

Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards

The Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards promote sustainability and reward school efforts to reduce waste and increase environmental curricula.

How much money is awarded?

The winning applicants receive from \$100 to \$5,000, depending on the award category.

What are the award categories?

Ecology presents awards in three categories.

Seed Awards provide funds for start-up costs for programs promoting waste reduction, recycling, and sustainability both within the school and in the community.

Sustainable School Program Awards recognize continued efforts to maintain and expand programs that cut waste, recycle, and conserve resources.

Creative Environmental Curriculum Awards recognize original curricula that introduce students, teachers, staff, and administrators to the concepts of waste reduction, recycling, and sustainability. Ecology supports curricula that inspire a sense of environmental stewardship in the students.

Who should apply?

Public and private primary and secondary schools in Washington State are eligible to apply. Ecology continues to favor programs that involve opportunities for diverse community groups, including those who are economically disadvantaged or do not speak English as their first language. It is important for all of us to learn about and contribute to solutions for the state's environmental problems.

WHY IT MATTERS

Waste reduction and recycling make important contributions to a sustainable way of life. Schools can help lower our impact on climate change by reducing waste, recycling materials and conserving water and energy.

Public and private primary and secondary schools in Washington State are eligible to compete! Applications are due February 26, 2009. Application forms are available online: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html>

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Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

How can schools practice sustainability?

Sustainable practices meet current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations. Examples are:

- Choosing renewable energy
- Choosing products with recycled content, reducing waste, reusing or recycling materials, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, anticipating and preventing future problems, and reversing the decline of natural resources.

Sustainable practices in schools

Ecology encourages programs that involve students. The awards are meant to support school programs that are self-sustaining and continue year after year. The awards will be directed towards programs with activities listed below.

Reduce waste and increase recycling

Conduct a waste audit at your school to see how much waste you now produce. Set realistic goals to reduce your school's waste. Start a composting system to recycle food waste and yard debris. Adopt strategies to reuse products and materials when possible. Find someone in the community who can use your waste as a resource.

Reduce the threats from toxic chemicals

Stop using herbicides and pesticides on your school grounds. Instead, try landscaping with pest resistant native plants and use mulch to conserve water, prevent weeds, and feed the soil. Try physical controls like traps, barriers, fabric row covers, or repellants to reduce pests. Practice environmentally preferable purchasing by choosing products or services that work without harming human and environmental health. Examples include using nontoxic cleaning and art supplies and minimizing the use of hazardous chemicals in science labs and photography darkrooms.

When are applications due?

Applications for this award cycle are due at the Department of Ecology at 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503 by 5 p.m. on February 26, 2008. Ecology will not consider any applications submitted after this deadline.