

# GETTING STARTED WITH ENERGY - SUPPORT PACKAGE



## Green Gift Baskets

Schools often sell raffle tickets for gift baskets as a way to raise funds. Does your Green Team have their eye on a water bottle refill station? Does your school need seeds and soil enrichment for your school garden? Does the school need to purchase smart power strips for the computer lab to save energy? Sometimes we simply need money to mobilize green initiatives. Selling tickets for a Green Gift Basket is one option that can not only raise money but also educate folks about your green initiative and the many ways to shrink our ecological footprint.

## Action Plan

**Step 1-** Have a discussion with your class or Green Team about human impacts on the world around us, known as carbon or ecological footprints. Try the [Footprint Calculator](#). You can invite your Green Schools NS Engagement Officer to give a virtual or in-person presentation on the concept of a footprint. For a readymade teaching resource check out the [Green Schools NS Ecological Footprint & WasteLess Slideshow](#).

**Step 2-** You could ask each student to use the Footprint Calculator and then make a [Footprint Pledge](#). The students are then personally making a commitment to reduce their impact. This is a great exercise before making any purchases or requests for donations for the Green Gift Basket Raffle.

**Step 3-** Now it's time to brainstorm ideas of items to include in a Green Gift Basket! The objective is for the winner of the raffle to experience a reduction in their footprint. You will find a list of suggestions here but it is nice to see what the students come up with so try working in a group first to generate new ideas.

**Step 4-** Promote and publicise your raffle! You could share at a community event like a meal or musical show, or on the local radio station. At the school your class or student group can make posters and carry tickets to sell to their family and friends.

**Step 5-** Each student can pick one item that they will contribute, make, or acquire as a donation for the basket. Start collecting! Make sure you give yourself enough time to collect the necessary items. Make the basket beautiful, and sell lots of tickets! Take extra time to explain to ticket buyers about why this fundraising basket is an earth-friendly fundraiser.

**Step 6-** Carry out the draw and celebrate the winner with congratulations for a greener tomorrow! Take lots of photos and share widely to inspire other Green Schools in Nova Scotia with your success.



## Resources

[Green Schools NS Home Energy Checklist Activity](#)

[Green Schools NS Upcycling Pinterest Board](#)

[Green Schools NS Poster Templates](#)

### **Ideas for your Green Gift Basket:**

- LED light bulb
- LED night light
- Rechargeable batteries
- Solar lights
- Smart power bar
- LED Christmas lights
- Reusable lunch containers
- Reusable water bottle
- Cloth napkins
- Eco-friendly cleaning products
- Reusable kitchen scrubby
- Reusable shopping bags or produce bags
- Candle (for a once-a-week candlelit supper)
- Vegetable seeds & plant pot (to grow your own food)
- Bulb & pot (to grow your own flower)
- Gift certificate to the local farmer's market or vendor
- Kid's book on being green
- Guide book on how to be green every day
- Inspiring pictures or quotes to get people out in nature
- If you are crafty, upcycle some items into gifts or decorations
- Efficiency Nova Scotia program information

