their recycling and energy/water consumption efforts ie: create recycling containers and drop off at business.
- Partner with local organization to start a sustainability campaign in your school
- Invite conservation experts to assist virtually with research and projects
- Use school garden to sell produce to neighborhood or send to food pantries
- Work with City of CR leaders virtually to advocate for positive environmental change
- Have PTA help with social media campaigns
- Have team members reach out to local businesses and restaurants with letters about recycling and best sustainable packaging practices

Green Forward Thinking

- Planning team projects for future (post Covid-19 environment)
- Raising funds for future projects and landscaping
- Bring nature exploration indoors through interactive nature cams and connect to school tv monitors

Green Landscaping

- Create plans for an outdoor classroom
- Create plans for or implement green spaces (gardens, tree planting, trail)