

Ideas to get you started!



Permission from the Principal: Once a small group of students and a teacher sponsor has established goals and objectives for the club, make an appointment with the school's principal to share your terrific ideas. Be sure to allow enough time.

- 1 - What do you want to accomplish?
- 2 - Will you have help from other adults?
- 3 - Write a mission statement or purpose to stay focused.
- 4 - What projects might require funding? Be prepared with sources and ideas.

Plan of Action may include the following:

- Faculty Sponsor
- Age of members
- Projects
- Length of meetings
- Meeting place
- Meeting schedule
- Number of members
- Time of day

Club Activities may vary according to the members' interests, ages, experiences, time allotment, cost, other adult helpers, etc.

Suggestions:

- Make a DVD that highlights your school and community recycling program.
- Place member-made posters in school or the community promoting Reduce – Reuse – Recycle and Compost.
- Secure a column in the monthly newsletter and a “flyer” in common areas of building.
- Create games or puzzles that teach in a fun way and could be shared with classrooms.

- Write a poem or song for the school newsletter or for an assembly.
- Make recycled paper, jewelry and picture frames to possibly raffle off or sell at the holiday boutique. Visit swancc.org for instructions.
- Arrange a field trip to local a nature center or other eco-friendly site or invite SWANCC staff and other professional environmentalists to give a presentation.

Special Environmental Events:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| America Recycles Day | americarecyclesday.org |
| Arbor Day | arborday.org |
| Buy Nothing Day | adbusters.org |
| Clean Up the World | cleanuptheworld.org |
| Earth Day | earthday.org |
| Earth 911 | earth911.org |
| International Walk to School | walktoschool-usa.org |
| Make a Difference | http://www.makeadifferenceday.com/ |
| National Environmental Week | neefusa.org |
| National Pollution Prevention | https://www.epa.gov/p2week |
| Unplug – Screen Free Week | screenfree.org |
| Walk to School Day | walkbiketoschool.org |

Will Your Club Be Involved in Global Issues?



- Air
- Coral Reef
- Endangered Plants and Animals
- Energy Efficiency Measures
- Green Scapes and Gardening
- Pollution Prevention
- Rainforest
- Water Conservation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife

Roots and Shoots Program – rootsandshoots.org

How About the “Greening” of Your School?

- Worms anyone? Indoor composting with worms is fun or try composting outdoors!
wormwoman.com
<http://www.swancc.org/recycling/composting>
- Waste-Free Lunches are a popular and easy way for kids to see waste reduction in action.
wastefreelunches.org
- Try a “Trading Tuesday”, where students trade books, toys, CD’s, prom dresses, etc.
- Display special projects and on-going information on a centrally located bulletin board
- Encourage the procurement of recycled-content school supplies for the school store – see SWANCC’s Eco-Friendly Marketplace Guide at <http://www.swancc.org/resources/eco-friendly-marketplace-directory>.
- Develop a garden or outdoor green space, install a rain barrel – ask local garden clubs or Master Gardeners for assistance.

A Community Partnership: When your town becomes a partner, your audience will grow. If there is a specific issue pertaining to the community of which the school is part, perhaps the club will:

- Write letters to Village Officials
- Invite guest speakers (knowledgeable about the issue) to address the school
- Plan a meeting with the Village Administration
- Write a column in the local paper

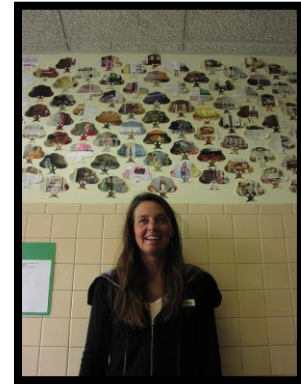
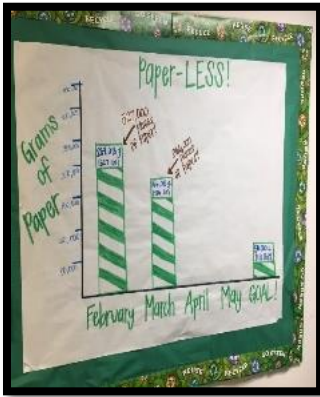
The local officials could also be an ally for any of the special events (listed earlier).

Community Engagement Projects:

- Books and surplus supplies can be donated to SCARCE – scarce.org
- Collect prom wear and accessories for the Glass Slipper Project - glassslipperproject.org
- Collect old newspaper and towels for a local animal shelter
- Shoes can be collected and donated to Share Your Soles – shareyoursoles.org, volunteers are needed to sort shoes as well.
- Work with Places of Worship to assist elderly with home chores, shoveling, etc.

See SWANCC’s *Closing the Loop* brochure for other ideas -
<https://www.swancc.org/resources/346-closing-the-loop-brochure/file>

Promote Activities and Educate Everyone:



- Bulletin boards
- Morning announcements
- Newsletter to parents
- Posters
- School paper
- School website
- Social media outlets
- Student generated video
- Word of mouth

Most importantly, be comfortable with the programs you and your club embrace! Steps to take...tread carefully!

Start Small
Be Successful
Create Momentum
Build on Momentum
Effect Lasting Change

“If you do not like the way the world is, change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time.”

- Marian Wright Edelm

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) is here to help! The Agency has books, curriculum, videos, teaching tools and more! Visit swancc.org for program information or contact us at info@swancc.org or (847) 724-9205.