



Planning the Ultimate Classroom

**Overview:**

<http://thegreendream.org>

Across the country, use of the term “Going Green” has been increasing. We hear about it at home, at work, at play and at school. Most schools today are teaching kids about protecting the earth, but unfortunately many students and teachers are still spending their days in classrooms with walls covered in toxic paint, breathing congested air, and squinting from inadequate lighting. Fortunately, as baby boomer-era school buildings become more and more outdated, many districts are building green schools to replace energy guzzling, polluted learning environments. Not all districts can afford to replace their existing buildings, so efforts are being made to implement “eco-changes” that can help make them a little “greener.” Marketing students at Beachwood High School in Beachwood, Ohio are designing the “ultimate green classroom.” In this national model for an eco-classroom, everything will be addressed including: lighting, flooring, wall coverings, HVAC, technology, teaching practices, furniture, art, sound, and alternative energy sources.

**Subjects:** Science and Language and Visual Arts

**Grades:** 4-5

**Classroom Activities:**

1. Learn more about “The Green Dream”. What is it and how did it go from a dream to a reality? (30-40 minutes)

[http://www.greencitybluelake.org/images/education/green\\_dream\\_summary.pdf](http://www.greencitybluelake.org/images/education/green_dream_summary.pdf)

This is a document prepared by the team to explain their project.

- Their mission statement is  
*THE GREEN DREAM'S mission is to begin creating a “greener” tomorrow...TODAY*  
*One decision, one person, one day at a time – a plan so simple, it starts with ONE.*
- *What does this mission statement mean?*
- *What is a mission statement?*
- *Why is it necessary for every project to begin with a mission statement?*
  
- *Look at the logo for the project:*



*Tell us your impression of the logo  
Why is it representative of that project?*

- *Visit the Green Dream site: <http://thegreendream.org>  
There you can get more information about the project and see pictures.*
2. Let's design our own "**Sustainable and eco friendly classroom!**" (from 1 – 2 class periods)
- When we say something is "sustainable" what do we mean?
  - What is eco friendly?
  - Look around the room. Discuss any changes you think you can make to create a "greener" room.
  - Our Own "**Green Classroom**" Have students work in small groups and each come up with a plan for their room. Each group can:
    - Prepare its own mission statement.
    - Design a logo.
    - Create a list of "**green things**" to do in the classroom.  
(like a scrap paper box, switching to reusable containers for snacks and classroom supplies, an eco-craft box)
    - Make a drawing of the changes they will make in their room.
    - Write a short letter to the principal or an administrator inviting him/her to come and see their plans.
    - If time permits, have students present their plans to the class.
3. "50 Ways to Go Green" (15-20 minutes)  
[http://thegreendream.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=31&Itemid=51](http://thegreendream.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=31&Itemid=51)
- The Green Dream Team provides this list at their website. Start with your class and have students underline or highlight things they know they are already doing to "Go Green". Have them take the list home and go over with parents, guardians, or grandparents doing the same. Compare lists the next day to see who is "Going the Greenest!"

## 50 Ways to Go Green

### **At the supermarket**

Be picky about produce  
Tote your own grocery bag

Choose "certified" coffee  
Pay attention to packaging

Support local farms

### **Around the house**

Save money in the bathroom  
Adjust fridge temps

Bring home superhero plants  
Lighten up with energy savings

Recycle rechargeables  
Recycle smart

### **Entertaining**

Protect the earth while you picnic

### **Remodeling**

Take paint precautions

Raise the roof with recycled materials

### **Personal style**

Dress in eco-chic clothing  
Be clean (and green)

Opt for new cotton undies

Make up with Mother Nature

### **Cooking and eating**

Become a flexitarian  
Get the organic habit

Grill corn in its husk  
Put it in park

Go for the gold- coffee filters,  
Compost

Get the  
Break out the bamboo

### **Home office**

Buy a laptop

Get off junk mail lists

Double up on printing

Invest the green way

### **For kids**

Teach kids to be green

### **In your yard**

Mow-ercise!

Warm up to solar energy

Go native