Green Week 2015 Activity Ideas

Are you looking for more activities to do with your students during Earth Week this year? Here are some easy project ideas to allow your students to express their creativity, take action in their community or encourage spirit in their school. Please reach out to your AmeriCorps Green School Coordinator for support for any activity!

[Green Creation]

**Repurposed Recycling Contest:** Turn your classroom’s recycling into something new! Divide students into teams (or have them work individually) and distribute a variety of recycled materials to the class. Make sure that all recyclables are clean and dry! Provide a variety of crafting supplies (markers, colored paper, tape, scissors, glue, etc.) to the group and give them 30 minutes to repurpose a recyclable into something new. Students could make a collage, build a drum set, weave a basket, or even arrange materials in an interesting way and snap a picture- let their imaginations run wild! After the work is complete, have each student or group present their repurposed item and demonstrate how it is used. Once presentations have finished, each student should vote for their two favorite pieces. The piece with the most votes wins and could become a permanent fixture in the classroom!

**Recycled Art Project:** Have students collect and bring in recyclable materials to use for an art project. You can find a variety of recycled art projects on this website [http://www.kinderart.com/recycle/](http://www.kinderart.com/recycle/) or can contact your AmeriCorps Green School Coordinator for additional ideas!
[Green Action]

**Community Clean Up:** Pick a location on or around your school grounds for your students to take ownership of! Have students pick up trash on an empty lot, remove tires from curbs or plant seeds in an area that could use some extra attention. Hold a discussion with your class to talk about how the work you are doing is good for the environment and good for the community.

**Eco Scavenger Hunt:** Turn teams of students loose in your school to do a scavenger hunt for ways the school could be more green! Some items you could ask students to find could be a leaky faucet, a running toilet, trash in a recycling bin, or lights left on when no one is in a room. Make sure that your school community knows your students have found an eco-issue by having students leave a reminder by every issue they find.

**Green Team Demonstrations:** Take the opportunity to show off what your Green Team has learned this year! Have students prepare a demonstration on one project their Green Team has worked on this year. This could include a lesson on how to use a light meter to determine appropriate lighting levels, applying rope caulk or weatherstripping to a drafty window, sorting and weighing recyclables and more. Invite other classrooms to host your students for a brief presentation or set up a time for them to present to larger groups of students or even the whole school!
[Green Spirit]

**Represent Your School:** How will you show off your Green Team spirit?

Several Green Teams have already stepped up to make a **cheer** – follow their example by encouraging your team to clap and stomp up some excitement.

OR

Film a short commercial highlighting Green Team member’s favorite moments in the Go Green Challenge. **Videos** can feature your team’s work to date, interviews with members or anything you’d like to showcase.

OR

Arrange for an **announcement** to update your school of your Green Team’s progress in the Go Green Challenge.

OR

Green team members can **tour classrooms** throughout the day to spread the word about their efforts. Green Team members can use this opportunity to quiz their students about different green initiatives and provide small prizes.

**Green Spirit:** Let the spirit for Green action reflect through your whole school with a one-day dress code change to allow students to wear as much green as possible.

Request that they wear green shirts, recommend they sport a green hat, pass out green ribbons for everyone – possibilities abound. Make sure to take lots of pictures to showcase just how green your school becomes.
Lights Out Contest: Is it a beautiful day outside? How many classrooms in your school can use natural light today? In a school with 40 classrooms, using natural light for a day can reduce school-wide coal usage by over 200 pounds in a single day.

Challenge your school to use as much natural light as possible for the day. Have them track their success or have the green team monitor their work and at the end of the day announce the top energy-saving classrooms.