

# GREEN APPLE DAY OF SERVICE

99 IDEAS YOU CAN  
START ANYTIME, ANYDAY!

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## PROJECTS FOR ANYONE!

Still wondering how you can be a part of this year's Green Apple Day of Service? Have your event all planned out, and looking for more to do? The Center for Green Schools team came up with 99 ideas that anyone can implement at their school or campus. Yes, anyone. In this list you'll see ideas for teachers, parents, volunteers and students at any grade level, from pre-kindergarten through college and beyond. Pick one, pick two, pick two dozen! Register your activities and events at [greenapple.org](http://greenapple.org) today.

### EDUCATE

1. Create posters that showcase green aspects of a (school) building.
2. Create a planter from plastic bottles (<http://instructables.com/id/Plastic-Bottle-Planters/>).
3. Create signage encouraging energy conservation to be posted in halls and classrooms.
4. Have all your classmates sign a pledge to avoid using disposable plastic water bottles.
5. Create signage about how to pack a healthy, zero-waste lunch.
6. Educate classmates about the LEED green building rating system.
7. Make a presentation on sustainable living to younger students.
8. Read your favorite sustainability book to an elementary school class (eg: **Coco & Dean** by Emily Scofield or **Willow Watts & the Green Schools Wish** by Annie Donnely).
9. Make a poster explaining the wastewater filtration system.
10. Test different materials that could be used on school grounds for water filtration capacity, such as grass, stones, cotton balls, and more.
11. Host a competition among students to draw or write about the ideal green school.
12. Create a set of questions and host green school trivia for your class.
13. Coordinate a how-to book on sustainable living where each student in a class contributes one page of the book using recycled materials.
14. Create a green (or get greener) feature scavenger hunt on campus.
15. Create a series of Facebook or Twitter posts with environmental facts, articles, or videos.

16. Build a team of “sustainability captains” in your class or school.
17. Develop a charter for a sustainability club at your school.
18. Develop a short presentation about opportunities to improve your school and deliver it to campus and community leaders.
19. Teach your parents about an environmental initiative happening at school.
20. Ask school partners from the community to join you for Green Apple Day of Service.
21. Research and write a “tip of the week” to be more environmentally responsible, and create a timeline for each tip to be shared in announcements, emails, or social media.
22. Create a spreadsheet, survey, or app for students to track their carbon footprints.

## TAKE IT OUTSIDE

23. Plant a tree to promote habitat restoration.
24. Plant species that are native to your geography.
25. Find your favorite tree on campus and write a poem about it, then share with fellow classmates.
26. Find your favorite green space on campus, sketch it, then share it with classmates and teachers.
27. Create a no idling campaign for cars and busses at drop off/pick up, including signage.
28. Lead an effort to clean up the sidewalks surrounding campus.
29. Create a list of the best outdoor spaces on campus that inspire you.
30. Lead a team of students to take photos of areas on campus that might be made healthier, safer, or more efficient, and create a list of ways to improve them.
31. Plant herbs like basil, cilantro or mint in a recycled container and maintain it in your classroom.
32. Create a competition to draw the ultimate outdoor classroom.
33. Design a new outdoor, shaded area for learning, studying, and playing.
34. Plant a small vegetable garden with help from parents, friends and neighbors.
35. Plant vines (grapes, beans, or other similar plants) on railings.

## WASTE NOT

36. Create signs to improve recycling education on campus, to be posted on or near bins.
37. Add a recycling and composting bin to your classroom.
38. Design a recycled materials arts-and-crafts project.
39. Map all of the trash, recycling, composting bins on your campus, and make sure they’re in place for optimal use.
40. Make signs encouraging use of and explaining the benefits of hand dryers in bathrooms and/or facts about paper towel consumption.
41. Create a recycling game or relay race to educate fellow students about recycling.
42. Assemble trash-free meal kits using only reusable containers for food, drink, utensils, and snacks.
43. Create a poster demonstrating how the composting process works.
44. Create a waste management system (or a series of bins) to use at home.

