Name(s)_____

School Sustainability Assessment

Directions:

Complete the following assessment by evaluating one focus area at a time. Circle your response to each question. Then, transfer the associated score to the "Sustainability Score Card." The note in parentheses next to each question indicates where to record the score (Example, Waste 1). Add up your totals on the score card to assign a Sustainability rating to your school. You are NOT adding up totals for each focus area.

Each focus area includes two blank lines (*) that are optional. Use these to make any additional observations that you feel contribute to sustainability of the school. Also, the indicators given to you are suggestions and you may assign a different score based on your observations.

Focus Area: Bathrooms

		Indicators of Resource Consumption			
Score Card	Observations	(-1) High Consumption	(0) Minimal Impact	(+1) Sustainable	Score
Waste 1	How do students dry their hands?	Paper Towels	Recycled paper products	Air Dryer	
Water 1	Are there any leaking water fountains or sinks?	Yes		No	
Water 2	What kind of sinks are available?	Manual		Sensor, or timed setting	
Water 3	Do the toilets have a dual flush option (flush liquid waste v. solid waste)?	No		Yes	
Water 4	What type of urinals are available?	Flushing urinals		Waterless urinals	
Energy 1	What type of light bulbs are used?	Incandescent or unknown	CFL	LED	
Energy 2	Does the bathroom have motion-sensor lights?	No		Yes	
Water 5	Does your school have any initiatives that encourage students/teachers to reduce water use?	No		Yes	
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Focus Area: Cafeteria

		Indicators of Resource Consumption			
Score Card	Observations	(-1) High Consumption	(0) Minimal Impact	(+1) Sustainable	Score
Energy 3	Count the number of appliances/electronics (for example: oven, dishwasher, air conditioner, etc.). Number _____ How many are Energy Star products? Energy Star_____	Less than 25% carry the energy star label	25% - 50% of the products carry the energy star label	50% or more carry the energy star label	
Transport. 1	Where does produce served at lunch come from?	Not local/unknown	Locally grown (within 100 miles of school)	School Garden	
Waste 2	What does your school do with food waste?	Garbage		Compost	
Waste 3	What materials make up the cafeteria cups/flatware/plates?	One time use items made of plastic or Styrofoam	One time use items that are biodegradable	They are re-usable items	
Waste 4	What are cafeteria trays made of?	One time use items made of plastic or Styrofoam	One time use items that are biodegradable	They are re-usable items	
Waste 5	Are recycling bins present? If yes, pre-sorted or single-stream recycling?	No	Yes, for one or two categories only	Yes, recycling is collected for three or more categories (paper, plastic, cans, etc.)	
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*					

Focus Area: Classrooms

		Indicators of Resource Consumption			
Score Card	Observations	(-1) High Consumption	(0) Minimal Impact	(+1) Sustainable	Score
Energy 4	Has your school developed programs or clubs addressing the issue of sustainability?	No		Yes	
Energy 5	Where does your school get its energy?	Coal, oil, or natural gas		Biofuel, solar, geothermal, hydropower, or wind	
Energy 6	Count the number of appliances/electronics (for example: computer, air conditioner, television, projector, etc.). Number _____ How many are Energy Star products? Energy Star_____	Less than 25% carry the energy star label	25% - 50% of the products carry the energy star label	50% or more carry the energy star label	
Energy 7	Does your school have any initiatives that encourage students/teachers to reduce energy?	No		Yes	
Waste 6	What type of office paper is used at your school?	Standard office paper or unknown		At a minimum, 30% recycled content paper	
Energy 8	Does your school turn off heating/air conditioning when not in use (at night/weekends)?	No		Yes	
Energy 9	What type of light bulbs are used?	Incandescent or unknown	CFL	LED	
Energy 10	Does your school have a high reflectance roof or green roof (use satellite imagery to determine)?	No or Unknown		Yes	
Waste 7	How are school/classroom newsletters, announcements, field trip information, meeting information, etc. disseminated to parents?	Printed Paper	Some Electronic, Some Paper	Mostly e-mail/website	
Waste 8	Is a recycling bin present? If yes, pre-sorted or single-stream recycling?	(-1) No	Yes, for one or two categories only	Yes, for three or more categories (paper, plastic, cans, etc.)	
*					

