

Program Outline: Cobb County Green Schools

Purpose: Environmental education is essential in encouraging the protection and preservation of our environment and natural resources. The Green Schools Program will have a two-fold objective. First is to insert the environmental curriculum created by the 4 program coordinators into Cobb County Schools. The second objective is to acknowledge innovative environmental curriculum in the schools, which focuses on species protection, environmental stewardship, community beautification, and conservation of natural resources. It is difficult in the current test-centered environment for teachers to justify environmental programming and activities such as school-wide recycling, and comprehensive water conservation programs. The Green Schools Program is designed to create an incentive and resource center to develop and promote these stewardship activities.

Participants: Gwen Baldwin – Keep Cobb Beautiful
Kathy Nguyen – Cobb County Water Efficiency Program
Jennifer McCoy – Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program
Joni Atkinson – Cobb County Parks and Rec. Natural Resource Division

Costs: \$1,500.00 for creation of a brochure and website. Designation Signage is provided by the Cobb County Sign Shop.

Goals:

- First year have at least 5 schools qualify for designation.
- Increase participation in Coordinators' curriculum by 15% in the first year.
- Have conservation and stewardship programs increase by 15% in first year.
- Act as a resource for school-wide initiative such as: recycling, shower head give aways, comprehensive water conservation programs, stream monitoring and protection, and wildlife preservation and habitat protection.

Recommendation: The Green School Program will be launched at the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year. There will be multiple designation levels for schools that exceed the minimum requirements.

- **Green School – 5 Teachers Completing 5 environmentally beneficial lessons.**
- **Silver Status – 10-14 teachers completing 5 environmentally beneficial lessons.**
- **Gold Status – 15 or more teachers completing 5 environmentally beneficial lessons.**

Administration: Reporting is electronic on the website to minimize the time on teachers to report. Water Efficiency will receive and coordinator teacher communications. Keep Cobb Beautiful will be responsible for creation of driveway signs. Each school will have one point person (the green school coordinator who will head their schools efforts.) Designation ceremonies will be held at the end of each school year. Participating teachers will receive a letter upon completion of their lessons and a green classroom window cling.