

“BEST OF GREEN SCHOOLS 2011” FACT SHEET

MOMENT FOR THE MOVEMENT – U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

Green Ribbon Schools is the first comprehensive and coordinated federal initiative to focus on the intersection of environment, health and education.

- The Green Ribbon Schools award recognizes schools that save energy, reduce costs, feature environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protect health, foster wellness and offer environmental education to boost academic achievement and community engagement.
- 33 states, