

Contact: Carl Smith

[editor@green-technology.org](mailto:editor@green-technology.org)

Media Materials

Calendar Listing

(88 words)

The eleventh annual Green California Schools and Community Colleges Summit and Exposition comes to the Pasadena Convention Center November 28-29. General session speakers will include Environmental Charter Schools founder Alison Suffet Diaz, School Energy Coalition executive director Anna Fererra and Ten Strands founder Will Parish. Through an Expo with over 100 companies and dozens of educational sessions, the Summit captures the best practices and technologies behind successful green school programs. Keynotes and exhibit hall are free. For more information and to register, go to www.green-technology.org or call 626-577-5700.

Blurb

(206 words)

A New Era for Green California Schools

The eleventh annual Green California Schools and Community Colleges Summit and Exposition comes to the Pasadena Convention Center on November 28-29, 2017. The conference arrives at a time of greatly increased activity in the schools facility sector, accompanied by growing agreement that creating a “green school” involves much more than high performance buildings.

The opening session on November 28 will include a keynote presentation by Environmental Charter Schools founder, Alison Suffet Diaz, and an update on the landmark Prop 39 program for school energy projects from School Energy Coalition executive director, Anna Fererra. A breakfast keynote on November 29 will feature Will Parish, the founder of Ten Strands and the co-chair of California's Environmental Literacy Steering Committee. Through an Expo with over 100 companies offering green products and services, dozens of educational sessions, and special events including a Leadership Awards reception, the Summit offers two days of total immersion in all aspects of green schools. Concurrent education sessions and Pre-Summit training will focus on topics including Prop 39, water conservation, Zero Net Energy buildings, funding sources, environmental literacy and innovative technologies.

Keynotes and exhibit hall are free. For more information and to register, go to www.green-technology.org or call 626-577-5700.

Short Article  
(323 words)

Innovative Facilities, Student Engagement, Environmental Literacy:  
A New Era for Green California Schools

The 2017 Green California Schools Summit and Community Colleges Summit comes to the Pasadena Convention Center November 28-29. The nation's first statewide green schools event, the conference arrives at a time of greatly increased activity in the schools facility sector, accompanied by growing agreement that creating a “green school” involves much more than high performance buildings.

Offering an Expo with over 100 companies offering green products and services, educational sessions, and special events including a Leadership Awards reception, the Summit is a unique annual opportunity for public and private sector stakeholders to connect, share best practices and discover new ideas and technologies.

The opening session on November 28 will include a keynote presentation by Environmental Charter Schools founder [Alison Suffet Diaz](http://ecsonline.org/alison-suffet-diaz/) and an update on the landmark Prop 39 program for school energy projects from School Energy Coalition executive director [Anna Fererra](http://www.m-w-h.com/AnnaFerrera.html). A breakfast keynote on November 29 will feature [Will Parish](https://tenstrands.org/about/team/), the founder of Ten Strands and the co-chair of California's Environmental Literacy Steering Committee.

Dozens of concurrent education sessions at the Summit will help attendees discover the strategies behind successful green school programs. Sessions on energy efficiency, water conservation, Zero Net Energy buildings, environmental literacy, funding sources and much more will be led by green school innovators and experts. Pre-Summit training on November 27 will include a half-day workshop on ZNE school retrofits from New Buildings Institute and a day-long workshop examining what a "systems approach" to green school might include.

On November 28, the Summit’s annual Leadership Awards reception will recognize achievements in categories ranging from green building and energy efficiency to curriculum. For the second year, the awards program will also include recognition of Zero Net Energy projects on California school campuses.

**More Information**  
Registration for the keynotes, Expo and Leadership Awards are free. For more information and to register, go to www.green-technology.org or call 626-577-5700.

