

PS 166 PTA Green Policy

Adopted January 18, 2011

In alignment with the National PTA Go Green Initiative, the NYC DOE Sustainability Initiative, the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability; with the support of our Principal, Dr Debbie Hand, and with the Earth that our children will inherit in mind, the PS 166 PTA has adopted the following Green Policy to create a culture of environmental responsibility within our school and our lives.

The Five Essential Steps of Our Green Policy

1. Evaluate the Environmental Impact of Every Activity
2. Eliminate Toxins
3. Practice Waste Reduction and Recycling
4. Support Healthy Eating and Physical Activity
5. Implement Environmental Education Whenever Possible

Green Policy In the Classroom: Part One

Essential Steps		Educational Initiatives
1 Evaluate Your Impact	Consider the environmental impact of every activity.	Avoid overly packaged & disposable products.
		Use washable or biodegradable plates, cups, and flatware.
		For classroom celebrations and parties avoid creating landfill with cheap plastic toys and trinkets that don't biodegrade.
2 Eliminate Toxins	Many commonly used products (e.g., cleaners, air fresheners, wipes) trigger asthma and other ailments.	Uses earth friendly, non-toxic cleaners.
		Avoid plug-in air fresheners and scented candles which contain toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Open windows instead.
3 Reduce Waste & Recycle	Teach the 3 Rs: Reduce (consumption), Reuse, Recycle. By practicing the Three Rs, you can save resources and reduce toxic greenhouse gases.	Choose "Recycling Captains;" show students the recycling bins in your classroom and on your floor; teach them what goes where; encourage recycling. A copy of our school's Recycling Plan is available in the main office.
		Use 100% recycled paper products when possible.
		Recycle materials for art projects.
		Consider doing a "Trash Audit" as a classroom/school project: http://www.wastefreelunches.org/audit.html .
4 Support Healthy Eating & Physical Activity	Eliminate junk food, incorporate movement, use soap and water.	Refrain from handing out candy and "sweet rewards;" consider extra choice time instead.
		Establish a 'NO JUNK FOOD' classroom policy; encourage parents to bring in healthy, unprocessed snacks: fruit, carrot sticks, whole grain crackers, rice cakes, yogurt.
		Promote stretching and jumping jacks between lessons. Never take away recess as punishment.
		Encourage hand washing instead of using sanitizer; it's the best defense against germs and missed days of school. Avoid anti-bacterial soaps that contain Triclosan, linked to allergies, asthma, eczema.
5 Education	Consider a unit on the environment. Green your classroom.	Eliminate unnecessary classroom energy consumption: turn off lights when you leave a room; unplug unused cords; shut down idle computers, printers.
		Use microfiber cloths instead of paper towels.
		Use email instead of paper to communicate.
		Discuss environmental issues whenever possible.

Green Policy In the Classroom: Part Two

Essential Steps		Educational Initiatives	
1 Evaluate Your Impact	Try to reduce your class's impact.	Sign up for the "No Impact Experiment" at noimpactproject.org and try to reduce your class's environmental impact. Share results with the school.	Watch "The Story of Stuff" www.storyofstuff.com - a 20-minute fun, fact-filled look at the underside of production & consumption. Watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLrVC14N67M video about The Great Pacific Garbage Patch and have a classroom discussion.
2 Eliminate Toxins	Make your own non-toxic cleaners as a science experiment.	Have students make classroom non-toxic cleaners with harmless ingredients (vinegar, baking soda, borax, and liquid soap) and test their effectiveness. Recipes at http://www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm .	
3 Reduce Waste and Recycle	Fun and profitable activities that reduce waste.	Terracycle, the "world's first company to make everything out of trash," will pay you two cents for hard to recycle items www.terracycle.net . Collect items in your classroom for our Terracycle boxes in the lobby! Start a worm bin, or a smell-free and pest-free indoor composting project. See www.vokashi.com . Find out about responsible E-waste recycling in your school.	
4 Healthy Eating & Physical Activity	Children spend 50% less time outside then they did 20 years ago.	Take your students to Central Park for a Nature Walk.	
Walk to destinations instead of taking the bus.			
Incorporate movement into every morning & afternoon.			
5 Educate	The "PS 166 Goes Green" web page has a wealth of curriculum ideas. Go to www.ps166.org , then click on "All About PS 166."	http://www.facingthefuture.org/Curriculum/%20CurriculumHome/tabid/113/Default.aspx	
http://www.ecoliteracy.org/teach			
http://celfeducation.org			
Check out what other D3 schools are doing to go green: http://www.cec3.org/site_res_view_template.aspx?id=f8c8ee42-9265-4bed-90f5-7fab6c028121			

We can't do it without you!

Thank you in advance for creating a healthy and environmentally responsible school.