



# EARTH FLAG APPLICATION



All K-12 Berrien County schools that have not already received the EARTH FLAG Award are eligible to apply. The EARTH FLAG Award allows Berrien County to recognize and reward schools for their efforts in implementing reduce, reuse, recycle, and re-buy activities. Schools must meet 5 EARTH FLAG criteria to earn an EARTH FLAG Award. Use the EARTH FLAG packet to help get ideas to meet the 5 criteria or have your students brainstorm and come up with fun, creative projects on their own.

EARTH FLAG Criteria:

- 1. Participate in at least one school-wide WASTE REDUCTION activity:** any activity performed at school that will reduce waste from being generated at/from the school. Examples: waste-less lunch day program, 1 note per family, two-sided copy school policy, etc.
- 2. Participate in at least one school-wide WASTE REUSE activity:** any activity performed at school that takes “would-be” waste and reuses it. Examples: classroom paper reuse box, book swap, locker/desk clean-out event, etc.
- 3. RECYCLE paper generated at school, at a minimum, and establish commitment for long-term, continued recycling and improvements.** Other items may be recycled at the school as well, please include that information on the application. Long-term commitment could mean a school-wide policy enforcing the recycling program and a commitment from teachers and administration to recycle in the classrooms and offices.
- 4. RE-BUY: Utilize school supplies, building materials, playground equipment, etc that are made from recycled materials.** Your school may already purchase/use items made from recycled materials such as paper & other office supplies, classroom readers or other classroom equipment, toilet tissue, paper towels, recycle bins or garbage cans, playground equipment, carpet, etc.
- 5. EDUCATE school students and staff about how the school recycling program works and the importance of the 4R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, & Re-buy.** Examples : incorporate the 4R's in curriculum, perform an all-school education assembly, make posters for the hallways, announce recycle reminders on the school intercom, etc.

The County Environmental Specialist is available for one-on-one assistance with completing EARTH FLAG criteria.

Return completed EARTH FLAG application (on next page) to the address or email given below. Once the application is approved, your school will be presented with an official Earth Flag to fly at school, an award certificate in a recycled content frame to hang at school, and your school will be recognized in local media and BCISD-wide publications.

Berrien County Resource Recovery  
County Administration Center  
Attention: Jill Adams  
701 Main St.  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone: 269-983-7111 ext. 8234  
E-mail: [jadams@berriencounty.org](mailto:jadams@berriencounty.org)

School: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

EARTH FLAG School Coordinator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain how your school meets each of the 5 EARTH FLAG criteria. Attach extra pages as needed. Include as much concrete information as possible such as amounts of waste reduced or recycled, # of students involved, # of times the activities were done, when (dates) activities occurred, etc.

1. School-wide WASTE REDUCTION activity(s):

2. School-wide WASTE REUSE activity(s):

3. School paper RECYCLING (and other recycling that may occur at the school) and commitment for long-term recycling:

4. BUY RECYCLED:

5. EDUCATION of students and staff: