



# Florida GREEN School Designation Program Fact Sheet



## STEP 1: Starting Your "Green Team"

Before getting started on greening your schoolyard, or school-wide recycle program, first you must tackle the necessary planning. Creating a designated "Green Team," consisting of multiple levels of stakeholders, will ensure that the project is completed with the full understanding of the school's Environmental Policy.

The role of the Green Team is to involve all levels of stakeholders in the planning, tracking and execution of the school's written Environmental Policy. This Policy is procured by the Green Team after they have completed the school-wide audit and understanding of their role.

### What is a Green Team?

The Green Team is a club or organization that consists of all levels of stakeholders within the school and community. They are to meet quarterly, at a minimum, to discuss actions that match up with the achievement of the Environmental Policy.

The size of your team and how often it meets will be determined by your school's needs. Some schools have found that they need to meet more frequently in the beginning and can then scale back meeting once their program has become established. It is important for the Green Team to take minutes during each meeting and record any decisions made by the team, as well as to communicate with the greater school community.

Students should play a strong role in all functions of the Green Team. Lastly, you should have a plan to ensure that your Green School work will continue if and when key members of the Green Team leave.

- To **ensure** that all students and the whole *school community* have an opportunity to be Involved In the decision-making process.
- To **Inform** and provide a link to the rest of the school and local community.
- To **take the lead** in creating the Action Plan.
- To **take the lead** in determining how best to carry out the Environmental Audit.

**Tip:** It can be difficult to achieve total involvement and understanding of Green Initiatives throughout the entire school, especially at the high school level. It is up to the Green Team to ensure that the whole school is engaged and involved through events and signage.

### Who is a Green Team?

- Students from every grade in your school
- Teachers and Administrative staff
- Resource Professionals from local environmental or conservation organizations
- Non-teaching staff such as janitors, facilities managers and lunchroom staff
- Representatives from the local community
- Parents and Legal Guardians