

# GREEN SCHOOL INITIATIVE 2020/21 UPDATES!!

We've changed a few things about how we certify classrooms and schools for the Green School Initiative. We are providing more ways to become a green school! Students can participate in green activities that will count for your certification. With your guidance and encouragement, your students will make a difference in their community throughout the current virtual learning journey. See what's new below!

## *What's the Same:*

Apply Online- Only your school's lead teacher completes the online application to become a Green School: <https://cobbcounty.seamlessdocs.com/f/WatershedGreenSchoolApplication>

5 teachers complete 5 green activities to earn GREEN AWARD level recognition  
10 teachers complete 5 green activities to earn SILVER AWARD level recognition  
15 teachers complete 5 green activities to earn GOLD AWARD level recognition

After completing 5 lessons/activities, teachers must complete the online Activity Log found at: <https://cobbcounty.seamlessdocs.com/f/WatershedGreenActivities> The last day to submit an activity log is the last school day of March 2021. Sorry, no late submissions will be accepted.

Schools will be recognized and awarded with a 2020/21 driveway sign.

## *What's New:*

Moving forward, standard practices such as turning out the lights when leaving a room, not allowing the faucet to drip, and utilizing recycled or upcycling materials for projects will no longer count when implemented by themselves without a lesson, however they will count if they include an accompanying lesson. Keep encouraging your students to incorporate these best-practice habits into their daily routines at home.

To continue on the path of sustainable practices, **Green Learning Projects and Water Saving Activities** are now available for you and your students to participate in at home. Some of these are limited to Water System customers only and require an adult to assist. These include:

### **The Home Water Use Calculator**

If **5 or more students in your class** completes the Water Use Calculator for their home, this **will count as one green lesson**. The online calculator asks simple questions to see how much water they use, how they compare and how they can conserve – it's fun and EASY to complete!

<https://www.home-water-works.org/calculator>

### **Indoor/Outdoor Water Saving Kits**

If **1 or more students your class** orders a FREE Indoor/Outdoor Water Saving Kit for their home (requires adult Cobb Water System customer to apply), and sends you proof they installed it, this **counts as one green lesson**. <https://cobbcounty.seamlessdocs.com/f/WaterSavingKits>

### **Toilet Rebate Program**

If **1 or more students from your classroom** participates in the Toilet Rebate Program for their home (requires adult Cobb Water System customer to apply), and sends you proof they installed it, this **counts as one green lesson**. <https://www.cobbcounty.org/water/customer-service/toilet-rebates>

### **Take the Pick It Up Pals Pledge**

If **5 or more students in your class** registers their pets and pledges to pick up (the poop) after their pets, this **will count as one green lesson**. Pet waste in the environment doesn't go away, it usually ends up being washed into our streams, lakes and rivers. The simple act of picking up pet waste and throwing it into the garbage can help reduce the amount of E. coli bacteria in our environment. Those who take the pledge to pick up after their pet will receive a pet waste bag dispenser or other pet friendly reward. Take the pledge at

<https://www.cobbcounty.org/water/education/water-quality/home/pet-waste>

### **Virtual Programs for Elementary, Middle and High Schools**

As always, the Watershed and Water Efficiency offer standards-based programming where students can attend from their home desk. The difference this year is they are virtual; therefore, our offerings are limited. Check out our menu of programs below or visit

[www.cobbstreams.org/schools](http://www.cobbstreams.org/schools) for complete details. Contact us to schedule your program. **Each program completed counts as one green lesson.**

### **Backyard Bio-Blitz**

Become a community scientist and help discover and document wild organisms across Cobb County. Students will use the iNaturalist mobile app to complete a 1-hour bioblitz within their backyard, neighborhood, or local park. All data collected through iNaturalist will be sent to us and made available for scientists and environmentalists across the globe to use. To participate, students will need to join the Cobb County Biodiversity Project on iNaturalist. For more information, please contact Shaundon Moore at [Shaundon.Moore@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Shaundon.Moore@cobbcounty.org) or 770-419.6431. If **3 or more student from your class submits data**, this **counts as one green lesson**.

### **Water Education School Contests**

Cobb County Water System (CCWS) and [Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority](#) (CCMWA) partnered on the water\$mart program in 2005 and conduct three contests annually to give students at all grade levels an opportunity to learn about water conservation and the value of water.

1. Coloring Book Contest with **elementary** school students – 75% class participation = 1 green lesson
2. Calendar Contest with **middle** school students- 5 students = 1 green lesson
3. Photography Contest with **high** school students- 5 students = 1 green lesson

CCWS, through the Metro North GA Water Planning District, also provides students with the opportunity to participate in two competitive creative programs: [middle school essay contest](#) and [high school video contest](#).

In addition, we encourage students to participate in the Georgia Project WET [Georgia River of Words](#) poetry and art contest and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division [Give Wildlife a Chance poster contest](#).

