



## Six Ways Your YouthBuild Program Can Go Green

YouthBuild programs can succeed in greening the construction of affordable homes, preparing students for green-collar jobs, and cultivating an appreciation for green living, today!

Here are some simple steps your YouthBuild program can take to implement a green agenda.

### 1. Get Informed

To see how other YouthBuild programs are applying green practices and view other available resources, go to <http://www.workforce3one.org/page/communities>

### 2. Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Every day, you use energy to eat, work, study, or just get around. Most energy use creates carbon dioxide. Measuring how much carbon you create can be a shock! Go to [www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator](http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator) or [earthday.net/footprint/index.html](http://earthday.net/footprint/index.html) to calculate your footprint (the amount of carbon dioxide you and your things produce over time.)

**Shrink your carbon footprint through the following actions:**

- Turn off lights, computers and electronic devices when not in use.
- Use CFL (compact fluorescent lamp) bulbs in light fixtures.
- Avoid printing documents and print double sided if possible.
- Minimize use of plastic cutlery and paper plates.
- Encourage YouthBuild students and staff to use the bus, the subway or ride a bike instead of driving when possible.

### 3. Recycle Your Trash

Recycling is an excellent way to save energy and preserve the environment. 60 percent of our trash could be recycled and recycling one glass bottle could save enough energy to power a TV for three hours.

**Try the following at your program:**

- Purchase and maintain well-marked recycling containers within your facilities.
- Recycle office paper, newspapers, beverage containers, electronic equipment, ink cartridges, and batteries; whatever your city allows. Then push your city to do more!
- Educate young people about proper waste reduction and recycling methods as well as the importance and environmental impact of recycling.
- Go to [www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/rrr/recycle.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/rrr/recycle.htm) for more information about recycling, or visit the EPA's Recycle City at [www.epa.gov/recyclecity](http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity)

## 4. Study Green

Bring green education to the classroom by including environmental lesson plans within your curriculum. YouthBuild USA will soon provide a core green curriculum and a range of classroom projects. In the meantime, there are teaching resources available through the Web (see below). Also, reach out to local community colleges or universities to see if they have a green curriculum or certification courses.

- A variety of project-based lesson plans with a connection to national standards for grades K-12:  
<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans>
- An example of curriculum used in YouthBuild from Project Learning Tree:  
[www.plt.org/cms/pages/21\\_21\\_9.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_21_9.html)
- Podcasts about global warming by artists, scientists, and activists:  
<http://earthtrends.wri.org/podcast>
- Go Green Learning Resources has teacher resources (including lesson plans) and literature related to environmental studies, websites for students, and much more:  
[www.buddyproject.org/resources/lrnResources/green/download/GoGreen612.pdf](http://www.buddyproject.org/resources/lrnResources/green/download/GoGreen612.pdf)

## 5. Find Green Examples in your Community

- Identify a green home or building in your community by searching online. Arrange to tour the facility to see a green building at work, and inspire staff and students. To see the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified project directory and find a building near your program go to:  
[www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1452&](http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1452&)
- Virtual tours of green homes and buildings can be found at [www.virtuallygreen.com](http://www.virtuallygreen.com) and [www.mainstreamgreenhome.com](http://www.mainstreamgreenhome.com)

## 6. Become a Green Leader in Your Community While Learning About Green Jobs

Connect with green professionals and environmental agencies to engage your program in green leadership experiences and community service. These opportunities expose students to green careers and help them develop a sense of personal responsibility for the environment.

- Site visits and possible internship opportunities can be arranged through a local green business at [www.usgreencommerce.org](http://www.usgreencommerce.org)
- Building tours of any kind of green manufacturing or renewable energy facility or LEED Gold/Platinum building in your local area can introduce students to career options.
- A list of volunteer opportunities ranging from park clean up to public speaking can be found at [www.greenyour.com/lifestyle/community/career/tips/become-a-green-volunteer](http://www.greenyour.com/lifestyle/community/career/tips/become-a-green-volunteer).