Green Schools

Helping to grow leaders in stewardship

http://goo.gl/zyF7hg
What is Nebraska Green Schools?

- Program, in partnership with the NE Dept. of Education, was developed and will be facilitated by NPPD.
- Schools complete student-led investigations through an online course and implement action projects based on data collected.
- **Three award levels: Silver, Gold and Emerald.** Once schools achieve the Emerald award they will be designated as a Nebraska Green School.
- Incentives along the way: each award level has resources, expertise, and/or funding available from Program Partners.
- Nebraska Department of Education will provide the certification and recognition to the schools.
- Participating schools will be encouraged to apply for the U.S. Department of Education’s *Green Ribbon Schools* recognition.
Investigations

- **Energy** - investigate how much energy a school uses and the main sources of that energy, and propose ways to implement energy-saving strategies

- **Water** - research source, cost and quality of a school's water supply and implement ways to enhance current water conservation practices

- **School Site** - investigate natural habitats, wildlife, trees, grounds maintenance practices and ways to make improvements to a school site

- **Waste and Recycling** - investigate how much waste a school generates and where it goes, as well as identify existing recycling and composting efforts and identify ways to improve

- **Environmental Quality** - explore the facility and make improvements to indoor air quality, transportation, chemical use and more
Action Projects

After investigations are complete, students will analyze data and implement action projects.

Examples:
Vending machine misers
Replace lighting with CFL’s or LED lights
Rain gardens
Proper tree placement
Permeable outside surfaces
Composting and recycling programs
School gardens
Installation of renewable energy systems
Provide natural habitat
Program Partners

Program Partners are asked to provide resources, expertise and/or funding as an incentive for schools participating in the program.

**Energy**
- Nebraska Public Power District
- Omaha Public Power District
- Lincoln Electric System
- Nebraska Energy Office
- Nebraska Solar Schools

**Water**
- Groundwater Foundation
- Nebraska Resource Districts (NRD)
- UNL Extension

**Waste and Recycling**
- Keep Nebraska Beautiful
- Nebraska Recycling Association
- Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)

**School Site**
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Nebraska Game and Parks
- UNL Extension
- NRD’s

**Environmental Quality**
- NDEQ
- Nebraska Health and Human Services
- Keep Nebraska Beautiful
Benefits of Green Schools

• Schools reduce environmental impacts and energy costs

• Improved health and wellness of students and staff

• Incorporates STEM skills and connects to related career pathways

• Enhanced leadership skills in students
More Benefits

• Reductions in energy use

• Sustainable landscape practices implemented to reduce stormwater runoff, chemical use, and maintenance of school grounds

• School becomes a model for the community. Students learn the importance and benefits of acting as responsible stewards in their communities and the larger world.
Green School Toolkits

Student Toolkits-

- Students will need diagnostic tools to complete the parts of the Investigations
- NPPD has these kits available for schools (in their service area) to check out
- Working with other utilities to hopefully make these available to all schools
- Kits include watt meters, light meters, CO2 meters, infrared thermometers, and more
Nebraska Green Schools On-line Course

http://learn.nppd.com/negreenschools
Login - student
Passwork - Greenschools3!

Explore course and toolkit stations
Questions???

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