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Learning for a sustainable future: Government announces 40 Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools for 2023

Key Points

- Relevant ministries in coordination to designate and support 40 Carbon Neutrality-focused schools for 2023
- 30 new schools and 10 existing exemplary schools at the front lines for advancing the foundational ground for zero carbon and enhancing their professionalism

- On March 14, 2023, the Ministry of Education (headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho), Ministry of Environment (Minister Han Wha-jin), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Minister Chung Hwang-keun), Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (Minister Cho Seung-hwan), Korea Forest Service (Minister Nam Sung-hyun), and Korea Meteorological Administration (Yoo Hee-dong) designated and announced 40 Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools for 2023.
- Among 40 Carbon Neutrality-focused schools, 30 schools are new this year, whereas 10 schools are from the previous year, taking an exemplary role, and enhancing the knowledge of carbon neutral education.

- In particular, one special education school named Haedeun School in Daejeon is selected as Carbon Neutrality-focused school for the first time. The school aims to teach students with special needs about climate and environmental crisis in steps so they can exercise carbon neutrality.
- In 2021, 6 ministries have entered into a memorandum, supporting schools to focus on carbon reduction. In fact, the Korean government has emphasized the importance of actions taken at the school-level so our next generations can acquire relevant competencies. Since then, the number of Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools has increased from 5 schools in 2021 to 20 schools in 2022, and to 40 schools in 2023.
- This year, various support will be provided to Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools. The Ministry of Education, for example, will offer funding for curriculum and programs and building facilities and spaces to decarbonize schools.
- In addition, relevant ministries will offer multifaceted support based on their wealth of knowledge. △ The Ministry of Environment will operate climate and environment help desk, and support mobile environment classrooms as well as materials and books about environment. △ The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries will support mobile marine classrooms and online courses about national marine environment. △ The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs will provide hands-on activities for schools in agricultural, fishing villages. △ Korea Forest Service will support woodcraft classes as well as forest education and forest experiential education. △ Korea Meteorological Administration will offer climate change science experiential content, national meteorological museum's climate change science education, etc.

< Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools for 2023 >

School-level	Names of Carbon Neutrality-focused Schools & Regions				
	New schools	No.	Lead schools	No.	Total
Kindergarten	Gyung-hee Kindergarten (Seoul), Nong-so Kindergarten (Gyung-buk), Moon-kyung Kindergarten (Gyung-buk), Pyung-taek Goduk Kindergarten (Gyung-gi)	4	Bit-gaon Kindergarten (Gyung-gi)	1	5
Elem	Gyungsan Op-lang Elem (Gyung-buk), Geun-shin Elem (Gyung-buk), Daegu Geunpo Elem (Daegu), Dae-a Elem (Gyung-gi), Bum-suh Elem (Ulsan), Sae-byul Elem (Gwang-ju), Jum-chon Elem (Gyung-buk), Chunan Shinchon Elem (Chung-nam), Chuntae Elem (Jeon-nam), Tong-yong Byunkbang Elem (Gyung-nam)	10	Ma-ji Elem (Gwang-ju), Myung-chon Elem (Ulsan), San-in Elem (Gyung-nam), Sung-gu Elem (Chung-nam)	4	14
Mid	Gwang-tan Middle (Gyung-gi), Daejeon Byun-dong Middle (Daejeon), Dong-a Middle (Gwang-ju), Bucheon Middle (Gyung-gi), Bit0garam Middle (Jeon-nam), Wonju Samyook Middle (Gang-won), Chung-hyun Middle (Gyung-gi), Ham-an Middle (Gyung-nam)	8	San-jayun Middle (Gyung-buk), Paju Middle (Gyung-gi)	2	10
High	Geun-myung High (Gyung-gi), Da-san High (Gyung-gi), Sanma-eul High (Incheon), Sam-gye High (Jeon-nam), Sung-shin High (Ulsan), Song-ho High (Gyung-gi), Ssan-bol High (Chung-nam)	7	Bo-moon High (Daejeon), Song-nae High (Gyung-gi), Hapcheon Pyunghwa High (Gyung-nam)	3	10
Sped	Daejeon Haedeun School (Daejeon)	1	-	-	1
Total	30		10		40

☐ The Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI) as a lead agency will provide consulting services to schools on the operation of carbon neutral curriculum and programs, foster teachers' and staffs' competencies, and create a culture that leads to actions, helping schools become center schools for zero carbon.

○ Carbon Neutrality-focused schools will also closely coordinate through consultations and workshops, and exemplary cases on efforts to decarbonize schools will be derived, in which a book will be published and disseminated to share best practices nationwide.

☐ Director Go Young-jong from the Responsible Public Education Policy

Bureau, Ministry of Education, said, “As citizens of our society, taking actions based on sympathy and cooperation are key to fully realizing zero carbon. Indeed, schools must be at the forefront, teaching our children from young age so they can be aware of crisis in climate and environment, and pursue relevant efforts.”

- He added, “the Ministry of Education will be committed to coordinating with relevant ministries and local offices of education so that climate and environmental education can be fully implemented in schools for a sustainable future.”