



USA-Taiwan Eco-Campus Partnership Program



Educators! Have you been wanting to bring more of a global perspective into your teaching and sustainability work at your school? Are you interested in developing a partnership with a like school in Taiwan? Would you like to try a new way of teaching using a cool online platform (iEARN) to develop a collaborative project-based learning program with your students? If so, the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program is looking for schools that would be willing to join the third year of our [USA-Taiwan Eco-Campus Partnership Program](#).



How does the Eco-Campus Partnership Program work?

This program is designed and coordinated by the National Wildlife Federation with the support of the U.S. EPA and EPA Taiwan. The Eco-Campus Partnership Program will provide high-quality collaborative educational experiences for students from the U.S. and Taiwan utilizing an online collaborative platform ([iEARN](#)). The focus of the program will be based on environmental or sustainability themes.

"It is an engaging experience. We both found out we had issues with waste in the cafeteria. We have too many kids using plastic water bottles every day, while they had too much packaging with the food being catered. We both came up with ways to reduce our consumption."

Participating U.S. schools will be matched with a corresponding school in Taiwan. Each school will receive an iEARN online platform license, and two teachers from each school will receive training in the use of the iEARN platform. **The training and benefits will include:**

- An iEARN introductory webinar for two teachers/school
- An online introductory webinar training on Eco-Schools USA and the Eco-Campus program
- An in-depth, online iEARN 4 week professional development course for two teachers/school
- Teacher stipends of \$100 USD each for two teachers/school to participate in training
- A \$400 workshop action grant for each school implementing the program
- A school-wide iEARN platform license for one year



The iEARN Collaboration Centre is a safe and secure online platform where teachers and students interact, collaborate on projects, and create and share photos, videos, documents, presentations, and other multimedia resources. Its global network is active in more than 30,000 schools and youth organizations in 140 countries. Their online professional development courses educate teachers and administrators on how to incorporate global collaboration projects into their own curriculum.

iEARN Professional Development Course

- Getting to Know Each Other, the Course, the Platform, and the Eco-Campus Program
- Project-Based Learning
- Preparing for Your Project
- Presenting and Sharing Your Project

The USA Taiwan Eco-Campus Partnership Program is entering into its third year!

During the first two years, 60 schools participated from across the country. Schools were able to share information about each other's schools and cultures and as well participated in developing joint projects through the iEARN online learning platform. Most all of these schools have continued to participate and build upon their first year projects.



[Nanhua Elementary Happy Farm Video](#)

Schools also shared information about each other through “One Day in the Life” video’s that each school produced which allowed students in both countries to better understand what a typical school day was like in each country. You can see this here in the associated videos:

[One Day in the Life Benjamin Franklin Elementary Video](#)

[One Day in the Life Jian-An Elementary Video](#)

“We have communicated with each other by emails, Hangouts, and Teachers Forum on iEARN. So far, we reached a consensus to work on the two Eco-Pathways: Consumption and Waste, and Energy. We will hold a video conference for US-Taiwan students and teachers in March, then, sent emails, and post comments online. Students in both schools are looking forward to getting to know their partners, and sharing their project photos they took last semester.”

This year we are looking for an additional **25** schools to participate!

What are the benefits of participating in the Eco-Campus Partnership Program?

Research shows that *School Partnership* Programs contribute significantly to:

- Increased intercultural understanding within the school community;
- Opportunities to better understand one’s own culture and country;
- Improved competence and confidence in the use of technology by educators involved in the program;
- Creating opportunities for sharing pedagogies and engaging in joint curriculum development;
- Enhancing the reputation of the school, in that the school is seen to be “doing things” on a global level;
- Students will demonstrate improved 21st Century skills and increased motivation, creativity and innovation.

In addition, educators will be empowered in the use of technology and project-based learning to advance global collaborative projects and assist students in multi-cultural activities and in becoming global citizens.

If my school participates in the Eco-Campus Partnership Program, what are we required to do?

- Register as an Eco-School on the [NWF Eco-Schools USA website](#) and fill out your profile page.
- In the first year, you must complete the NWF Eco-Schools USA 7 step framework which will allow you to achieve a Bronze award.
- Fill out the attached application and provide signatures (including school principal).
- Select two teachers for the online training and provide their names and contact information.
- The two teachers selected for participation will be registered on the iEARN website and will participate as a team in the six-week, in-depth training course.
- Learn about the Eco-Schools USA program through the online webinar.
- Working with your Taiwanese counterpart, select a thematic unit based on one of the ten Eco-Schools USA Pathways and plan how to implement the global project.
 - o Envision your project idea(s)
 - o Develop driving questions
 - o Decide on major collaborative final products
 - o Engage local and global audiences.
- Trained educators will engage students with their peers to examine and compare local environmental issues.
- Connect and share progress online through iEARN and Skype sessions.



Proposed U.S.-Taiwan Eco-Campus Focus Areas

The NWF Eco-Schools USA and Taiwan Eco-Campus programs currently focus on these ten “Pathways” to sustainability, or environmental focus areas.

It is proposed that the initial focus of the *Eco-Campus* program centers on these pathways, and then can move into other pathways that might be more culturally or geographically relevant.





**Eco-Campus Partnership Program Application
and Release Form
Year 3**

Contact Information:

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person Name: _____ Title: _____

Contact Email: _____ Phone: _____

Are you already a registered NWF Eco-School? Yes No

Grade Level of School: _____ Number of Students at School: _____

Teacher # 1:

Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Course(s) Taught: _____

Teacher # 2:

Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Course(s) Taught: _____

Term: This program is scheduled to be implemented from Mid-February 2016 through November 2016, with a mid-term report on project status due in June, 2016 and a final report by November 15, 2016.

The parties below acknowledge participation in the U.S.-Taiwan Eco-Campus Partnership Program and the NWF Eco-Schools USA program as of this date: _____.

School Principal:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Teacher #1:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Teacher #2:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Please return completed form with all required signatures to hickey@nwf.org via email or by mail to:

Laura Hickey, Senior Director
NWF/Eco-Schools USA
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Questions? Contact:

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