

AEA Campus is located outside the city of Sofia and in the foothills of the Lozen Mountain. We are proud of our natural surroundings and are committed to preserve, protect, and replenish them as much as possible. However, we are familiar with the environmental impact a school of our size with students from 3 to 18 years old can have. In the United States only, the 130,000 public, private and charter K-12 schools have an enormous environmental impact with millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions, thousands of tons of garbage and toxic waste as well as constant exposure to unhealthy conditions that affect the ability of the students to learn. At AEA, we believe that being a “green” school by integrating sustainable facilities, healthy operations and environmentally friendly curricula, can result not only in financial and environmental savings but can also benefit the health of both students and staff, as well as improve the academic results. Therefore, we have started a few initiatives hoping to make our school a better place for students and staff but also to educate our students about the importance of sustainable life:

1. Litterless lunch

At AEA we provide healthy “litterless” lunch to our students. At our cafeteria, we do not use plastic single-use lunch containers, water bottles and utensils. Instead, we provide our students with reusable trays, plates and utensils. Moreover, the students who prefer to bring their own meals, use reusable containers. Also, the food leftovers are being sent to a local farm and used for both animal food and compost, while for the rest of the garbage, we have recycling bins.

2. Reusable water bottles

At AEA, we provide our students with drinking water fountains where they can fill in their reusable water bottles. That way, we have limited the use of single-use plastic bottles.

3. Green Curriculum

In order to teach our students about environmental sustainability, we have included the “green” idea into our curriculum. At AEA, we teach our students about recycling by providing bins for various garbage. Moreover, we believe in sustainable art and teach our students to repurpose old materials as tools and art supplies. Besides, we provide our students with the opportunity to learn

how to grow their own food by placing soil containers on our sunny rooftop terrace. We trust that by doing so, our students develop a sustainable behavior through which they become better members of the global community.

#### 4. Electricity

At AEA, we use only electricity as a power source, and thus, we do not contribute to air pollution. In addition, we provide power outlets in our underground parking so that our staff members can drive electric cars. In the meantime, the lights in most of our rooms are activated by opening of the doors which helps us save some energy.

#### 5. Going “paperless”

At AEA, we are attempting to use as little paper as possible. Our students are encouraged to download e-books whenever possible, while we also provide them with the means to submit their assignments electronically through Google Classroom or e-mail. Moreover, we are using electronic storage systems for storing documents in order to avoid printing on paper. In addition, we are using electronic registers and attendance tracking software instead of paper registers.

We trust that while our actions might be local, their effect is global!