



GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

# MAKE IT GREEN

A GS NORCAL COUNCIL'S OWN INTEREST PROJECT PROGRAM

CADETTES, SENIORS & AMBASSADORS

TO INSPIRE GIRLS TO CREATE REAL WORLD SOLUTIONS  
FOR OUR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING NEEDS



## PURPOSE

Learn about green building design and understand how we can use technology to make buildings more environmentally friendly. After you complete this interest patch you'll have tips for your everyday life as well as knowledge about green design.

## REQUIREMENTS

Choose two activities from the five in each category and one more from a category of your choosing to earn the award. Be sure to answer the reflection and evaluation questions at the end.

An asterisk at the end of the activity indicates when the activity can be completed through the Girls Go Techbridge Make it Green Program Box available at your local council office. As of 2009, Girl Scouts of Northern California, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, and Girl Scouts of West Central Florida have sets of these Girls Go Techbridge Program Boxes.

All members of Girl Scouts of the USA are eligible to earn the Make it Green Interest Project. The Make it Green Interest Project is an official award and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.

## ORDER INFORMATION

To order the Make it Green Interest Project please visit [www.girlscoutsnorcal.org](http://www.girlscoutsnorcal.org) and purchase the items online. Please note that shipping and handling will be added to all online orders.

Members of Girl Scouts of Northern California will not be charged for shipping and handling if they use the GS NorCal Council's Own Order Form and have badges shipped to the closest GS NorCal store in their area for members to pick up.

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# MAKE IT GREEN INTEREST PROJECT FOR CADETTE, SENIOR & AMBASSADOR GIRL SCOUTS

## GSLE OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

1. Gain practical life skills - Girls will learn the true costs of their electricity usage
2. Develop critical thinking - Girls will find secondary uses for old household things that would otherwise be thrown out
3. Seek challenges in the world - Girls will learn what it takes to go above the status quo and create a green home
4. Feel connected to their communities - Girls will learn about careers in the community relating to green building design
5. Are resourceful problem solvers - Girls will use what they have learned about LEED to make model buildings
6. Educate and inspire others to act - Girls will educate younger girls about green buildings in the community

## SET UP AND SUPPLIES (MOST SUPPLIES ARE IN THE MAKE IT GREEN PROGRAM BOX AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL GIRL SCOUT OFFICE)

### *Discover*

1. A recent electric bill, internet, scratch paper, pencils, calculators
2. Internet
3. Pencil, paper, and used household items
4. Internet
5. Internet, supplies needed to implement a water saving tip

### *Connect*

1. Recyclable materials, party favors, good food and friends
2. Computer, pencils, paper, interview questions
3. Interview questions, pencils, paper
4. Pencils, pens, markers, cardstock
5. Internet, mode of transportation

### *Take Action*

1. Internet, shoebox, scissors, X-acto knives, glue guns and glue sticks, felt, construction paper, fabric, rulers, blank labels, markers, popsicle sticks, cotton balls, toothpicks, cups, aluminum foil, and any other material that can be transformed into doll furniture.
2. Computer, pencils, paper, markers, other things to decorate the flyers (optional).
3. Pencils, paper and younger girls
4. Seeds, water, and a willing principal
5. Pots, soil, water, seeds, a sunny window, balcony, porch or patio

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## DISCOVER

1. Did you know that there is a “price to pay” for the electricity that you use on a daily basis? This is demonstrated through both money and air pollution. Using your family’s most recent electric bill and researching online the US average carbon dioxide emissions per KWH, calculate how much your family spends on energy and how much carbon dioxide is released per week.  
\*Make it Green Price We Pay Activity  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls stay focused in the search for information. Be careful to keep this activity informative and positive, not accusatory. Discuss how girls can make positive changes in their lives.*
2. How big is your ecological footprint? We’re not talking about your shoe size; an ecological footprint represents the amount of land it takes to support your living habits. Go online and find an ecological footprint quiz to measure your lifestyle in number of “Earths.” Use this information to identify 3 ways to minimize your impact on the earth.  
\*Make it Green Ecological Footprint Activity  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls stay focused in the search for information. There’s a lot to be had and it might make more sense to only take the larger pollution effects into account rather than every detail. Be careful to keep this activity informative and positive, not accusatory. Discuss how girls can make positive changes in their lives.*
3. There are so many re-uses for items we would usually discard. Brainstorm 10 ways to reuse each of 5 common household items that would normally be thrown away or recycled. When things cannot be re-used, the next step is to try to recycle them. Find out about the recycling guidelines in your community to know what can and cannot be recycled. Make sure to follow these guidelines at home.  
\*Make it Green Ready, Set, Reuse Activity and Make it Green Recycle Toss Activity  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls remain open about brainstorming all possibilities. Discuss the importance of re-use and recycle but don’t forget to also discuss reducing!*
4. Learn about ways to make a house more environmentally friendly. Find out about 5 building materials that are less environmentally harmful than conventional materials. What raw materials are used to make these green building materials? How are they made and what are the benefits to using these alternate building materials?  
\*Make it Green What Green Material am I? Activity; Make it Green Green Construction Mix and Match Activity; Make it Green I Spy Something Green Activity  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls are focused in their research – five different building materials is plenty to explore. Discuss the pros and cons of each “green” material.*
5. Learn about 7 ways to use less water in your everyday life. Use online resources or your local library to learn about ways to conserve water in the bathroom, when gardening, when doing laundry and any other times you can think of. Implement 2 of these conservation techniques.  
\*Make it Green You Can Save the Planet Activity  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Encourage the girls to get creative. How can their bath water their plants? Even the implementation can be simple. Look at your local water supplier or city hall for ideas.*

