



## School Greenhouse Resource Guide

**A handy guide for starting or enhancing a greenhouse project at your school!**

This collection of resources will help you design, build, and maintain a greenhouse for your school, whether you're just starting out or looking to take your project to the next level.

### **Know of a great resource we're missing?**

Share it with the FES N:OW for Net-Zero team: [nowfornetzero@fesplanet.org](mailto:nowfornetzero@fesplanet.org)

### Key Concepts for School Greenhouses

Types of Greenhouses

Plant Selection & Care

Climate Control

Project Planning

Building Permits & Regulations

Maintenance and Upkeep

### Teaching & Reading Resources

#### **Horticulture Educator Association Teaching Resources**

A resource library by Green Careers Canada for teachers and industry.

[View Resource](#)

#### **Greenhouse Manual for Educators**

A classroom resource list and K-8 educational materials including lesson plans and downloadable curriculum guides for every step of a greenhouse project. Please note this resource is U.S.-based.

[View manual](#)





## Greenhouse Builders and Suppliers

[Arctic Acres](#) - Canada-based - Geodesic greenhouses, 4-season, certified installers

[ColdAcre](#) - Whitehorse, YK - Hydroponic shipping container growing systems, education

[Greenhouse in the Snow](#) - Vernon, BC - Low-grade geothermal 4-season greenhouse kits

[Planta Greenhouses](#) - BC/ON - Hoop design kits, polycarbonate

[OMNI Structures](#) - St Catherines, ON - Hoop design kits, polycarbonate

[Greenhouse Megastore](#) - USA (ships to CAN) - Wide variety of engineered and non-engineered greenhouses.

[Growcer](#) - Ottawa, ON - Hydroponic shipping container growing system, onsite training

[GrowHoops](#) - Alberta - Hoop design kits, 6 mil poly, irrigation options included

[Harnois Industries](#) - St. Thomas, QC - Engineered Greenhouses, installation, consulting. Supplied Eel River Bar [First Nation's greenhouse](#)

[Yukon Greenhouse](#) - Inspired the design for Sagkeeng's Greenhouse project!

[Ceres Greenhouse Solutions](#) - Boulder, Colorado - Mostly commercial size greenhouses, plans, design development services, webinars, education)

[GGS Structures](#) - Ontario - Commercial greenhouses and accessories (ventilation, heating, lighting, etc)

[Green Iglu](#) - Red Deer, AB - Non-profit, skilled labour to set up Arctic Acris grow domes or ColdAcre growing systems, training, Ed. materials, community training

[Enactus](#) - University student group that has worked on greenhouse projects with several Indigenous communities, helps with grant writing and project management

[Tea Creek](#) - BC - Indigenous led land based food sovereignty and trades training initiative, free in-person courses





## Tips for Summer Maintenance

### Programs and Support for Managing Gardens and Greenhouses in Summer

#### 1. **Farm to Cafeteria Canada: School Garden Programs**

Many *Farm to Cafeteria Canada* programs include guidance for sustainable garden management, with options for involving local community members during summer months.

[Learn More](#)

#### 2. **Green Thumbs Growing Kids**

Based in Toronto, this program provides support for school and community gardens, often engaging volunteers or seasonal staff to maintain gardens over the summer.

[Explore Program](#)

#### 3. **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Partnerships**

Schools can partner with local CSA programs or urban agriculture organizations to co-manage gardens, with produce shared between the school and the community.

[Search Local CSAs](#)

#### 4. **Local Master Gardener Associations**

*Master Gardener* programs across Canada often have volunteers willing to care for school gardens as part of their community service initiatives. Simply search “master gardener + your province/town” to find support near you!

#### 5. **Volunteer Coordination via School Boards**

Some school boards have volunteer networks or summer school programs where students or staff manage gardens and greenhouses during the summer.



## General Tips for Maintenance

### Summer Greenhouse Committee

Form a group of parents, staff, or community members before summer begins to rotate greenhouse duties.

### Partner with Local Organizations

Collaborate with community groups or local farms for shared care.

### Student Engagement

Involve students through summer camps or after-school programs focused on gardening.

### Automated Systems

Install automated irrigation systems to reduce maintenance needs during summer breaks.

## Customized Local Solutions

Some municipalities or school boards may have unique programs tailored to their region. It's worth checking with local conservation authorities, parks departments, or community centers for additional support!

**Greenhouses grow more than plants - they cultivate knowledge, teamwork, and a commitment to a sustainable future.**