



Macomb County Official Michigan Green Schools Program Guidelines 2023-24



Established in 2006, the Michigan Green Schools program is open to any K-12 public or private school in Michigan. To receive a “Green School” designation, each school must apply by submitting an appropriate application to the county/intermediate school district in which the school is located **each year**. The intent of the Michigan Green Schools Program is to encourage students to participate in activities which help them learn about preserving natural resources, protecting the environment, and to promote energy efficiency and savings.

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE 2023/2024 PROGRAM YEAR!!!

The Michigan Green Schools Program is now housed under the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). As one of the largest participating counties, the Macomb County Green Schools Program will still be handled at the local level. One change Macomb County will be transitioning to is utilizing the Michigan Green Schools Online Portal for application submission. Use of this portal should make the application process easier and more efficient for schools. **For the 2023/2024 School Year, participation in the application portal is OPTIONAL.** You may still submit a PDF application, available on our website, for the 2023/2024 program year. **A step-by-step guide of the online application portal is also available on our website**, for those wishing to use it this year. The online portal will open on January 1, 2024, when the application submission period begins. The application period will end on March 3, 2024, to include the weekend for submission, for both portal application submissions and PDF application submissions.

PLEASE NOTE: The Macomb County Green Schools Program is still functioning at the local level. There have been no changes to the way applications are reviewed or approved. All applications submitted through the online portal will be reviewed by the same panel as PDF submissions. Any questions please reach out to Laura Murphy, Macomb County Green Schools Coordinator.

Submit an application with descriptions detailing how the school has performed a minimum of two activities from each of the categories as described below by **March 3, 2024** to receive a green, emerald or evergreen school environmental stewardship designation. Schools must adhere to the categories and activities and should submit a **Macomb County application form** OR utilize the **Michigan Green Schools Online Portal** to achieve or renew their Green Schools status each year. See bocmacomb.org and then Programs, Green Schools regularly for more information.

Designation	Number of Points Earned
Green	10 - 14 points
Emerald	15 - 19 points
Evergreen	20 or more points

- Points can be accumulated by participating in activities in any combination within categories, as long as there is a minimum of two different activities completed from each Category A, B, C and D.
- Up to 2 activities are allowable from Category E: "Propose Your Own", and must be pre-approved.
- Once 10 points have been earned, additional, non-repeated activities may be completed from any category, including Category X: "Special Activity", to earn higher designations as listed above.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE LEGISLATURE, EACH SCHOOL MUST RE-APPLY EACH YEAR TO MAINTAIN YOUR GREEN SCHOOLS STATUS!

NOTE: A single activity cannot be repeated or counted to earn more than one point; a second activity occurrence will not count in the final point total.

Category A – RECYCLING (Must choose a min. of two activities listed below - **No duplicate activities!**)

1. Coordinate a program for recycling at least two items from the following list:
 - Office paper
 - Plastic
 - Metal cans
 - Printer cartridges
 - Newspapers and magazines
 - Cellular telephones
 - Cardboard
 - Fabric and clothing
 - Compact discs and digital video discs
 - Glass
 - Other1 - item not covered in the above listing
 - Other2 - item not covered in the above listing
2. Composting food and organic wastes (+)
3. Conducting a waste-free lunch program (+)
4. Implementing a policy to buy recycled, biodegradable, locally produced or less toxic food and school supplies. Participate in local farm programs/participate in purchasing locally grown produce.

Category B – ENERGY (Must choose a min. of two activities listed below - **No duplicate activities!**)

1. Offer at least one teaching unit on alternative energy
2. Use alternative energy, renewable fuels or specialized energy-efficient technology in school operations (district wide mandates)
3. Implement a school energy-saving program – specific actions taken at your school building
4. Perform energy audits at student homes and educating student families and the community
5. Taking part in a project or event to promote improved vehicle fuel efficiency (+)
6. Sponsoring an alternative energy presentation, project or event (+)

Category C – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (Must choose a min. of two activities listed below - **No duplicate activities!**)

