

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

### Did you know?

- Most Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, where most pollutant levels may be two to five times higher and occasionally 100 times higher than outdoors.
- Radon consistently ranks among the top four environmental health risks. Radon is found in outdoor air and in the indoor air of buildings of all kinds. One in 15 U.S. homes contains a high level of radon.
- Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, and is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall.
- Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Radon-induced lung cancer is the seventh cause of all cancer deaths.

### Testing for Radon

Testing is the only way to know how much radon is in your home, school or any other building. You can test your home with a test kit available online or at some home improvement stores. Follow the directions on the packaging for the proper placement of the device and where to send the device after the test to get your reading. You can also hire a professional to conduct the radon test.

### Learn More

For more information, please visit:  
[www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon) and  
[www.epa.gov/iaq/whereyoulive.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/whereyoulive.html)

## Radon Awareness Event

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the United States and the world. It can get trapped inside any type of building — homes, offices, and schools — and results in a high indoor radon level. Unfortunately, because radon is invisible and can only be detected by testing, too few Americans know about it and the risks associated with radon exposure. Through the Radon Awareness Event, you will think of creative ways to raise awareness and teach your peers how to test for radon and prevent exposure.

### Goals of a Radon Awareness Event

- Ultimately save lives from radon-induced lung cancer
- Educate students and others about radon and the risks of exposure
- Reduce exposure to radon on campus and in the community
- Support radon testing at your school's facilities, dorms, administrative, and other buildings, and in the community

### If You're Interested In:

- Educating others about health and environmental concerns
- Learning more about radon, the risks of radon exposure, and risk-reducing actions that help save lives
- Meeting new people on campus and in the community
- Organizing activities and events

**... then a Radon Awareness Event is for you!**

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for a Radon Awareness Event.



### Students Taking Action

At Delaware State University, students leveraged the massively popular Taste Lounge event to bring their radon awareness message to more than 700 students. Taste Lounge is a fair to highlight and promote activities happening within student organizations. They designed an information booth, hosted a jeopardy challenge, and facilitated a question-and-answer style dialogue with students.

At the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), students used an informational booth to raise awareness about the effects of radon exposure. They had over 150 interactions and were able to hand out 100 radon materials. They also leveraged a partnership with campus housing to hand out radon test kits to fellow students and faculty.

A Radon Awareness Event is ideal for students pursuing degrees in biology, chemistry, environmental science, public policy, public health, public affairs, and marketing/communications.

## Checklist for a Radon Awareness Event

Follow the steps below to raise awareness about radon on your campus.

### 1. Research the issue.

Take advantage of the many available resources at [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon) and on the websites listed on the right. Learn all you can about radon, testing, how to build awareness of the risks of exposure to radon, and action steps to reduce risk.

Compare these resources to those available on your campus to identify a way to test and fix for radon, and build new buildings on campus with radon-reducing features.

### 2. Buy radon test kits.

Contact your school administration and facilities team to find out if radon testing has been done at your university. The National Radon Program Services at Kansas State University offers discounted test kits available to purchase online. Test kit order forms can be completed electronically, or printed and mailed. Contact your state radon representative ([www.epa.gov/radon/whereyoulive.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/whereyoulive.html)) for more information on low-cost or free test kits. In addition, test kits may be available for purchase at home improvement stores near your campus.

### 3. Install a test kit at a dormitory or campus housing facility.

Follow the directions on the packaging for the proper placement of the device and where to send the device to get the reading. Further technical assistance for proper placement of the devices is available from the National Radon Program Services at Kansas State University and your state radon representative. Reach out to the school administration and the local private sector for possible partnership opportunities.

### 4. Gain support on campus.

Meet with representatives from your university health clinic, student environmental clubs, student public health clubs, and marketing/communications clubs. Discuss your plans for your radon awareness event and see if they organize any forums at which you could host an informational booth or provide information through their other distribution channels. Ask for volunteers to help during your event and with related activities before or after your event.

### 5. Host an event and encourage others to participate.

Plan an event for fellow students, faculty and other participants to increase awareness about radon and to encourage regular radon testing on your campus. Check out the tips on the right for hosting successful events. Be sure to have available copies of handouts, radon test kit coupons, or any other radon materials to distribute at your event. EPA has many templates and creative resources available on their websites. Take pictures during your event to send to EPA and post photos on the OnCampus Facebook page.

### 6. Fill out your completion form.

Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

## Resources

### Related Websites

[www.epa.gov/iaq/whereyoulive.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/whereyoulive.html)  
[www.epa.gov/radon/nram/](http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/)  
<http://sosradon.org/>  
[www.radonleaders.org](http://www.radonleaders.org)

### National Radon Action Month

January is National Radon Action Month but radon outreach is done year-round. Download the Event Planning Kit for creative outreach ideas, including working with the community and the media, at: [www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/nram/event\\_planning\\_kit.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/nram/event_planning_kit.pdf)

### National Radon Program Services

Kansas State University provides national radon services and projects for EPA including information about how to order Radon Test Kits and Coupons. For more information, visit: [www.sosradon.org](http://www.sosradon.org)

### A Citizen's Guide to Radon

A citizen's guide to radon was developed as a guide to protect yourself and others from radon. View or downloaded the guide at: [www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html)

### Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook ad.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a summary of the event.

### EPA Contact Info

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### EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus](http://www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus)



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