



EcoSchools U.S.
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

EcoSchools US Certification Rubric

Levels of Achievement

Please refer to the EcoSchools Framework and the rubric below for guidance on the criteria EcoSchools U.S. uses to assess school applications (also known as your school's Plan on the ECA).

 <p>Participant</p> <p>PROGRAM INITIATED The EcoSchools program was initiated, an action team is in place, and plans are being developed.</p>	 <p>Bronze</p> <p>EMERGING PROGRAM The EcoSchools program is in its early stages and some environmental learning and action has been demonstrated.</p>	 <p>Silver</p> <p>DEVELOPING PROGRAM The EcoSchools program is in development and environmental learning and action has been demonstrated throughout the school.</p>	 <p>Gold</p> <p>ACCOMPLISHED PROGRAM The EcoSchools program has a strong foundation with the whole school community, and environmental learning and action is well integrated throughout the school year.</p>	 <p>Green Flag</p> <p>OUTSTANDING PROGRAM The EcoSchools program is well-established. Environmental learning and action is a defining element of school culture and extends beyond the school walls.</p>
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Assessment Criteria by Level

In addition to aligning your plan to the EcoSchools Framework, each item in this section must be completed to qualify for certification. Fulfillment of these items, combined with an assessor's evaluation of Program Elements (page 2), is required to earn certification.

<p>Participant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create an Action Plan (school application) on ECA <input type="checkbox"/> Submit application before deadline <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve at least 35 points 	<p>Bronze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create an Action Plan (school application) on ECA <input type="checkbox"/> Submit application before deadline <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve 50-64 points <input type="checkbox"/> Program Elements have been started 	<p>Silver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create an Action Plan (school application) on ECA <input type="checkbox"/> Submit application before deadline <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve 65-79 points <input type="checkbox"/> Program Elements are somewhat fulfilled 	<p>Gold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create an Action Plan (school application) on ECA <input type="checkbox"/> Submit application before deadline <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve 80-99 points <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in school visit, if required <input type="checkbox"/> Program Elements are mostly fulfilled 	<p>Green Flag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create an Action Plan (school application) on ECA <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory Green Flag Eligibility Questionnaire <input type="checkbox"/> Submit application before deadline <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve 100 or more points <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in school visit, if required <input type="checkbox"/> Program Elements are fulfilled or go above and beyond the school walls
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Program Elements

Following the EcoSchools Framework and implementing the *Program Elements* are required for certification. **NOTE: Program Elements are not relevant to the Participant level of achievement.**

Rigor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Action documentation: suitable documentation is uploaded to actions <input type="checkbox"/> Action description: clear description of how actions were implemented <input type="checkbox"/> Data accuracy: data questions are complete, answered accurately, and allow for impact measurement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning: evidence of self-assessment, action planning, goal setting, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Application completeness 	<p>RELEVANT CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions related to quantitative data (i.e., numerical values, unique to each action) • Action Description • Action Documentation • Questions in About the Action Team
Collaboration & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Staff and student involvement: participation from a variety of staff and students throughout the school community <input type="checkbox"/> Interdisciplinarity: environmental program is integrated into a diversity of classes and subject areas <input type="checkbox"/> Visibility/communications: regular communication with school community, environmental program is visible throughout the school <input type="checkbox"/> Community involvement: environmental program extends beyond the school walls 	<p>RELEVANT CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions related to engagement and participation found in the About the Action Team card • Questions related to communication • Questions related to the broader community and partnerships • Questions related to curriculum connections
Student Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Student engagement: diverse participation from across the student body <input type="checkbox"/> Student leadership: opportunities for student leadership and skill building <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusiveness: student voice is at the heart of the environmental program, representing a breadth of involvement from planning to celebration 	<p>RELEVANT CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions related to student engagement and participation (found in About the Action Team) • Questions related to student leadership • Action Description
Extensions & Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum Connections: for example, curriculum connections suggestions in each action's Action Guide; connection with UN Sustainable Development Goals; other learning extensions based in EcoSchools' Action Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Learning: opportunities for students to learn outdoors and foster nature-connections <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection and Celebration: evidence of reflection on how actions and campaigns went, as well as celebration 	<p>RELEVANT CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions related to reflection and celebration • Questions related to curriculum connections • Action Description • Questions in About the Action Team