

GREEN FLAG BASICS: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Refer back to this outline as your team progresses through the Green Flag Program. It will help you formulate goals and track your progress.

What is it?

The Green Flag Program is a national environmental awards program that creates safer and healthier school environments through investigation, education, innovation and action. Students work to pass environmentally healthy policies in four different issue areas to create lasting positive changes to the environmental health of their school.

Visit www.greenflagschools.org for a more in-depth description of the program requirements and Awards. All of your documentation can be submitted through the website.

The Nitty Gritty

There are four issue areas to the Green Flag Program. For each issue area, there are three levels. Level 1, the “forming a team” stage, only has to be completed once, while Levels 2 and 3 must be completed for all four issue areas.

Level 1: Forming a Team and Conducting the Survey

- Form your Green Flag Team and hold a meeting
- Complete the Green Flag School Environment Survey (included)
- Submit your completed survey to the Green Flag Office
- Receive the Green Flag Award for Level 1:



- Then hold a media event to raise awareness that your school is a Green Flag School

Level 2: Discovering and Sharing Information

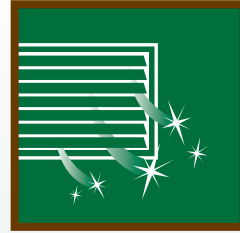
- Decide which of the four issue areas your group wants to work on first:
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 - Non-Toxic Products
 - Indoor Air Quality
 - Integrated Pest Management
- Conduct the Level 2 Survey for your issue area (available for download at www.greenflagschools.org)



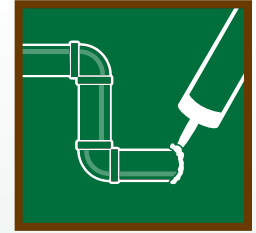
**REDUCE, REUSE,
RECYCLE**



**NON-TOXIC
PRODUCTS**



**INDOOR
AIR QUALITY**



**INTEGRATED PEST
MANAGEMENT**

- Research to find out if your school has a policy for that issue area
- Research the issue area. Why is it important? Using information from your School Environment Survey, research the possible health and environmental effects posed by your school's current practices
- Research safer alternatives to your school's current practices by using materials on our website and calling the Green Flag Office
- Make a presentation to your class, school, or community on what you've learned about your issue area
- Complete a "classroom activity" related to your issue area (see examples at www.greenflagschools.org)
- Submit Level 2 Survey and all other documentation to the Green Flag Office

**Receive the Green Flag Award for Level 2:
Four Green Flag t-shirts**

Level 3: Creating a Policy, or Improving Upon a Policy

- Work with the Green Flag Office to formulate a policy for your issue area. The policy will create a lasting change in your school.
- Hold a meeting with administrative and facilities departments and teachers to present your ideas
- Pass your policy and begin implementation with the help of an expert
- Complete a "classroom activity" related to your issue area
- Submit your policy and other documentation to the Green Flag Office

Receive the Green Flag Award for Level 3:

- Patch for your issue area (pictured above)
- Certificate of Achievement for each team member

Pass a policy in each issue area to complete the Green Flag Program!

Contact the Green Flag Program

The Green Flag Program believes in your team's ability to create healthy changes in your school. Use all of the resources available to you as you work your way through the program. In addition to this guide and your team's collective creativity, drive, and leadership, you have another tool in your toolbox: The Green Flag Staff. Allow us to assist in your team's efforts to create safer and healthier environments. Contact us:

**Green Flag Office
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
P.O. Box 6806
Falls Church, VA, 22040
www.greenflagschools.org
childproofing@chej.org
(703) 237-2249**