



Macomb County Green Schools

coordinated by the
Macomb County Board of Commissioners

2025-2026 Program Guidelines



IMPORTANT DATES

December 1, 2025

- All "other" activities must be approved

January 1, 2026

- Online application opens

March 8, 2026

- Online application closes

April 22, 2026

- Macomb County Green Schools Celebration

Macomb County Green Schools Program Information

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 submit the appropriate application each year and meet the designated criteria. 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. Macomb County's Green Schools Program is proudly coordinated by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

A school is eligible to receive one of the three statuses depending on the number of activities completed by the school and/or students.

Requirements for each level of stewardship designation:

Green School

- At least two activities from each of the four categories
- 10 activities total

Emerald School

- At least two activities from each of the four categories
- 15 activities total

Evergreen School

- At least two activities from each of the four categories
- 20 activities total

Qualifying Activities:

1 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

1. Coordinate a program for recycling at least two items from the following list:

- Office paper
- Plastic
- Metal cans
- Printer cartridges
- Newspapers and magazines
- Cell phones
- Cardboard
- Fabric/clothing
- CD's, video and gaming discs
- Glass

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.

2 Energy

1. Offer at least one teaching unit on alternative energy
2. Use alternative energy, renewable fuels or specialized energy-efficient technology in school operations.
3. Implement a school energy-savings program.
4. Perform energy audits at student homes and educate student families and the community.
5. Take part in a project or event to promote improved vehicle fuel efficiency.
6. Sponsor an alternative energy presentation, project or event
7. Other Green Activity (approved in advance).

3 Environmental Protection

1. Participate in activities promoting the health of the Great Lakes watershed.
2. Offer a teaching unit on environmental issues facing the state.
3. Establish or maintain an animal habitat project.
4. Participate in a local community environmental issue by activities such as letter-writing, raising funds or outreach.
5. Other Green Activity (approved in advance).

4 Miscellaneous

1. Adopt 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.
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.
7. Update the school's media center with environmental materials.
8. Visit internet sites that educate about the environment and support endangered ecosystems.
9. Other Green Activity (approved in advance).

5 Propose Your Own Activity

With prior approval, a school may design and propose another activity, which would qualify as an environmental stewardship project. This requires prior approval in order 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.

6 Special Activity

1. County-Specific Green Schools Logo Design - Submit a student-created logo design which represents your county's Green Schools program. From those submitted, one logo is selected to represent the program for the upcoming school year. Logos must be in color and sent as an image file.
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.
3. Create a "Green Game" - Create a board game, card game, computer game, etc. pertaining to one of the three main Green Schools Categories: Recycling, Energy, or Environmental Protection.
4. "Made in Macomb" - See how many products you can find that are made in Macomb County and suggest ways to market these items to a larger audience so that "Made in Macomb" items can be found throughout Michigan and beyond!