

RESOLVE TO BE A MODEL—OF SUSTAINABILITY

Small changes can make a big impact when we each do our part. We know that our students learn by example, so modeling sustainable habits and values is an effective EfS lesson. Here are a handful of simple ways teachers have shared with us that *show* our students sustainable choices.

Food and Drink

- *Refill Don't Landfill*: Use a mug or a reusable cup to enjoy your hot morning beverage and afternoon pick-me-up. Keep yourself hydrated with a reusable water bottle instead of disposable cups.
- *Contain Yourself*: Minimize food packaging waste by using reusable containers.

Paper

- *Be Two-Sided*: Set your printer and copier to “double-sided” whenever possible.
- *Be a TwoUser*: Set up a “To Be Reused” paper bin for all of those one-sided printouts your students don't need to keep.
- *Be CopySmart*: Think before you print! Does it need to be copied? Maybe not.

Energy

- *Help Wanted*: Include monitoring your classroom's energy usage as classroom jobs. Your Energy Managers should make sure the following pieces of equipment are turned off when everyone leaves the room:
 - Lights
 - Computers (even putting computers in “sleep mode” conserves energy)
 - Projectors and Smartboards
- *Eerie Energy*: Avoid consuming “Ghost Energy” by clicking off power strips for the weekend and during vacations.

Waste

- *Make it Easy*: Place your recycling and landfill bins side-by-side.
- *Sizes Send Messages*: Select a smaller bin for the landfill and a larger bin for your recycling and compostables.

Supply Management

- *TeachShare*: Model Interdependence and Community-Building by bringing your extra supplies to a staff meeting or to the faculty room rather than stashing them in the closet.
- *Communal Supplies*: Set up a system for you and your colleagues to share equipment that gets used only once or twice a year
- *PlasticBan*: Many school supplies are now produced out of renewable and recycled materials. When ordering new supplies, find alternatives to plastics whenever possible.