

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

Compiled by MNR for the OTF *Going Green* Workshops, July 2008

### 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 MNR's Biodiversity Primer go directly to:  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/index.html>
- 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](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](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](http://www.naturewatch.ca). For other opportunities see [www.citizenscience.ca](http://www.citizenscience.ca).

Calculate your class footprint. Many footprint calculators are available on-line. Try either [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org) or <http://www.ltscotland.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:

- School grounds transformation/Cdn Biodiversity Institute (demo sites, how-to materials, networking, advice and training):  
<http://biodiversityonline.ca/schoolgrounds/home.html>
- Evergreen Learning Grounds (expertise, funds, activities and resources): <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lq/lq.html>

In addition:

- Don't mow in one small section of the school grounds:  
<http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wcc-bio-schools-let-grass-grow.pdf>

- Many fact sheets, e.g. meadows, butterfly gardens, mowing for wildlife, planting trees: <http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-bio-index/wcc-bio-schools-grounds-factsheets.htm>.

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/ontarioStewardship/home/osIndex.asp> to see if your school can become involved.

Explore the option and opportunities of becoming an EcoSchool:

<http://www.yorku.ca/ecoschl/index.asp>.

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](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/students/activities/eco-footprint_activity8.asp).