

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

In the Classroom:

Find out more about Ontario's biodiversity. Check out the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Biodiversity Website at:

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/index.html>.

- For a Biodiversity Primer go directly to:
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_166803.html
- For an extended, downloadable version of the Primer, visit:
www.biodiversityeducation.ca and click on *Educators in Action*
- For other useful sites for teachers, as well as elementary and high school students, go directly to this annotated list:
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_167647.html

Improve some habitat. Support of up to \$200/class is available from CWF's WILD School program for habitat improvement projects; additional support is forthcoming:

http://www.wildeducation.org/programs/hab_2000/hab2000.asp.

Join a wildlife monitoring program. Access four common monitoring programs which encourage school and other groups to engage in the monitoring of plants, frogs, worms and ice (butterflies coming soon!): www.naturewatch.ca. Or become a pollinator observer with Pollination Canada: <http://www.seeds.ca/proj/poll/>.

Calculate your class footprint. Many footprint calculators are available on-line. Try either:

www.myfootprint.org or

<http://www.ltsotland.org.uk/sustainabledevelopment/findresources/globalfootprint/index.asp>

In your School:

Improve some habitat on school grounds. Support of up to \$500/school is available from CWF's WILD School program (see above). Additional support is available from:

- Evergreen Learning Grounds (expertise, funds, activities and resources):
<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/programs/schools/index.sn>
- Wild About Gardening (habitat projects; native plant encyclopedia):
<http://www.wildaboutgardening.org/en/gardening-for-wildlife>
- Earthvalues Institute/Environment Canada Wildlife Gaining Ground (full of tips and ideas): <http://www.earthvalues.org/wgg/wgg.php>
- School grounds transformation/Cdn Biodiversity Institute (demo sites, how-to materials, networking, advice and training): <http://biodiversityonline.ca/schoolgrounds/home.html>

In addition:

- Don't mow in one small section of the school grounds, and see what happens:
http://www.earthvalues.org/wgg/wgg_04_meadow.php

Improve some habitat off school grounds. Approximately 16,000 volunteers take part in more than 600 local projects every year through the Ontario Stewardship program, including natural resource education, shoreline restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement and forest-related, community-driven initiatives. Contact <http://www.ontariostewardship.org/> to see if your school can become involved.

Explore the option and opportunities of becoming an EcoSchool:
<http://ontarioecoschools.org/>.

Calculate your school's footprint, and figure out ways to reduce it. An excellent approach to school footprint calculation can be found at:
http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/students/activities/eco-footprint_activity8.asp.