



# Illinois Sustainable Schools Compact

IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

AGREES TO THIS VOLUNTARY COMPACT TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY  
AND ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING MARKED GOALS BY DECEMBER 31, 2015.

## Operations

- Create a focal point (e.g. sustainability coordinator) to lead sustainability work across the school district.
- Conserve energy and lower carbon emissions by shutting off lights and computers when not in use and adjusting thermostat settings.
- Encourage recycling (including batteries and electronics), composting, and purchasing products with minimal packaging.
- Organize a school wide basic waste audit
- Reduce fuel consumption and pollution from school transportation by limiting car and bus idling and increasing the fuel efficiency of school vehicles.
- Encourage alternative transportation to and from school among students, faculty, and staff (ie. walking, bicycling, use of public transportation, carpooling, and adoption of the Safe Routes to School Program.
- Practice sustainable grounds maintenance by minimizing use of chemical fertilizers and following a conservative watering schedule.
- Use of environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products in all Illinois public and non-public elementary and secondary schools with 50 or more students, as required by the Illinois Green Cleaning Schools Act.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR appliances and technology where appropriate.

## Buildings & Grounds

- Improve energy efficiency of buildings; install solar panels, wind turbines, and/or geothermal units.
- Participate in a school energy audit to determine energy use base line.
- Participate in the ENERGY STAR labeling system for a school building.
- Convert a school rooftop to a green roof or a white reflective roof.
- Retrofit existing electric and water fixtures with high-efficiency models.
- Pledge that new or existing buildings constructed will earn the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.
- Conserve soil and water resources by:
  - Incorporating rain barrels and swales into landscaping to slow and filter stormwater runoff.
  - Planting drought-resistant native species in landscaped areas.
  - Installing or retrofitting parking lots with permeable paving.

## Curriculum

- Participate in environmental community service projects, field trips, and assemblies.
- Start an environmental club to promote green awareness and track school-wide sustainability measures.
- Develop energy awareness by participating in a compact fluorescents fundraiser.
- Integrate environmental studies and green career development programs into the school curriculum.
- Lead students, teachers, and staff in creating a rain garden or vegetable garden on school property.

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*Signature*

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*Name (please print)/Title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Email address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor Pat Quinn*

Send two completed copies to:  
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