45. Make a plan to collect recyclables from an athletics, performance, or other afterschool event.
46. Draw a concept diagram showing where waste, recyclables, and compostables go when each group of materials is taken from campus.
47. Organize a zero-waste school dance.

## CONSERVE ENERGY

48. Recruit a teacher to lead a "lights-off class" for one or more days.
49. Organize a field day of fun indoor or outdoor activities like a scavenger hunt or flying a kite that don't require any electricity.
50. Organize a Friday campus walkthrough to ensure lights are powered off for the weekend.
51. Check for energy-saving power strips or install daylight sensor outlets.
52. Create a display that shows the amount of energy used at school every day/week/month, and translate the energy used into the equivalent number of households or cars.
53. Use a light meter to look for areas that are more brightly lit than needed, and work with the facilities department to explore de-lamping options.
54. Create a substantive greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the school using the EPA's Climate CHECK software (recommended for high school students).
55. Invite energy auditors to check on school building energy usage, and shadow the auditors during their visit.
56. Create a home energy audit with 10 steps to make your home more green - discuss the results with your class!
57. Craft light switch plate stickers reminding people to turn off the lights when they aren't needed.
58. Create a map of energy use in the school using simple tools (e.g., watt meter, light meter) and then generate suggestions for conservation in different locations.

## SAVE WATER

59. Ask students to document their water usage for 1 day.
60. Decorate a reusable water bottle and pledge to use it every day for a full month.
61. Create a water fixture inventory for campus and work with facilities staff to see what efficiency changes can be made.
62. Create a demonstration of the amount of water used every day per person at school.
63. Create a lesson plan about water usage at home.
64. Launch a campaign to take 1 shower per day for only 2 minutes.
65. Organize a field trip to a water treatment facility in your community.
66. Interview a wastewater treatment facility manager, on video or for your campus paper.
67. Design a rain barrel using only recycled materials.
68. Build your own shower timers to take home (out of recycled materials).
69. Design and plant a small rain garden near a drainage area on campus.
70. Create a map of water fountains on the campus or locations where you want water fountains – or bottle refilling stations!

71. Paint a map of the watershed as a mural and write an explanation about its significance.
72. Create a water filter to install in rain gutters at school.

## INDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

73. Conduct an all-hands-on-deck classroom clean up (to tackle dust).
74. Create a “biophilic” craft or brainstorm how to bring nature into your classroom.
75. Bring plants into classrooms and create a schedule for watering.
76. Conduct an indoor air quality assessment using a checklist available at [greenapple.org/projects](http://greenapple.org/projects).
77. Install a green wall on campus using recycled water bottles and wire on a chain link fence.
78. Conduct a classroom light bulb audit.
79. Take an inventory of potentially toxic cleaning materials and suggest green products in their place.
80. Make signs about the value of daylighting and when and why curtains should stay open.
81. Create a green cleaning kit for teachers to share and borrow in their classrooms.
82. Research ideas to make the bathroom smell good without the use of chemicals.

## CONTESTS & SHOWCASES

83. Host an organic food cooking contest.
84. Host a local food cooking contest.
85. Organize a recycled material fashion design contest and show.
86. Coordinate a found material craft contest and art show.
87. Create a contest to design furniture using only recycled materials.
88. Build a model green school (with recycled materials or building materials/toys).
89. Organize a green scavenger hunt on campus or in the community.
90. Write your own earth-friendly story to share in your school library.

## WATCH, LISTEN, AND LEARN

91. Create a “Why I’m Inspired” wall matching environmental commitments to how our planet inspires you.
92. Watch informative short videos from the Center for Green Schools.
93. Create a sustainability themed short film, documentary, infomercial, or music video.
94. Create a jingle for an environment-themed commercial for your school.
95. Get inspired by environmentalists, activists, educators, and more at TED events nationwide and online ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)).
96. Host a movie night of environmental documentaries, such as Inconvenient Truth, 11th Hour or others.
97. Start a sustainability radio show or YouTube series.
98. Watch the USGBC YouTube Channel and write about & share what you learned.
99. Host an outdoor movie screening featuring an environment-themed movie or