

Florida *Green School Designation* Program Environmental Policy

Key Points



An Environmental Policy (EP) should be a broad statement of a school’s overall environmental ambitions, which provides a framework for its environmental action plan and good environmental practices on a day-to-day basis. If you already have specific environmental objectives or targets, these should be included.

The policy should be aligned with your school’s mission statement. It should so be endorsed and signed by top management, i.e., Principal, Assistant Principal, School Board, Department Heads, PTA President, etc.



Key Points to Consider When Developing an Environmental Policy

1.	<p>What your organization does, where it is, who it works with, etc. will determine the type and level of its environmental impacts, and the extent to which you can control or influence these impacts, and the extent to which you can control or influence these impacts.</p> <p>Start your policy by providing key information about your facility:</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Who we are and what we do.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ownership, funding, and mission.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Size and scope of activity – <i>Students, Employees, Number and Type of Rooms</i>
2.	<p>What is your motivation for taking action? Some examples are:</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Saving/Managing costs to ensure resilience.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting funding and/or district requirements.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing the school’s reputation.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Using audience reach to bring about positive environmental change.
3.	<p>What is your level of environmental ambition, given where you are starting from?</p>
4.	<p>What are your main impacts, specific to the nature and size of your activities? For example:</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Building: energy use and carbon emissions.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Production: materials used and waste, transport.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Activities: printing, supplies and services, waste.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Events: food, water, energy, waste.

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5.	What are your key environmental commitments given the nature and level of your impacts? For example:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reducing building energy use and related emission by 10 percent in one year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Using low or zero carbon energy sources.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avoiding waste, reducing waste to landfill, increasing reuse and recycling.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greening purchasing and outsourcing.
6.	What other key environmental commitments do you have. For example:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensuring compliance with the <i>Green School Program</i> minimum requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communicating with, engaging, and training staff on environmental issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication with and engaging parents on environmental issues.
7.	Who is responsible for reviewing your environmental policy and when and how is it done?

In your policy, refer to your Environmental Action Plan, how it is developed, monitored, reviewed, and updated, by whom and when.

The policy should be signed by top management and dated.