

Building an Environmental Education Program at your School:

- Get administration input. Talk to the administration to see what are the needs of their school.
- Ask teachers that are interested in environmental issues to get involved.
- Ask parents in your community or PTA to get involved.
- In Elementary School, ask teachers to promote the program. They can communicate to the parents during their sneak peak/open house at the beginning of the school year.
- In Middle School and High School, teachers and students could begin an Eco-Club or Green Team, before or after school program.

Get Parents Involved:

- Promote the importance of the EE program and the benefits of it.
- Plan the direction of your program and focus at first in one direction. Examples: begin a school Beautification Program or start a Waste Reduction Program at the school. Use already created EE lesson plans to do activities with the kids. You don't have to reinvent the wheel!
- Research what you have. Some schools already have materials purchased by the teachers. There are also ready lessons plans and kits for you free of charge. See the [free resources](#) page.
- There are many programs provided by organizations and centers in your area. See the [community resources](#) page. There may be a small charge.
- You could also work together with your parents to put together materials that you can share. Take a look at the [NF School EE](#) page to see examples what other schools have done.
- Don't over commit and burn yourself out—think about your goal, number of activities, and your purpose.

Creating an Environmental Club:

- Find out your school needs. (Do they recycle? Do they need to reduce their waste? Do you want to build a new outdoor classroom?)
- Begin activities at the beginning of the year, don't wait until Earth Day in April.
- Get students involved - find a balance between service projects and social get-togethers.
- Be enthusiastic when telling others about your ideas.
- Present your project to the school during a PTA general meeting, PTA board meeting, staff meeting or parent assembly.
- Get teachers who teach environmental classes involved, as well as their students.
- Advertise the project in the school newspaper, website, facebook, and twitter.

- Stay active and visible. If other students see you having fun with your group, they might be more likely to join. Have your club wear club t-shirts on certain days of the month. This can be really great at the beginning of the semester!
- Apply your beliefs and lead by example, and follow through on meetings and events scheduled, even if at the beginning your turnout is small.
- Combine activities with Community Service, Education, and Advocacy in an engaging and fun way.
- Offer free food.
- Plan and announce a party at the end of the project.
- Highlight the social benefits of getting involved.
- Promote the community service benefits. Many high school and middle school students have a required number of community service hours for graduation or for service clubs such as Beta Club and National Honor Society. Service learning can be beneficial for all ages. It gets kids to think outside the box, see the connection of their efforts on the community at large, and the benefits of helping others and the environment.
- Include recognition, fun, and field trips to increase excitement for those who get involved.
- Let parents get involved, they want to help!
- Don't over commit and burn yourself out!

Still Need Help? Reach out to your EverGreen Coordinator:

- [Vicki Culbreth](#), Roswell Schools, 770-641-3742.
- [Cindy Eade](#), Milton Schools, 678-242-2509.
- [Terry Porter](#), Alpharetta Schools, 678-297-6213.
- [Megan Sheehan](#), Johns Creek Schools, 770-551-7766.