



# PRESS RELEASE



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## SCHOOLS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CARBON NEUTRALITY CAMPAIGN RESULT ANNOUNCED FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY SCHOOL PROJECT CONTEST

- The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Yoo Eunhae), Ministry of Environment (Minister Han Jeong-ae), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Minister Kim Hyunsoo), Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (Minister Moon Sunghyuk), Korea Forest Service (Minister Choi Byeong-am), and Korea Meteorological Administration (Administrator Park Kwangsuk) announced the result of 2022 Carbon Neutrality School Project Contest on March 10 (Thu), 2022.
- This project was initiated last year in line with a memorandum of understanding signed on April 13, 2021, among the six relevant ministries to realize carbon neutrality in schools, and the project is in its second phase this year.
- ※ **Carbon Neutrality-focused School:** Relevant ministries develop programs designed to promote carbon neutrality and to fund establishing infrastructure such as environment-focused classrooms, etc. (e.g. five schools in 2021 → 20 schools in 2022 → 40 schools in 2023)
- Carbon Neutrality Pilot School:** Provincial offices of education run educational programs on carbon neutrality by considering region-specific characteristics (102 schools in 2021 → 238 schools in 2022 → 340 schools in 2023)
- The schools selected as carbon neutrality-focused schools are supported with various programs designed to teach climate change and ecological transformation education. Each ministry is responsible for offering

programs namely, "Dreaming Environment School (Ministry of Environment)", "Schools in Agricultural, Fishing Villages (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs)", Ocean Environment Classroom on the Move (Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries)", "Korean Woodcraft Class (Korea Forest Service), and "Climate Change Science Experiential Content (Korea Meteorological Administration)".

- A total of 92 schools around the country applied for this project, showing the great level of interest in the next generation's realization of carbon neutrality and environment education.
- The screening committee comprised of relevant ministries and experts in environmental education selected a total of 20 schools after its first (Feb. 4-10) and second (Feb. 16-25) phases of screening based on submitted documents, plans and diagnostic indicators.
- In particular, the sense of commitment and willingness of the school members and schools' plans for environmental education and their progress made on that front were all taken into consideration in the screening.

#### **< Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools 2022 >**

School Level	Schools	No. of Schools
Kindergarten	Gimhae Yulha (Gyeongnam), Bitgaon (Gyeonggi)	2
Primary School	Galgot (Gyeonggi), Dosan (Gyeongnam), Masuk (Gyeonggi), Maji (Gwangju), Myungchon (Ulsan), Sanin (Gyeongnam), Sunggu (Chungnam), Shinbang (Gyeongnam), Tanjung (Chungnam)	9
Middle School	Sanjayeon (Gyeongbuk), Shinsung (Gyeonggi), Shintanjin (Daejeon), Yukminkwan (Gangwon), Paju (Gyeonggi)	5
High School	Bomun (Daejeon), Samilgong (Gyeonggi), Hamhyeon (Gyeonggi), Hapcheon Pyungwha (Gyeongnam)	4
Total		20

- Moreover, it's widely acknowledged by educational professionals that in order to actively respond to climate change and its consequences, it's important to teach children about climate crisis and environmental impact at an early stage to raise their understanding of carbon neutrality.
- In 2022, the project not only included primary and secondary school students, but also kindergarteners in a bid to support their climate response capacities and knowledge to exercise carbon neutrality. As a result, two kindergartens have been selected as part of the project.
- Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has developed educational programs on climate and environment in cooperation with provincial offices of education and the Educational Broadcasting System, EBS. In last February, the Ministry uploaded educational videos and learning materials on the Nuri Curriculum website to provide guidance for environmental education on the ground.
- The six relevant ministries plan to organize a preliminary training sessions for the selected schools to elaborate on the objectives of the project, and make workshops, consulting opportunities and trouble-shooting service available to support the overall operation of schools.
- In particular, this year, a carbon footprint monitoring scheme will be operated on a pilot basis to help students check how much greenhouse gases are generated as a result of their school activities with their own eyes to encourage them to curb carbon footprint voluntarily.

**< Example of Carbon Footprint Monitoring Scheme at School >**

Setting School-wide Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals		Education and Activities for Future Generations		Adjustment in School Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how to reduce greenhouse gases, and devise a plan and set up goals</li> <li>• Encourage participation of all students</li> </ul>	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement climate change programs</li> <li>• Initiate greenhouse gas emission reduction activities (e.g. conserving energy, use less paper, walk to school, reduce garbage, and save water, etc.)</li> </ul>	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a garden at the top of the school building, and renovate facilities with heat-preserving materials, etc.</li> <li>• Install solar panels, use geothermal energy, and use eco-friendly vehicles, etc.</li> </ul>

- ☐ Meanwhile, the five schools selected in June 2021 as part of the 2021 project are well on their ways in terms of exercising activities promoting carbon neutrality, including consultation by experts and forming learning communities. They will be invited to a forum in the second half of this year to share their success stories with other schools.
- ☐ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Yoo Eunhae said, "Last year, the Ministry of Education laid a groundwork for carbon neutrality-oriented education by amending the *Framework Act on Education*, and we're now preparing to ensure that ecological transformation education is linked to all school subjects in the 2022 Revised National Curriculum."
- She added "Going forward, we'll keep working closely with relevant ministries and provincial offices of education to make our society carbon neutral, which all begins in schools."