## **Watershed & Efficiency School Programs Are Now Virtual**

Watershed Stewardship and Water Efficiency Programs are offering the following lessons virtually, for free! All you need to do is register by contacting our educators directly. Our programming during the C19 pandemic is brought to you using the Cisco Webex platform. When you register for a lesson, it can be taught to a class individually or to the entire grade level at one time. Each session has a unique link to login, and students can join the sessions from home. Simple steps to join the 'meeting' are provided with each lesson and our technician will be on hand to assist prior to and during the program.

For more information about our school programs for the 2020-21 school year, visit [www.cobbstreams.org/schools](http://www.cobbstreams.org/schools) Updates will continue to be made accordingly as safety and best procedures for the health of our teachers, students and staff dictates. If you do not see a program you are accustomed to on our current menu of offerings, please let us know. We are willing to adapt and try to do our best to serve you and help you provide programs that meet the learning standards your students need to know.

### **Elementary School Programs**

Contact Chrissy Rubel for all elementary school scheduling and inquiries  
[Christine.rubel@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Christine.rubel@cobbcounty.org) (770)419-6374

#### **3rd Grade: Brooke & Branch Puppet Show**

Brooke is a little girl who goes on a big adventure! Join her as she learns about water quality & biodiversity from the friends she meets along the way. This whole grade, assembly style program emphasizes ecological concepts & vocabulary while demonstrating how we can help the environment.

Standards: **S3L1, S3L2**

***(Elementary School Continued)***

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Georgia Ecosystems & Adaptations**

Explore ecosystems by looking at living and nonliving factors affecting interdependency, determine plant and animal adaptations and limitations, follow energy as it moves through food chains and food webs, and conclude how human impacts can make a difference. We'll look at slides of various ecosystems and plant and animal adaptations, experience what it's like to be an animal trying to survive, and apply knowledge with a live corn snake!

Standards: **S4L1**

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: What Is A Watershed?**

We all live in a watershed - upstream and downstream. During this interactive session, students use a watershed model to demonstrate the impacts of pollution on streams and lakes while learning about local water quality issues. This hands-on program reveals how everyday activities can affect our drinking water and wildlife while encouraging discussion about watershed protection and pollution prevention.

Standards: **S4E3**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Erosion and the Hydrologic Cycle**

Erosion and Weathering - what's the difference? Students visit lab stations to study the causes and effects of erosion, weathering, and sediment deposition while discovering how these forces change the landscape and aquatic habitats. Using a wetland model, students decide how to mitigate the consequences of human impacts and how natural systems are beneficial to the hydrologic cycle.

Standards: **S5P1**

**Middle School Programs**

Contact Shaundon Moore for all middle school scheduling and inquiries

[Shaundon.moore@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Shaundon.moore@cobbcounty.org) (770)419-6431

**What is a Watershed?**

Explore the watershed concept and how topography influences the movement of water across the landscape. Through a hands-on Enviroscape activity, students will discuss water movement across land, identify local non-point pollution sources impacting waterways within the watershed and brainstorm some conservation measures that could be taken to protect the environment.

Standards: **S6E3a; S6E6a; S6E6b**

**Clean Water Lab**

Students will explore the water treatment process as they attempt to purify a sample of polluted river water. Students will employ the engineering design process as they experiment with different chemicals, materials, and techniques to purify their water sample. This activity also helps students better understand the resources that go into treating our water and the importance of water conservation.

Standards: **S6E3a; S6E6a; S6E6b; S8P1a; S8P1b; S8P1c; S8P1d**

***(Middle School Continued)***

**Model Water Tower Competition**

The Model Water Tower Competition is a yearly competition hosted by Cobb County Water System and Marietta Water Authority. It is an interdisciplinary undertaking and requires students to design and build functioning towers with limiting specifications. The competition is designed to provide information to youth about water resource engineering, infrastructure, water treatment, and water conservation in hopes that some will become future water professionals. The contest is for middle schools, and it allows students to learn about the water profession through a fun-filled, hands-on science project.

**High School Programs**

Contact Shaundon Moore for all high school scheduling and inquiries

[Shaundon.moore@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Shaundon.moore@cobbcounty.org) (770)419-6431

**What is a Watershed?**

Explore the watershed concept and how topography influences the movement of water across the landscape. Through a hands-on Enviroscape activity, students will discuss water movement across land, identify local non-point pollution sources impacting waterways within the watershed and brainstorm some conservation measures that could be taken to protect the environment.

Standards: ***SEC1a; SEC1b; SEC1c; SEC5a; SEC5d; SEV4a; SEV4b; SO2a; SO6a; SO6c; SO6d***

**Water & Wastewater 101**

From raw water sources to treating wastewater, there are many systems in place to ensure healthy water, environment, and infrastructure. Water Systems 101 introduces students to an overview of Cobb County's water system, the engineering behind how it functions and career opportunities available to those interested in the field. Led by a Cobb County Water Systems Compliance Supervisor when available.