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## CONNECT

1. Plan a “green” party. Invite friends to exchange books and games with an environmental flare. You can even encourage each attendee to bring a recyclable material to create a piece of art and an old toy to donate to those in need. Get creative! How “green” can your party be?  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Focus the girls on staying sustainable, not just fun and fashionable. Ask why each thing/activity is added to their party.*
2. Use online resources, personal interviews, books, or the resources of a career education center to make a list of local college programs related to green design. Contact several college professors or administrators that work in these programs with questions specific to what they teach and how you can pursue a green design career.  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Girls may need some help finding information and staying focused, but the research should be their own. Discuss the challenges of contacting college professors or administrators. Also discuss their findings.*
3. Invite a role model with a career in green design such as civil engineer, architect, landscape architect, or environmental engineer to discuss with your troop career options in green design. Find out why she chose her career, what classes in high school and college prepared her for this work and what types of activities or hobbies she does outside of her job.  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Use the internet or your local council office to find local computer scientists or material engineers. Work with girls to come up with questions for their interview. Discuss any surprising information they might discover.*
4. Learn about what it takes to be a civil engineer, an architect, and an environmental engineer by researching online or visiting your local library. Use this information to design three “career cards.” Include on these cards what classes you might need to take in high school or college and what you might do on a day-to-day basis if you were in one of these careers.  
\*Make it Green Career Card Activities  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls are using local jobs and that they can find education and requirements for these careers. Discuss how the girls might go about obtaining these jobs for themselves.*
5. Research local environmental clubs (such as the Sierra Club or Audubon Society). Find out when the next prospective member meeting will be and plan to attend. Did you learn anything new? Do you think you might become a long term member?  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls are respectful when they visit. After the trip, discuss the pros and cons of clubs like this. What impressed them the most? What discouraged them the most?*

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## TAKE ACTION

1. Research the requirements for LEED certification and create a small scale model of a green room that incorporates these green requirements. Include and label your room with as many water and energy efficiency strategies and green materials as you can. Give your room a LEED rating and display your model in a local library or school with information on how others can be green at home. Include list of ways to save water and energy in your display.  
*\*Make it Green Boxed Programs*  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls' displays are clear but encourage them to do all the display design on their own. Discuss what makes for an effective display.*
2. How can the way a building is constructed effect the health of the inhabitants/workers? Research such health concerns such as SAD, sick building syndrome, and asbestos contamination. Create an informational flyer to put up around your community in spots such as libraries and workplaces.  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure that the information the girls obtain is accurate and correct according to the latest information. Discuss the implications of some of this information.*
3. Check online to find houses or buildings in your area that are certified green and are open to public tours. Take a tour of the “green” house or community building then lead that tour for a younger group.  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Make sure the girls actually explain the green aspects of the building to the younger girls. Discuss the challenges and surprises that may have come up in leading a tour for younger girls.*
4. Advocate for an edible school yard. A lot of schools across the nation are getting into the local food scene and serving tastier and healthier lunches by growing their own cafeteria food. Research how other schools have gone about it, then talk to your principal and school board to see if this could be a feasible venture for your school.  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Have the girls rehearse their arguments for an edible school yard before they are presented. Research on other schools' edible schoolyards can be found online.*
5. Create and edible landscape in your own backyard (or patio/balcony). The most environmentally friendly food comes from the closest possible source and what's closer that your own backyard? If you don't have a backyard, don't worry, you can still work with a patio, balcony, or even a window sill! Just get some pots, potting soil, and some vegetable or herb seeds. Make sure to follow the directions on the seed packets and give your plants lots of water, sun and love. Soon you'll be enjoying the fruits (or veggies) of your own labor and greening the planet while you're at it.  
*FACILITATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEADERS—Have fun with this! Try using seeds for tomatoes and herbs as these will work best in a pot.*

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## Reflection and Evaluation Questions:

- Why is it extremely difficult to live in the US and have a footprint of less than one earth?
- How might you change your answers to the footprint quiz to reduce your impact?
- How much of an impact do you think the way a house is built can have on its environment? Why?
- Why might green materials be worth their usually higher monetary cost?
- Why does using electrical energy lead to pollution?
- What are some of the careers that would be involved in building a green building?
- If everyone stopped recycling, what do you think would happen?

## Bonus Activities

1. Have fun with recycling. Get out your recycle bins and a bunch of trash then create a relay race to see how quickly you can sort the trash into the appropriate recycling bins. Challenge your friends to go faster and faster, but remember, accuracy counts!

## Field Trips

Any LEED certified building in your area, the local recycling plant or transfer station, a waste-water treatment plant, or a local ecology center.

## Related IPPs

Home Improvement, Build a Better Future, Eco-Action, Planet Power, Architecture and Environmental Design

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