

LOCAL LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Greening schools **from the inside and across boundaries**

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Schools are unique

- Schools have high occupancy densities
- Students and teachers spend a large amount of time inside
- Productivity is measurable – Test Scores
- By their design requirements – size, flexible space, exiting requirements – they are unique spaces
- Schools own and maintain the buildings for a long time
- Great potential for life – cycle approach
- Schools are places of learning
- Great potential for school to serve as a teaching tool



Children are unique

- Children are especially vulnerable to health hazards and toxins – growth and development occur at a rapid rate and they absorb and retain more toxins
- Children have higher metabolic rates
- They have **less effective and developing immune systems**; small airways make them more susceptible to air pollutants
- There is no regulation protecting children (like OSHA)
- Exposure to common molds and damp environments can cause childhood respiratory illnesses persistent wheezing shortness of breath bronchitis



California Facts & Data

- The California school system is the largest in the country—one out of eight K-12 students in America goes to school in CA - **1/3 of the nations children**
- Nearly 6.2 million children, teachers, and **administrators—a fifth of California's population—spends their days inside a school building.**
- 1/3 of Californians are housed in relocatables
- 1/3 of California school facilities are in need of major renovation
- California public schools – approximately **\$40 billion** is required to build new schools and to modernize old schools



The Opportunity to See,
Think & Act Differently



- How do we achieve the bold vision to green America's schools?
- Work collaboratively on the local, state and federal levels and among key stakeholders, including teachers, students and parents, to support green schools policies and practices.

The Greening of America's Schools Summit at Sundance



- 3 days sharing best practices
- Explore innovative approaches to advance green schools
- Identify and address barriers
- Develop strategic action plans

Key Objectives

- Understanding the complexity of greening America's schools and the importance of making it happen
- Ensuring participants left with more information, greater motivation and new resources for putting strategic plans for improvement into action
- Making explicit connections between the greening of schools and American education

Students, Mayors, Superintendents, Artist & Sustainable Leaders from across the country





The group at work at the Greening America's Schools Summit, held in late fall 2010 at the Redford Center in Sundance, Utah.

Aliance for Climate Education, AAF, Center for Green Schools at the US Green Building Council, UTC, Earth Day Network, Green Community Schools, National Wildlife Federation, Kids VS Global Warming , NSBA



Ron Bogle, President & CEO of the American Architectural Foundation(AAF)



Anne Bryant, Executive Director of the National School Boards Association (NSBA)



Mayor & Superintendent Steps

- Draft a vision statement for greening your school district
- List three short-term goals (1-4 years)
- List three long-term goals (5-10 years)
- Identify stakeholders who have yet to be engaged
- Note the three most significant challenges you face in implementing your vision
- Identify resources needed to actualize your plan; how will you get those resources?
- Indicate opportunities for public/private partnerships



5 STEP National Action Plan

**To be used as a framework to
develop green initiatives**

1. Connect with the Green School Movement

- **Join the Mayors' Alliance for green Schools**

Provides tools for mayors and a network across the country to promote support

- **Work with you local AIA and USGBC Chapter**

Connect with green building professionals and networks

2. Engage Stakeholders and Raise Awareness

- **Create a Green Schools Task Force**

Formalize efforts to identify barriers and opportunities. Tap advocates, experts, parents, teachers, students – meet regularly

- **Host a Green Schools Summit**

Convene a summit with local leaders in the community

- **Develop a Comprehensive Communications Plan**

Mayors and policy makers develop a communication strategy to respond to the misconception that green schools cost more. Show the value of high performance

3. Build Community Support and Capacity

- **Conduct a Green Schools Challenge**

Engage the community with a contest to raise awareness and show support

- **Seek Funds to hire a Green Schools Fellow**

The Center for Green Schools program

www.centerforgreenschools.org/fellowship

4. Make it Happen:

Benchmarking, Policy & Financing

- Benchmark the energy use of **existing** schools

Pass legislation, school policy, to support doing baseline audits.

- Adopt a green schools resolution

A District resolution helps support efforts and leadership

www.centerforgreenschools.org/pass-a-resolution

- Pass a Green Cleaning Policy

High impact, low cost initiative plays a key role in healthy safe schools

- Advance “Green” School Construction Bonds

Include language that stipulates green or high performance schools

- Consider a “Paid-From-Savings” approach to green existing schools

Funding strategy that leverages savings from system improvements – bundling

5. Celebrate SUCCESS

- **Share your story**

Highlight the successes of your green schools initiative – with the media, state officials and colleagues. Example: SFUSD

www.GreenTheNextGen.com.

- **Conduct tours of local green schools**

Highlight what makes your school green – in the purchasing, recycling, in the education of the students

- **Encourage Innovation**

Find ways to build upon what you are doing and to do it better
Energy Start Energy Smart schools

www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/energysmartschools

Latest Diversion Rates



GREENING THE NEXT GENERATION



THE CENTER
FOR GREEN SCHOOLS

**Center for Green Schools website
on LEED**

<http://www.centerforgreenschools.org/leed-for-schools.aspx>

**Center for Green Schools website
on Fellows**

<http://www.centerforgreenschools.org/main-nav/k-12/community/green-school-fellows/host-a-fellow.aspx>

**Project lists you can download &
sort by state**

<http://www.centerforgreenschools.org/main-nav/k-12/buildings.aspx>



Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Robert Redford

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GreenRibbonSchools





What is New in Green Education?

- U.S. Department of Education has just launched its Green Ribbon Schools, the first comprehensive federal policy for schools related to environment, health and education.
- The award acknowledges the work of schools in reaching high levels of achievement in:
 - Environmental impact and energy efficiency;
 - Healthy environment; and
 - Environmental literacy



Where to Find Additional Information

- More information on Green Ribbon Schools can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools>.
- Follow Green Ribbon Schools on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/EDGreenRibbonSchools>.
- Additional questions can be addressed to: green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov.



Who do I contact to participate?

- The Department's state contacts and information web page is <http://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/>. Here, anyone can select their state and learn more about their State Education Agency (SEA).
- For governors, the National Governors Association's (NGA) director: <http://www.nga.org/cms/home/governors/staff-directories--contact-infor/col2-content/governors-staff-directories/governors-office-addresses-and-w.html;jsessionid=4153C7BDDE38E3295F5FD8EAD9D98AB5>.
- For mayors, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' (USCM) database: <http://www.usmayors.org/meetmayors/mayorsatglance.asp>.