



Florida GREEN School Designation Program Fact Sheet



STEP 3: Audit, Monitor and Evaluate

Without the regular monitoring and evaluation, the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) is pointless. The Green Team should regularly address aspects of the Action Plan and report the data, celebrating any successes, and reevaluating stagnant results.

The frequency and responsibility of data collection were specifically addressed during the creation of the EAP and Green Team members should discuss findings at meetings and events. To increase ownership, involve the Green Team and other students in the acquisition of this information.

Green Team and the Annual Audit

The most effective way to ensure that changes are being made is to develop a plan, make changes and monitor. For the Green Team, this is the EAP, and it starts with a school-wide audit. Water, electric and waste usage information is reported back to the school from the respective providers and is the starting point of the Audit.

Using the provided worksheets, the Green Team is able to collect the necessary data, record this data to track its effectiveness of particular practices, and report the findings to the rest of the school. It is particularly important that students are involved in the collection of data and should direct questions to the greater school community, which is filled with resource specialists. Conducting the Audit annually keeps pertinent information up to date and increases ownership of stakeholder involvement.

Tip: *The Audit should be conducted in a way that suits your school best, but you should ensure maximum student involvement at every stage. One of the most important aspects of the Audit is to make sure the results are well documented, displayed and disseminated. The school's website or notice board is a great place for publicizing and sharing results.*

Measuring Progress

Here are some suggestions to get you started. Invite students to come up with others to fit your school's goals:

- Measure your school's global footprint.
- Read meters and calculate savings.
- Take photographs. Weight or Count.
- Track.

Monitoring Progress

Monitoring progress is an excellent way to link the areas of math, science, technology and

language arts. Monitoring also develops other skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork.

One very effective evaluation strategy is to carry out a follow-up Environmental Audit. You can use the same document and compare your new responses with your initial ones. This will give you a clear indication of the school's overall progress towards its targets and will help you to plan future objectives and can be used to involve more than only the Green Team.

*When targets are met, **celebrate your success!** Celebration is a powerful motivator. **Recognize your school's achievements** and announce these successes as widely as possible during school functions and within the wider local community through websites, newsletters, newspaper articles and other media.*