

**Community Focus Statement A:** Preserve and enhance the unique environmental features of the Lake Arrowhead Communities and surrounding areas.

**Action Statement A.1: Coordinate with the local schools and other organizations to educate youth on the importance of the environment and its protection.**

**A**

**Benchmark:** Partnership established between the National Resource Committee, the Rim of the World Unified School District and the schools that serve the Lake Arrowhead Communities (Lake Arrowhead Elementary School, Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School, Mountain High School, and Rim of the World High School) with organizations such as the State Department of Energy and California Environmental Protection Agency and local groups (Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities) to develop educational programs that focus on protecting the natural environment and how to become better stewards of natural resources.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$500–\$1,500 per school



*Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia, is an eco-school that has taken on energy conservation and waste reduction initiatives. The school came up with a plan to remove one of the four bulbs in each light fixture, which would reduce lighting to the recommended level and at the same time cut the school's electricity costs by around 20 percent. For more information, visit: <https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Case-Studies.aspx>*

The Rim of the World Unified School District and the mountain communities are dedicated to ensuring that each child achieves individual excellence by engaging all children in meaningful programs. These programs would meet the highest educational and ethical standards in a caring and collaborative learning environment. Other organizations, including the Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities group, also promote positive choices and help to revitalize entire neighborhoods. Educational programs that are focused on protecting the natural environment could make a remarkable difference on the impact on the environment. These programs could be interwoven in the environmental science curriculum at local schools or could include tools and ideas to begin green practices at school, home, and work. Types of sustainability activities often include:

- Provide outdoor learning opportunities to explore the nature resources in the community;
- Engage in eco-literacy, viewing the community as an ecosystem and understanding the relationships and processes necessary to support a healthy environment;
- Identify various forms of natural resources and showing how different forms can change over time and climate;
- Cultivate a community garden with native plant species; and
- Promote recycling and composting programs.

- By showcasing sustainability activities at local educational facilities in the area, the Lake Arrowhead communities can lay a solid foundation for the next generation of sustainability leaders.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish National Resource Committee of interested individuals to lead this task.	Champion with ROTWUSD	Month 1	Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities <a href="http://rebuildingtogethermountaincommunities.org/">http://rebuildingtogethermountaincommunities.org/</a>
2. Contact the school communities to engage and organize the schools around environmental education and action.	Natural Resources Committee	Month 1	Rim of the World Unified School District <a href="http://www.rimsd.k12.ca.us/">http://www.rimsd.k12.ca.us/</a>
3. Appoint a green ambassador such as an administrator or teacher to start an education program, lead school efforts, and get students involved in making schools and communities greener.	Committee and Rim of the World Unified School District, Lake Arrowhead Elementary School, Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School, Mountain High School, Rim of the World High School	Months 1–2	Lanier a Green Flag School <a href="https://lanierecoschool.wordpress.com/">https://lanierecoschool.wordpress.com/</a>
4. Brainstorm with students, administrators, and teachers on a list of organizations and government agencies that could serve as resources to the environmental education programs. Reach out to the State’s Department of Energy and the California Environmental Protection Agency, local groups, and other organizations to give students access to the professional expertise of a forester and related occupations and educational opportunities.	Committee with support from Rim of the World Unified School District, Lake Arrowhead Elementary School, Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School, Mountain High School, Rim of the World High School, with support from State’s Department of Energy, California Environmental Protection Agency, other organizations and agencies	Months 2–3	National Wildlife Federation, Eco-Schools USA Case Studies <a href="https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Case-Studies.aspx">https://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Case-Studies.aspx</a>
5. Work to build a community of environmentally conscious citizens through classroom activities, field studies, community gardens, recycling, composting, and ecoliteracy.	Natural Resources Committee with support from Rim of the World Unified School District, Lake Arrowhead Elementary School, Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School, Mountain High School, Rim of the World High School, with support from State’s Department of Energy, California Environmental Protection Agency, other organizations and agencies	Months 2-4	Project Learning Tree, Curriculum Overview <a href="https://www.plt.org/environmental-education-curriculum">https://www.plt.org/environmental-education-curriculum</a>
6. Have green ambassadors and student leads identify and attend leadership training provided by the Alliance for Climate Education and related training opportunities.	Rim of the World Unified School District, Lake Arrowhead Elementary School, Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School, Mountain High School, Rim of the World High School	Months 4–6, ongoing	
7. Continue to get community members engaged, active, and involved in efforts to save energy in their school, homes, businesses, and the broader community.	Natural Resources Committee	Ongoing	