

Murphysboro Middle School

2023 Project Report



The Project:

the Murphysboro Middle School Eco-Action club hosted an environmental sustainability conservation campaign during the month of April in celebration of Earth Week. Each classroom was encouraged to make a Green Classroom Pledge. In addition, they will establish an outdoor learning lab at the school to educate students on pollinator habitat while planting milkweed and native wildflowers at a local park to aid in pollinator habitat restoration.

Project Focus: Path to Net Zero

Location: Murphysboro, IL

Staff Involved: 2

Students: 36



As they build on our program yearly, it shows the students and the greater community that lasting impactful change is achievable and accessible.



The Process:

The entire student body was involved with taking the classroom pledge and a percentage of the student body will be better educated on their ability to reduce impact. With the conservation efforts, students will be planting trees and native wildflower species, in addition to researching flood mitigation, biodiversity, and climate mitigation. The oak trees they received are from Living Lands and Waters as a part of their Million Trees Project; and the students are planting the trees at a local park in an area that is prone to flooding. Further, Murphysboro used the Journey North citizen science platform for monarch butterflies and the Litterati app to track litter. Citizen science further exemplifies the significance of teamwork while connecting to science within our global community.

The Outcomes:

Murphysboro's Eco-Action Club will continue to plant native wildflowers and milkweed with more raised beds, in an effort to increase educational opportunities for the students to learn about effective restoration techniques to increase native pollinator habitats across Southern Illinois. They also plan to stay in a multi-year collaboration with Living Lands and Waters and participate in the MillionTrees Project by planting more oak trees at Riverside Park. Murphysboro wants their school community to feel empowered to take action in their community in an effort to continue their work in mitigating flood risks, increasing native pollinator habitats, and reducing the impact of climate change.



Green Classroom Pledge

Our class pledges to be environmental stewards by thinking globally and acting locally at our school. We pledge to:

☐ Unplug devices at the end of the day

☐ Collect used pens, markers, and pencils to TerraCycle

☐ Use both sides of the paper before recycling

☐ Use scraps & repurposed items for art projects

☐ Pick up litter around the schoolyard & Litterati app

☐ Environmental lesson and/or film in class

☐ Turn off lights when leaving the classroom

☐ Pick up litter around the playground & Litterati app

