



[www.ayea.org](http://www.ayea.org)

AYEA is a program of the National Wildlife Federation ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org))

**Demonstration Project:**  
Green Star Certify Your School



### Background

Caring about the environment can be fun and educational. Most of all, it means protecting our valuable natural resources. Green Star schools practice pollution prevention, recycling, energy efficiency and waste reduction. Join schools

around Alaska by enrolling in the Green Star today.

Program

### Why Green Star Certify Your School?

- Recycling
- Energy Efficiency
- Pollution Prevention
- Waste Prevention
- Waste Assessments
- Air Quality
- Hazardous Materials
- Composting



### History

- Green Star began as a cooperative effort in 1990 in the City of Anchorage, Alaska. The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce successfully partnered with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the non-profit Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) to create the Green Star program. The program, represented by this diverse group of state regulators, environmentalists and business leaders, was created to give positive recognition to businesses who exercised environmental responsibility. Green Star is both pro-business and pro-environment. Through the program, it was found that organizations that are environmentally responsible also have a stronger bottom line. By examining an organization's waste streams and making internal changes to reduce them, significant financial savings—as well as environmental savings—could be gained.

### What should your school do?

- Your school support is going to play an essential role in certifying your school. This is a very rewarding project, with that in mind a lot of work will need to be completed. There is a set of eight standards that need to be fulfilled in order to receive your green star.
- Your school needs to be there in order to support you and at many times help in accomplishing the standards that need to be done

## **What should you do?**

You are going to have to find help! Before turning to other community groups see if there is a group in your school that will want to help you carry out this task, if an environmental group is not available, go to your student council they will most likely be willing to help. Once you have support here is what you do:

### **1. Enroll in the Green Star program and meet with staff.**

- You can do this online or contact Green Star at 278-7827.  
<https://electra.he.net/~greenstr/enroll.php>

### **2. Participate in a site assessment.**

- Green Star offers free site assessments for enrollees. Green Star staff members visit your school to see first-hand what activities are generating waste. We provide a report outlining the positive activities, recommendations for improvements, and resources to help facilitate the improvements. It is a non-regulatory, non-mandatory visit designed to help your school with the process of earning a Green Star award.

### **3. Implement the Standards.**

- Start with the first two Standards, which establish a firm foundation of accountability, then complete the remaining six standards.

### **4. Submit your achievements.**

- When you have completed the eight requirements send in a report and a committee comprised of Green Star certified business and schools will review your report to see if you have earned the green star. If you have not received the star the committee will suggest some items that you can do differently in order to receive the Star.

### **5. GET YOUR STAR!!!!**

- Presentation of award at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce “Make It Monday” Forum or another forum appropriate for your school, such as a school assembly.
- Public recognition through the Green Star promotional campaign.
- Window and/or vehicle Green Star award decals.
- Use of the Green Star award logo to promote your status of demonstrating strong environmental and business ethics

### **6. Maintain your award.**

- Every two years, you will receive a recertification asking for updates to contact information and a summary of where your Green Star Standards stand.