# Environmental education curriculum

The following curriculum resources are available to educators looking to incorporate lessons and activities on environmental topics.

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| Name, link, and description | Topic area(s) | Resources offered | Cost | Age Group |
| [Adopt-a-Drain](https://adopt-a-drain.org/)  Adopt-a-Drain K-12 supports the Adopt-a-Drain program which asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and debris to reduce water pollution. | * Water quality * Understanding stormwater | * Online K12 learning sources * Teacher kits * Online training * Access to program experts for content, planning and classroom management advice | Free (funded) for most classrooms in Hennepin County.  [If not, inquire about purchasing](https://ms4.adopt-a-drain.org/educators#sign-up) | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [City of Minneapolis Clean City Classroom](https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/clean-city/clean-city-classroom/)  Curriculum for grades K-8 on waste reduction, recycling and composting. Available to schools and organizations located in the City of Minneapolis. | * Litter prevention * Waste reduction and recycling * Composting * Understanding plastics | * Curriculum * Games * Coloring pages | Free (registration required) | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle |
| [Climate Generation curriculum](https://climategen.org/resources/)  Interdisciplinary climate change curriculum resources for grades K to 12. Toolkits are also available to train student groups, including YEA! Toolkit for Trainers (working with high school green teams). | * Climate change * STEM * Art * Social studies * Math * History * Geography * Renewable energy * Green careers * Humanities * Storytelling | * Curriculum guides * Online modules * Educator training and workshops | Free downloads  Print copies available for purchase | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Climate Interactive Climate Action Simulation](https://www.climateinteractive.org/climate-action-simulation/)  Online or in person game ideal for 20-50 people. Runs 2 to 4 hours. | * Climate solutions; energy supply subsidies, energy efficiency, land use changes | * Game materials, training, and simulation. * Resources offered in 19 languages | Free | High school Young adult |
| [Climate Kids from NASA](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/)  Site for students that tells the story of our changing planet through the eyes of the NASA missions studying Earth. | * Weather * Climate * Water * Energy * Plants and animals | * Games * Activities * Crafts * Videos * Articles | Free | Elementary Middle |
| [Commission for Environmental Cooperation](https://www.cec.org/tools/)  Find data on various topics including land change, pollutants, food waste, and more. | * Water * Climate * Food waste * Pollution * Habitat | * Tool kits and guides * Data collections | Free | Middle High school |
| [Do the Rot Thing](https://www.cvswmd.org/uploads/6/1/2/6/6126179/do_the_rot_thing_cvswmd1.pdf)  Composting activities. | * Composting * Understanding ecosystems | * Curriculum guide and activity ideas | Free | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Earth Partnership curriculum](http://www.earthpartnership.wisc.edu/curriculum)  Tools from the University of Wisconsin for teachers to guide students through schoolyard restoration and exploration. | * Understanding ecosystems * Protecting land and water | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas * Webinars and training | Free | Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resources](https://www.epa.gov/students/lesson-plans-teacher-guides-and-online-environmental-resources-educators)  An array of environmental and science-based lesson plans, activities and games. | * Air quality * Climate change * Ecosystems * Energy * Health * Waste * Water | * Curriculum guides and activities * Books and posters * Games * Resources in Spanish | Free | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Food Matters Action Kit](https://www.cec.org/flwy/)  Activities from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to encourage youth (5-25 years old) to reduce food waste | * Preventing food waste | * Curriculum in English, French, and Spanish | Free | Young adult |
| [Green Ninja](https://web.greenninja.org/)  Climate education materials | * Energy * Weather and Climate * Pollution * Scientific Storytelling * Ecosystems | * Games * Videos * Lesson plans | Free | Middle |
| [Hennepin County environmental education activity guides](https://www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation)  Activities on a variety of topics to engage audiences of all ages in learning about and taking action to protect the environment. | * Air, energy, climate change * Recycling * Reducing waste * Reducing food waste * Organics recycling * Protecting land and water * Toxicity and hazardous waste | * Background information * Curriculum and activity guides * Additional activity ideas | Free | Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Jeffers Foundation](https://jeffersfoundation.org/resources-and-programs/)  Lessons for K-5th grade about the natural world that reinforce art, English, math and science academic standards and journal activities. | * Astronomy * Gardening * Phenology * Water * Weather | * Lessons * Activities * Journals | Curriculum is free  Journals are free for workshop participants or available for a fee. | Kindergarten  Elementary |
| [MinnAqua](https://dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/leadersguide/index.html)  Lessons and activities from the Minnesota DNR for grades 3 to 5 focused on learning about aquatic habitats and introducing kids to fishing. | * Understanding ecosystems | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas * Field trip opportunities | Free | Elementary |
