

Action Project Ideas & Resources

Overview This section is designed to provide ideas and resource information to build meaningful and successful action projects. They can be used as a resource for teacher planning, or for student development of projects that are relevant to their community.

- Waste Management**
- Coordinate and participate in a local clean-up project. www.potomaccleanup.org
 - Create a Vermiculture/Compost Bin to reduce school trash.
 - Start a school recycling program.
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Runoff & Erosion Water Quality Monitoring: There are many established programs that assist groups in monitoring the quality of water in nearby streams.

The Isaac Walton League offers information for monitoring and restoring stream habitats through their Creek Freaks website:

<http://www.creekfreaks.net/>

- Rain Gardens – <http://www.raingardennetwork.com/>
 - Storm Drain Stenciling – http://dipin.kent.edu/StormDrain_Stencils.htm
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Ecosystem Diversity Schoolyard Habitats

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide, 1999. Chesapeake Bay Field Office, Annapolis, MD. <http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/schoolyd.htm>
- Project WILD: Wild School Sites: A Guide to Preparing for Habitat Improvement Projects on School Grounds. 1993, by the Western Regional Environmental Education Council, Inc. Houston, TX. www.projectwild.org
- National Wildlife Federation: Schoolyard Habitats: A How-to Guide for K-12 School Communities, 2001. Vienna, VA. (They also have a supporting video). www.nwf.org

**Ecosystem
Diversity**
(continued)

Wildlife Monitoring Projects:

- Monarch Watch is a collaborative network of students, teachers, volunteers and researchers dedicated to the study of the Monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*. For information contact: www.monarchwatch.org
- Classroom FeederWatch: Classroom FeederWatch is an exciting research and interdisciplinary education curriculum designed for students in grades 5-8. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/Members/EduHomeSchoolResources.htm>
- Wildwatch USA is a long-term wildlife monitoring program managed by the National Wildlife Federation in partnership with the United States Geological Survey. <http://www.nwf.org/WildlifeWatch>

Alien Invasive Plants:

- The Alice Ferguson Foundation has produced a publication designed to assist people in identifying local alien invasive plant species: *Field Guide for Beginners: A Key to Selected Exotic and Native Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Region*, by Karen Jensen Miles and Jodie Abbott Standish (2003).
- The Maryland Department of Natural Resources This guide is designed for Grades 3-8 and provides educators and students the opportunity to gain hands-on experiences with water quality monitoring. This series of activities is designed to help your class or student group learn more about the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/education/are/big/big.html>
- The Maryland Native Plant Society: <http://www.mdflora.org/>

Miscellaneous • **The River of Words Project**

An international environmental poetry and art contest designed to nurture respect and understanding of the natural world by encouraging children to learn their “ecological address” and to describe through poetry and art their own “place in space.” <http://www.riverofwords.org/>

• **DC Green Schools Initiative**

As part of the Sustainable DC initiative, DGS-SE plans to halve DGS's carbon footprint by 2032. To reach this formidable goal, DGS-SE is targeting the entire DGS portfolio--and schools in particular-- with tactics shaped by the most rigorous energy data collection undertaken by an American city. <http://www.dcgreenschoolschallenge.com/>

Under the Healthy Schools Act of 2010, DGS is responsible for a variety of activities designed to ensure that schools are healthy, safe places to learn. These include programs on recycling and composting, energy reduction, drinking water testing, indoor air quality, and integrated pest management. To learn more, visit the [DGS Healthy School website](http://dgs.dc.gov/page/healthy-schools). <http://dgs.dc.gov/page/healthy-schools>

• **Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education**

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage, train, and support Maryland educators to build a citizenry that understands and is responsibly engaged in promoting sustainability, addressing human needs and conserving the Earth’s natural resources. www.maeoe.org

• **Maryland Governor’s Green Schools**

The Governor’s Green Schools Award Program recognizes Maryland schools that include environmental education in the curricula, model best management practices at the school, and address community environmental issues. www.maeoe.org.