1. Participate in activities promoting the health of any Michigan watershed
2. Offer a teaching unit on environmental issues facing this state
3. Establish or maintain a natural Michigan garden project with native plants or vegetables. Grown produce is used in teaching units or donated to a community organization (+)
4. Establish or maintain an outdoor animal habitat project
5. Participate in a local community environmental issue by activities such as letter-writing, attending public hearings, raising funds or community outreach (+)

Category D – Miscellaneous (Must choose a min. of two activities listed below - **No duplicate activities!**)

1. Sponsor an endangered or threatened species and publicize the activity
2. Host an environmental or energy speaker, event or field trip
3. Establish a student organization that participates in environmental activities
4. Observe Earth Day by participating in an Earth Day event in April and/or America Recycles Day in November
5. Maintain an updated bulletin board or kiosk with information on environmental concerns and the school's actions in addressing those concerns
6. Establish an eco-reading program (i.e. Reading partners, special guest readers, etc)
7. Update the school's media center environmental materials
8. Visit internet sites that educate about the environment and support endangered ecosystems
9. Create an active website, school wide broadcast, a Public Service Announcement, or documentary addressing environmental issues facing the state (+)
10. Coordinate an exchange or drive to collect used or unwanted items within the school or community for repurpose (+)

Category E – Propose Your Own Activity (Optional – Up to two activities may be proposed)

A school may design and propose another activity, which would qualify as an environmental stewardship project. **Please contact a county coordinator for prior approval.** *These activities MUST be pre-approved to ensure that the activity, and work that goes with it, are in line with the Macomb County Green Schools initiative, and valid as a separate activity from the ones listed in Category A-D.*

Category X – Special Activity - (Optional – You may complete one or all if you wish)

Activity 1. County-Specific Green Schools Logo Design.

Submit a student-created logo design which represents your county's Green Schools program. This logo may be used to promote the Green Schools program included on promotional items, website, etc. This is submitted as part of your application submission. **Logos should be in color and sent as an image file email attachment with the Application submission.**

Activity 2. County-Specific Green Schools “Green Advocate” Nomination.

Nominate an individual who has made exceptional contributions to preserving the environment. Acceptable nominees include students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents, and volunteers. Submit a brief description of your nominee and their efforts to preserve the environment and keep your school green!

NEW!!! Activity 3. Create a "Green Game"!

Let your imagination run wild with this activity! Create a board game, card game, computer game, etc pertaining to one of the three main Green Schools Categories: Recycling, Energy, or Environmental Protection!

NEW!!! Activity 4. “Made in Macomb”

You've all heard about "Made in Michigan" products and shopping & supporting local artisans, but what if we highlight "Made in Macomb" items that are made with recycled local products, and/or utilize our local resources? See how many you can find and suggest ways to market these items to a larger audience so that "Made in Macomb" items can be found throughout Michigan and beyond!

Other Important Notes:

- **Include Photos!** Photos enhance a school's application! Include **Lessons or lesson plans, receipts, examples or other materials** to support and provide evidence for a school's application can also be submitted. These supplemental documents should be sent in a *single PDF file* via email to: greenschools@macombgov.org, or can be submitted right in the Online Portal Application.
- A **(+)** next to a listed activity indicates that the Review Panel which evaluates applications MAY – at their sole discretion - award additional credit (up to 1 additional point) to schools which that have shown higher levels of complexity and effort in the planning and execution of the activity/project. **Remember:** Projects and activities may only be used once to satisfy a requirement and should not be repeated.
- Schools must submit their application on the county-specific application form found on each county's website, or through the Michigan Green Schools Online Portal. **Please note that other application forms, including those found on the Michigan Green Schools Foundation website CANNOT be accepted.** If you experience any problems with the application, please contact Laura Murphy.
- The specific category and activity must be indicated on the application form. A brief, *but descriptive*, paragraph which details each activity must be included on the application form. Details that are appropriate to include are: dates, participants, program sponsors, company, brands, data collected, feedback, remarks, evidence of learning as well as updates to any activities from previous years are appropriate and very important.
- **Applications should be submitted via email and are due by **March 3, 2024.****

Macomb County Green Schools Program contact info:

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Tip: Use these Guidelines as a “companion document” while filling out your application!