| [Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge curriculum](https://fws.gov/refuge/Minnesota_Valley/visit/for_educators/curriculum.html)  Field-tested curriculum developed by refuge staff. | * Understanding ecosystems | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas | Free | Kindergarten Elementary |
| [Pollinator LIVE](https://pollinatorlive.pwnet.org/teacher/index.php)  A collection of pollinator lessons plans and resources. | * Understanding ecosystems * Protecting pollinators | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas * Webinars * Citizen science projects | Free | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Project Flying WILD](https://dnr.state.mn.us/projectwild)  Lessons involve language arts, social science, and math experiences coupled with community outreach and service learning to offer a whole-school approach to environmental education using birds as the focus. | * Understanding ecosystems | * Training and workshops * Curriculum guides and activity ideas | $20 to $50 for training, curriculum resources provided with training | Middle |
| [Project Learning Tree](https://mndnr.gov/plt/activityguide.html)  Uses forests as a “window on the world” to help students in grades Pre-K to 12 excel in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. | * Trees and forests * Understanding ecosystems | * Activity guides * Online and in-person workshops * Online modules * Correlation to MN academic standards * Dakota and Ojibwe lessons * Outdoor, hands-on activities | $40 to $60 for curriculum and/or in-person or online training with CEUs. | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Project WET](https://dnr.state.mn.us/projectwet)  International, interdisciplinary water science and education program for educators. | * Water quality | * Training and workshops * Curriculum guides and activity ideas * Background on environmental topics * Supplemental resources | $65 for training, curriculum resources provided with training.  Free resources also available without training. | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Project WILD](https://dnr.state.mn.us/projectwild)  Interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education that capitalizes on the natural interest students and adults have for wildlife. | * Understanding ecosystems. | * Training and workshops * Curriculum guides and activity ideas | $20 to $50 for training, curriculum resources provided with training | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [The Soil Story](https://kisstheground.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Soil-Story-Curriculum_200212.pdf)  Lessons on the carbon cycle, soil health and the role of compost in building soil. | * Earth systems * Photosynthesis * Healthy soil * Food and Farming | * Curriculum | Free | Middle |
| [Think Earth curriculum](https://thinkearth.org/curriculum)  Behavior-based curriculum that focuses on conserving natural resources, reducing waste, and minimizing pollution. | * Understanding ecosystems * Recycling * Reducing waste * Protecting land and water | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas | Free | Kindergarten Elementary |
| [UMN 4-H Sustainable polymers curriculum](https://www.4hpolymers.org/)  Aims to address environment challenges associated with traditional plastics and engage youth to develop solutions to create a sustainable future. Offers curriculum for grades K-12. | * Plastic waste * Climate * Engineering | [Additional resources](https://www.4hpolymers.org/resources)   * 4-H Green Superheroes * LitteratiED Lesson plans * Polymer science exploration activities * Videos | Free | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [UMN Bee Lab / Monarch Joint Venture Pollinator Education toolkits](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenVfT4LXLrbLuUTlYck7eJ-ruhmMAPyBJ1hPiFPnukgIWl9Q/viewform)  Kits provide science-based pollinator education through games and interactive features and include instructions for education and outreach leaders. | * Pollinators * Food * Understanding ecosystems | * Activity guides * Games * Physical materials available for checkout or purchase | Physical kits available for checkout from libraries and Extension Research and Outreach Centers and for sale at the UMN bookstore.  Free online materials | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Water Action Volunteers](https://wateractionvolunteers.org/resources/coordinator-resources/)  Hands-on activities for grades 6 to 12 to learn about stream health and stream monitoring both within and outside the classroom. | * Understanding ecosystems * Protecting land and water | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas * Monitoring videos | Free | Middle High school |
| [World Wildlife Fund Food Waste toolkits](https://www.worldwildlife.org/teaching-resources/toolkits/be-a-food-waste-warrior)  Curriculum for grades K to 12 to teach the planetary impact of what we eat and what we throw away. | * Food waste prevention | * Curriculum guides and activity ideas * Posters | Free | Kindergarten  Elementary  Middle High school |
| [Young Naturalists stories and teachers guides](https://dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/young-naturalists.html)  A collection of Young Naturalists stories, discussion questions, and activities guides for grades K to 6 from the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine. | * Understanding ecosystems * Climate change and weather | * Readings * Curriculum guides and activity ideas | Free | Kindergarten Elementary |