Focus Area: Schoolyard/Parking Area

		Indicators of Resource Consumption			
Score Card	Observations	(-1) High Consumption	(0) Minimal Impact	(+1) Sustainable	Score
Transport. 2	How many people are employed at your school (teachers, cafeteria staff, administrators, etc.)? _____ Count the number of vehicles in the parking lot. _____	There is about one car per employee	There are 25% fewer cars in the parking lot than employees	There are 50% fewer cars in the parking lot than employees	
Transport. 3	Is there a vehicle charging station on site?	No		Yes	
Transport. 4	Does your school have bike racks? If yes, are they used?	There are no bike racks	There are bike racks and they are 0% - 50% full of bikes	There are bike racks and they are 50% - 100% full of bikes	
Transport. 5	Are there any rewards or incentives for teachers/students who walk to school, carpool, bicycle, or use public transportation?	No		Yes	
Transport. 6	Does your school have a no-idle policy for school buses and cars?	No	Yes, but there are no signs for reminding drivers	Yes, and there are signs for reminding drivers	
Water 6	How much of the landscaped school area includes rain gardens, pollinator gardens, or water-efficient native plants?	Less than 25%	25% - 50%	More than 50%	
Water 7	Where does landscaping water come from?	Other		Rain Barrel or none used	
Energy 11	Deciduous trees block solar heat in the warmer months and cut air conditioning costs. Is shade from trees utilized to reduce solar heat gain (shading majority of windows and part of the building's roof or they shade pavement in parking lots).	No, there are very few trees present	Trees have been planted but they are not planted in strategic locations	Yes, trees have been planted in strategic locations around the building	
Water 8	How much of the landscaped school grounds area is turf?	More than 50%	25% - 50%	Less than 25%	

School Sustainability Score Card

Directions: On the previous pages, you assessed multiple focus areas around your school. Transfer those scores to this page to determine a score for each area of Energy, Water, Waste, and Transportation.

Use these scores to assign an overall sustainability rating to your school.

The boxes marked (*) are for any additional observations you may have made that were not indicated in the focus areas.

Energy Scores													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	*	*	Total ____

Water Scores										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	*	*	Total ____

Transportation Scores								
1	2	3	4	5	6	*	*	Total ____

Waste Scores										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	*	*	Total ____

Add the four totals together and assign a sustainability score

Energy + Transportation + Water + Waste = Total Score				
Energy	Transportation	Water	Waste	**Total**
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

My School's Sustainability Score:

Heavy Impact			Average Impact		Minimal Impact			Mildly Sustainable		Highly Sustainable		
-33	-27	-21	-16	-10	-5	0	5	10	16	21	27	33

Vocabulary:

Terms	Definitions
Biofuel	Biofuel is a renewable, biodegradable fuel manufactured domestically from vegetable oils, animal fats, or recycled restaurant grease.
CFL	(Compact Fluorescent Lamp) In CFL bulbs an electric current flows between electrodes at each end of a tube containing gases. This reaction produces ultraviolet (UV) light which is transformed into visible light when it strikes a phosphor coating on the inside of the bulb.
Energy Star	Energy Star qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies and use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard appliances.
Geothermal	Geothermal energy is heat derived below the earth's surface which can be harnessed to generate renewable energy. Small underground pathways conduct fluids through the hot rocks, carrying energy in the form of heat through wells to Earth's surface, driving turbines and generating electricity. (from U.S. Dept. Energy)
High Reflectance Roof	Made of light-colored materials, these roofs reflect a majority of sunlight away from the building as compared to traditional black roofs that absorb heat resulting in a reduction in energy needed to cool the building.
Hydropower	Hydropower technologies generate power by using a dam or diversion structure to alter the natural flow of a river or other body of water. (from U.S. Dept. Energy)
Incandescent	Incandescent bulbs produce light using electricity to heat a metal filament until it becomes "white" hot or is said to incandesce. As a result, incandescent bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat.
LED	(Light Emitting Diode) An electrical current passes through semiconductor material, which illuminates the tiny light sources we call LEDs.
Rain Barrel	A water tank used to collect and store rain water runoff, typically from rooftops via rain gutters.
Single Stream Recycling	A system in which all paper fibers, plastics, metals, and other containers are mixed in a collection truck, instead of being sorted by the depositor into separate categories.