

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?

- Some household products contain chemicals that can harm people, pets, and the environment.
- Certain chemicals can produce dangerous vapors if used in combination.
- It's always safer to use cleaning products in a well-ventilated area--turn on the exhaust fan or open up windows to provide the maximum amount of outdoor air possible.

The DfE Label

When you see the DfE label on a product it means that the DfE scientific review team has screened each ingredient for potential human health and environmental effects and that—based on the best currently available information, EPA predictive models, and expert judgment—the product contains only those ingredients that pose the least concern among chemicals in their class.

Learn More

For more information, please visit:
www.epa.gov/dfc



Design for the Environment Event

The EPA Design for the Environment (DfE) partnership program protects human health and the environment by identifying and labeling high-performing products made with safer chemical ingredients. For more than 15 years, DfE has evaluated chemicals and processes in a range of industries based on EPA's green chemistry expertise and sound scientific principles, reducing the use of chemicals of concern by about 750 million pounds each year. Today, the label can be found on more than 2,500 products and counting, ranging from dishwashing soap and laundry detergents, to athletic field paint! Participants in the DfE Event will encourage other students and campus staff to use safer products and be more aware of the human and environmental health benefits of cleaning effectively with DfE-labeled products.

Goals of the Design for the Environment Event

- Raise awareness about using safer cleaning and other products
- Encourage students to join the DfE campaign for safer products
- Increase the availability of DfE-labeled products in campus and community stores

If You're Interested In:

- Planning fun events to get students interested in selecting safer chemical products
- Meeting new people
- Designing a survey to gauge what your peers know about safer products
- Working with stores to improve the availability of DfE-labeled products

... then the Design for the Environment Event is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for the Design for the Environment Event.



Protecting Your Family and the Environment

When using a cleaning product, it is released into the environment – inside your residence and outdoors. Adults come into contact with cleaning products on a regular basis. Some consumers may prefer cleaning products that are inherently safer, for their families and pets. Others may prefer products that break down quickly and do not threaten the environment. The DfE logo makes it easy to know that the product you are choosing will perform well and is as safe as possible for people and the planet.

The Design for the Environment Event is ideal for students pursuing degrees in communications, chemistry, education, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

Checklist for the Design for the Environment Event

Follow the steps below to participate in a DfE Event on your campus.

- 1. Join the DfE Campaign for Safer Products.**
 Visit www.facebook.com/epadfe to join the DfE campaign for safer products. Look for the DfE label and use safer cleaning products. Showing your commitment will help inspire others to do the same!
- 2. Find out about current sustainability efforts on your campus.**
 Doing your research, like any academic project, should be your first step. Explore what is already being done on your campus by speaking with campus facilities management about your school's sustainability priorities and how your efforts might complement current campus initiatives. Does your school have a sustainability plan in place and are safer products encouraged? Are there safer product options available in campus convenience stores? Gauge your fellow students' awareness and knowledge of safer products by designing a survey or hosting a discussion. Do they care about using safer products? Would they pay a little more to use a product that is safer for their health and the environment?
- 3. Set goals for your campus.**
 Your project will be more successful if you set goals. For example, how many peers can you realistically educate through your project? While educating your peers about safer cleaning is vital, set additional goals to encourage action! For example, how many DfE-labeled products should be found on campus store shelves? How many students will join the DfE campaign?
- 4. Design a plan to achieve your goals.**
 Depending on the availability of green products, your first priority might be bringing DfE-labeled products onto the shelves of campus or community stores, or into the janitorial closets of your campus buildings and dorms. Work with campus convenience stores, nearby off-campus retailers, and the facilities management at your school to stock DfE-labeled products. Once you can be sure that safer, DfE-labeled products are available, use the information you've gathered to encourage other students and campus staff to join in. Work together to promote awareness of the human and environmental health benefits of DfE-labeled products.
- 5. Encourage students to participate and track your results.**
 Host an informational fair or kickoff event and launch a social media campaign. Check out the tips on the right for hosting successful events. Take photos during the event and share them on the OnCampus Facebook page. Track your results by determining how many students joined the DfE campaign and if there was an increase in the number of DfE products sold.
- 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

The DfE Criteria
<p>What makes the DfE Criteria stand above other eco product labels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products are made with the safest possible ingredients. • Product performance is not compromised. • All ingredients are disclosed to the public. • Manufacturers undergo third-party review to verify product ingredients. • Packaging promotes efficiency and resource conservation. • Products are improved by continuous advances in safer green chemistry.

Tips for Successful Events
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find a suitable space. 2. Put up posters to advertise the event. 3. Create a Facebook event. 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 written summary of the event.

EPA Contact Info
<p>Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Bridget Williams (202) 564-8558 williams.bridget@epa.gov</p> <p>Emily Dougherty (202) 564-0912 dougherty.emily@epa.gov</p> <p>EPA OnCampus Team EPAOnCampus@epa.gov</p>

EPA OnCampus Websites
<p>Visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus</p> <p> Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/epaoncampus</p>