



# Green Fundraising Ideas for Schools

School fundraising does not have to involve high-calorie sweets or disposable stuff you don't want or need. We all know how desperate our schools are for funds, but how to raise funds in a green and healthy way? Check out some of our favorite ideas here:

## Food & Gardening

### Community-Supported Student Farmers' Market:

Create a student-led club to harvest fruits and veggies from a school garden and/or accept donations from the community to sell at a Student Farmers' Market. Children learn how to market their produce and can put funds raised back into their school garden or other related programs. Visit [www.studentfarmersmarket.com](http://www.studentfarmersmarket.com) to learn more.

### Farm-raisers:

A great way to support local agriculture and have local agriculture support your school is to sell local produce. Three ways this can work:

- 1) Work with local farmers and sell tickets redeemable on campus on a preselected day or at a farmers' market.
- 2) Partner with a neighborhood farmers' market and sell vouchers to be redeemed at any vendor in the farmers' market. (Note: Not all farmers and farmers' markets are set up to run Farm-raiser programs.)
- 3) On O'ahu? Connect with [healthyharvestdays.com/fundraising](http://healthyharvestdays.com/fundraising).

### Healthy Food Sales:

Schools can sell healthy food products such as fruit, trail mix, spices, or granola bars. Please note that all food sold as school fundraisers must comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines and Hawai'i State DOE Wellness Policy. For more information visit: <http://doe.k12.hi.us/foodservice/toolkit/nutritionstandards/ns2.htm>.

### Local Cookbook:

Schools can collect recipes from students, parents, staff, and prominent community members to create a cookbook featuring locally grown produce and ingredients representing the school's multicultural heritage. Remember to ask that the books be printed on recycled paper.

### Seed Packets & Plant Sale:

Buy seeds in bulk and repackage through a student-run seed company or grow and save seeds from home and school gardens. Download some fundraising tips at [www.seedsofchange.com/healthy-fundraising.aspx](http://www.seedsofchange.com/healthy-fundraising.aspx) and a great Seed School Curriculum at [FedcoSeeds.com](http://FedcoSeeds.com). Seedlings and plants are even more popular, so plan ahead and start seeds at least a month before your sale. Vermicompost sales are also a great way to turn waste into profits! For information on vermicomposting, see [www.kokuaworms.com](http://www.kokuaworms.com).

## Let's Move!

### Walk-a-thons, Bowl-a-thons & Other Sports-Related Activities:

Raise funds and promote physical activity for students. Organize grade, club, and/or family team entries for Fun Runs, Tennis Tournaments, Dance-a-thons, Zumba-thons and more!

## Holidays

### Locally Grown Christmas Trees:

Instead of selling wrapping paper for the holidays, how about selling locally grown Christmas trees? Save Hawai'i from invasive bugs and costly shipping by purchasing locally grown Christmas trees and raise funds for your school! Heleman Farms on O'ahu offers advanced-sale Christmas tree tickets that organizations can use for fundraising. Visit [www.helemanofarms.com](http://www.helemanofarms.com) to learn more.

### Locally Grown Flowers & Plants:

For Valentine's Day, Easter and Mother's Day sell locally grown flowers and plants from your neighborhood nursery or the school garden.



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RESOURCE GUIDE

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

### CFL Bulb Swap:

The Blue Planet Foundation will distribute at least 1,000 energy efficient Compact Florescent Light bulbs (CFLs), free of charge to the community through Hawai'i schools and clubs. Groups will be awarded 40 cents for every old-style bulb replaced by a CFL and properly installed in homes. This fundraising program supports the environment by reducing carbon emissions and educating students and community about energy efficiency and climate change. For more information visit [blueplanetfoundation.org](http://blueplanetfoundation.org) or contact [cflexchanange@blueplanetfoundation.org](mailto:cflexchanange@blueplanetfoundation.org).

### Collect & Send:

**Terracycle** collects a variety of items that would go into the wastestream and either upcycles them and then sends your school cash. [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net). **MilkMun**y gives cash for milk & juice cartons and then upcycles the cartons into wallets. [www.milkmuny.com](http://www.milkmuny.com). **Cartridges for Kids** give you cash for empty ink cartridges and other electronics. [www.cartridgesforkids.com](http://www.cartridgesforkids.com)

### Literature & Media Fair:

Organize a gently-used literature & media fair where families donate the books, magazines, DVD's and CD's they have cleared off their shelves. Pair with a literacy week event or read-aloud campaigns at your school.

### Recycling Drive:

Organize a HI-5 beverage container drive. Recycling companies also purchase used items, such as printer cartridges and cell phones, from schools. For coordination assistance, contact [3Rs@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org](mailto:3Rs@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org).

### Reusable Water Bottles:

Reduce single-use plastics, promote your school AND raise money! Create custom bottles with your school logo or have an art contest. Green Bottle offers sustainable fundraising solutions for schools with no up-front fees, no minimum order and no long-term contract. To learn more about this program and get started, visit [www.greenbottleonline.com/fundraiser](http://www.greenbottleonline.com/fundraiser).

### School Swap Meet:

One person's trash is another's treasure! Teach students the importance of reusing and earn money for your school at a School Swap Meet. Students exchange their gently used things and shop for gently reused books, toys, and clothes. Charge an entry fee or set up a script system to raise money. Give script to those who donate used goods as an incentive to participate. This is a great fundraiser to do in the spring to encourage spring cleaning.

### Totes:

Reusable shopping bags featuring your school's logo can help build school spirit, raise funds, and reduce single-use plastics in our islands. Check out [www.onebagatatime.com](http://www.onebagatatime.com), [www.chicobag.com](http://www.chicobag.com), and [www.reusablebags.com](http://www.reusablebags.com).

### Waste-Free Lunches:

Promote waste-free lunches on campus by hosting a reusable lunchbox fundraiser. Several companies offer programs to schools including. Check out [www.planetbox.com](http://www.planetbox.com), [www.onesmallstep.com](http://www.onesmallstep.com), [www.laptoplunches.com/schools.php](http://www.laptoplunches.com/schools.php).

## Other Ideas:

### Silent Auction:

You can sell anything at a silent auction, from restaurant gift certificates to worm bins. You can go with a wide variety of items, or choose a theme. We suggest an art auction! Request art donations from local artists — or better yet, students — to help expand a program in need. Organize an evening event with a small admission fee where the art pieces are auctioned off. Provide food and drink to top off this fun event!

### Student Creations Craft Fair:

Students create jewelry out of micro-plastic, bottle caps and other found materials or repurpose old t-shirts, jeans and other items and sell at a school craft fair. These items make a great addition to any Holiday Craft Fair!

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