Bright Green
Royal Oak High School

Royal Oak Schools are doing many things to make their schools environmentally friendly. Oak-Roots is highlighting the many innovative ideas and initiatives from each school.

Bright Green School

Mr. Greening, Principal

Arbor Forest – Located across from the High School along Lexington Boulevard. Each year a new tree is planted as part of an Arbor Day celebration.

Mulch Out – A whole school approach to grounds maintenance and beautification with staff, students, and parents participating. New trees are planted and mulch and compost placed around existing and new plantings. Adding rings of mulch around trees makes them healthier.

Arbor Project – Raising money to purchase trees to replace those on school property that where lost due to Emerald Ash Borer disease.

Bright Green Classrooms

Chuck Gosdzinski, Industrial Arts teacher

Here are some of the "Green" initiatives his classes are involved with:

Electric Cars – created for 15 years

Solar and Wind Power - This year the Engineering Technology class is:

- Studying how to put together photovoltaic panels to collect energy from the sun. The goal is to power up some items around the school. Some ideas include powering all the batteries that are charged on a daily basis, the electronic bulletin board, lights on Raven's field, etc.
- Looking into making a Savonius wind generator.

Recycling Technology - In one unit of the Materials Science and Technology class there is an in-depth unit on the actual process of recycling metals and plastic.

Environmental Science Classes

ROHS currently has 3 sections of **AP Environmental Science**. At the end of the course students are prepared to take the Advanced Placement test, which gives them the opportunity to earn college credit for their work. Below is a description of AP Environmental Science from the College Board:

> The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

ROHS also runs 2 sections of **Environmental Science**. The Environmental Science course uses the Advanced Placement curriculum as a guide, but is designed more as a broad and practical study of environmental topics.

Bright Green Clubs

Jolie Booser, Teacher Sponsor of Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and Math/Chemistry teacher

School Recycling - Busy every week keeping up with the demands of recycling at ROHS (It really is a huge job!).

Sold Recycled Holiday Crafts - At the holiday craft show sold hand-made key chains that used recycled candy bags, raffled a fleece blanket made by Ms. Booser that had a recycle print, sold SEA t-shirts and water bottles.

Ink Cartridge Recycling - Recycle print cartridges and phones through a company to receive cash

Celebrate Earth Hour - Planning a celebration of Earth Hour

Submit Green School Application – Must be submitted and updated each year.

Steve Chisnell, Teacher Sponsor of the Interact Service Club

Courtyard Garden - Development of one of the school courtyards into a vegetable and butterfly garden. The plot was established and a few chilis, tomatoes, and strawberries, were harvested.

Steve Chisnell, Teacher Sponosor of the Inter-Club Council

The Inter Club Council is a new program at ROHS to help coordinate club activities at ROHS.

In the fall of 2010 ROHS held an all-school election where students could write in their idea/initiative/aspirations. Students overwhelming voted for a more energy-efficient school. Early project work to realize that vote has started.

Dave Barnett, Teacher Sponsor of the Environmental Science and AP Environmental Science teacher

Outdoor Classroom Space - Developed one of the school courtyards into an Outdoor Classroom space thanks to a grant from the Royal Oak Foundation for Public Education and work through a former students' Eagle Scout Project. They have built a pond and trail and have benches for class seating. It is approaching its fourth year and is shaping up nicely.

Bright Green PTSA

Janet Norling, President

PTSA helps with funding of green projects. The PTSA Beautification Committee is committed to weeding and cleaning up debris at Royal Oak High School.

Green Aspirations

Energy Conservation **-** Looking at utilities throughout the building to determine where energy and money could be saved, particularly at water resources.
Water Bottle Use **-** A long-term campaign to encourage using reusable vs. one time use water bottles.
Spigots for Bottles **-** Add a spigot to the drinking fountains to make it easier to refill water bottles.
Cafeteria Waste Reduction **-** To donate qualifying (expired, etc) food to an organization like Forgotten Harvest. Looking into composting fruit and vegetable scraps.

State of Michigan Green School – Evergreen Level

Royal Oak High School is an official State of Michigan Green School. They have meet criteria established by the State of Michigan to achieve Evergreen status, the top level of recognition. The following criteria were met.

Recycles paper
Reuses magazines/newsprint
Media Center updates
Energy Savings Program
Ecological spokesperson
Birdhouse habit
MI garden project
Recycles printer cartridges
Recycles batteries
Recycles cell phones
Earth Day celebration
Poster contest
Save rainforest
Recycles plastic
Recycles electronics
Recycles metal/cans
Recycles glass
Teaches Alternative Energy Unit
Community Awareness project
Reduces use of resources

For more Information on what makes a school a Michigan Green School, visit:

http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/MiGreenSchools

Oak-Roots Mission Statement

The purpose of our group is to create a collaboration of *ideas* and *support* to maintain an environmentally friendly school district.

We hope from year-to-year to identify and apply ways to keep our schools and students aware of the positive impact they can have on the environment.

Oak-Roots, as a group, would like to expand the education about the environment and as a community take positive action with a respectful and non-judgmental approach.