Article  
(701 words)

Innovative Facilities, Student Engagement, Environmental Literacy:  
Summit Highlights A New Era for Green California Schools

The [2017 Green California Schools Summit and Community Colleges Summit](http://green-technology.org/gcschools-17/) comes to the Pasadena Convention Center November 28-29. The nation's first statewide green schools event, the conference arrives at a time of greatly increased activity in the schools facility sector, accompanied by growing agreement that creating a “green school” involves much more than high performance buildings.

“Green schools provide a foundation for every student to receive a world-class education in an environment that supports, the mind, body and spirit," said Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and co-chair of the Summit's [advisory board](http://green-technology.org/advisory-board/).

The opening session on November 28 will include a keynote presentation by Environmental Charter Schools founder [Alison Suffet Diaz](http://ecsonline.org/alison-suffet-diaz/) and an update on the landmark Prop 39 program for school energy projects from School Energy Coalition executive director [Anna Fererra](http://www.m-w-h.com/AnnaFerrera.html). A breakfast keynote on November 29 will feature [Will Parish](https://tenstrands.org/about/team/), the founder of Ten Strands and the co-chair of California's Environmental Literacy Steering Committee.

**A New Era**The Summit arrives at a time of greatly increased activity in the school facilities sector, with a focus on school improvements and renovations. In the decade since the first Summit, the “green” requirements of building and energy codes have continued to become more rigorous. Architects and engineers have responded, the goal of [Zero Net Energy](http://newbuildings.org/hubs/zero-net-energy/) buildings is well within sight.

As progress has been made in building efficiency, more attention has gone onto other aspects of school sustainability – student engagement, environmental literacy, connections to jobs in an emerging green economy, garden and lunch programs.

Changing priorities at the federal level have heightened the importance of California leadership in environmental protection. State officials have been vocal regarding their intention not to waiver from their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and schools represent a significant portion of public sector buildings.

"We all have a responsibility to create opportunities, provide jobs, and encourage the next generation to discover solutions to our environmental challenges," said Christine Marez, managing director, energy and sustainability, at Cumming. "At this time of rapid growth in the school facilities sector the need for environmentally literate students, teachers, and workers is greater than ever. It’s never been more important for companies to engage with each other and the education community."

Sessions on energy efficiency, water conservation, Zero Net Energy buildings, environmental literacy, funding sources and much more will be led by green school innovators and experts.

Pre-Summit training on November 27 will include a half-day workshop on ZNE school retrofits from New Buildings Institute. A day-long workshop examining what a "systems approach" to green school might include. The morning agenda for this session will include a tour of award-winning garden projects that the Pasadena Unified School District has implemented to provide learning environments, food for students, curriculum connections and employment opportunities. This will culminate with an extended stay at Muir Ranch, a 3.5-acre biodynamic urban teaching farm and teen jobs program at John Muir High School, and lunch in the garden.

**Leadership Awards**  
At a reception on November 2, the annual Leadership Awards reception will recognize achievements in categories ranging from green building and energy efficiency to curriculum. The awards were established by the Summit’s Advisory Board to honor individuals and school districts on the leading edge of school  
sustainability. For the second year, the reception will also include awards to Zero Net Energy projects on California campuses.

**Advisors and Sponsors**  
The [Advisory Board](http://www.green-technology.org/gcschools16/advisory-board.html) for the conference is chaired by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, State Architect Chet Widom, California Community College Deputy Chancellor Erik Skinner and Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor for Economic Development and Workforce Preparation.

The Premier sponsor for the event is American Modular Systems/Gen7. Additional sponsors include Harley Ellis Devereaux, Assa Abloy, Energy Focus J&J Flooring, Sunworks, Dynamic Water, Cumming, Balfour Beatty and AHBE.

**More Information**  
Registration for the keynotes, Expo and Leadership Awards are free. For more information and to register, go to www.green-technology.org or call 626-577-5700.

For more about the Summit, or to register online, visit [www.green-technology.org](http://www.green-technology.org/). Early registration discounts are available, and additional discounts are available for groups of four or more. For details, call 626.577.5700.

[Download Word Document](http://green-technology.org/gcschools16/images/Schools16-article.docx)