

Cool School Challenge



Cool actions for a cool planet

The Cool School Challenge engages students and teachers in practical strategies to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions school-wide. Through improved energy efficiency, reduced consumption, increased recycling, and changes in transportation choices, Challenge participants will learn how simple actions, taken together, can create a climate of change.

Cool School Challenge goals:

- Educate young people, and by proxy their families, about climate change and everyday actions they can take to reduce their impact locally and globally;
- Encourage student leadership and empowerment;
- Reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gas emissions in and around schools; and
- Foster a new generation of environmental/air quality advocates.

At the heart of the Cool School Challenge is the philosophy that big changes start with small steps and that taken together, simple individual actions create a world of difference.

How it works

With the guidance of their Challenge Coach, student teams learn how to conduct a classroom energy audit and identify major sources of CO₂ emissions and opportunities for shrinking them. Next, recruit other classrooms - as many as possible! - into the Challenge, conduct audits for those classrooms, and based on your findings, set a CO₂ reduction goal. Create an action plan and timeline for achieving that goal and - you're off! At the end of the Challenge, see how you did and calculate the emissions saved as a result of the program. Share your findings with participating teachers, your principal, etc. Submit your results to info@CoolSchoolChallenge.org for posting on the website.

Materials to guide you through the audit process are available online at CoolSchoolChallenge.org.

Who can participate?

The Cool School Challenge can be administered by science, math or other teachers, administrators, or leaders of student organizations. These "Challenge coaches" train and support student teams with the implementation of the program at your school.



Learn more

For more information about the Challenge, upcoming teacher workshops and more, visit: CoolSchoolChallenge.org, or send an e-mail to info@coolschoolchallenge.org

