



2010 Buffalo-Niagara Earth Day Celebration Green Schools Contest

Project Earth (www.projectearth.net) is a new environmental network where people of all ages can share environmental projects and ideas. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day (4/22/10) and the 40th anniversary of our company, Ecology and Environment, Inc. is hosting a Project Earth Green Schools Contest to highlight the efforts of western New York schools to become more environmentally sustainable.

The contest is offered in conjunction with the **Buffalo Niagara Earth Day Celebration** and **Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper's "Paint the Rain Green" Contest**, in which schools are invited to paint rain barrels. Please visit buffaloeearthday.com to learn more!

Prize

The winner of the Project Earth Green Schools Contest will be awarded \$500 on Earth Day. Several schools will be featured on Project Earth for their excellent ideas and activities, and every school will receive a certificate of participation.

Description

Whether your school has been striving to address environmental concerns for many years or is just starting to take steps to "go green," we encourage you to share your good ideas and highlight any initial success you have achieved. Your entry will be seen by other schools that will benefit from your ideas and experience.

The environmental impact of a school is a reflection of many individual activities and the extent of cooperation among students, teachers, facilities and administrative staff, parents, community groups, and others. This contest emphasizes how schools are taking steps to understand and improve the operations of their schools and their environmental impacts, both in their schools and communities.

Is your school taking action in areas such as:

- Recycling and composting
- Transportation
- Energy efficiency and performance monitoring
- Renewable energy
- Community engagement and education
- Local and organic food
- Water conservation
- Green cleaning practices
- Tree planting
- Cleanups and reclamation/restoration of public spaces

Entry requirements:

- Any Grade 6-12 class or school club in western New York is eligible to participate.
- Entries must be submitted between **March 8 and April 16, 2010** in order to be considered for the award, and the winner will be invited to receive the award during a mid-day press conference in Buffalo on Earth Day, April 22nd. The winning project will be featured on the Project Earth website and automatically enrolled in a subsequent World Environment Day contest (additional details below).

Entries will be judged based on:

- The breadth, depth and quality of the project. Relevant metrics are encouraged. A project that is larger in scope is likely to have an advantage, but the related subprojects must be clearly shown to be part of a unified larger project. In other words, just listing the steps your school has taken to become more green will not constitute a project.
- The quality of the presentation. Entries must be submitted through www.ProjectEarth.net. In addition to a summary description, entries may include a photo gallery in Project Earth, uploaded documents and spreadsheets, and links to related videos and web content. Entries should clearly show what the school has done, is doing, and plans to do in the future.
- The average rating on Project Earth. All entrants are encouraged to rate several other entries using the criteria above.

Questions

Questions may be addressed to admin@projectearth.net.

Related Contests

- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper's "Paint the Rain Green" Contest is open to all K-12 classes and clubs in western New York. Please visit buffaloearthday.com or contact akina@bnriverkeeper.org to learn more. Rain barrel painting projects may also be entered in the Green Schools Contest.
- The Project Earth World Environment Day Contest is a similar contest for Grade 6-12 classes and school clubs around the world. Entries must be submitted before **May 22, 2010**, and the winner will be announced and its project featured on the Project Earth website on World Environment Day, June 5, 2010. Visit projectearth.net in early March to learn more.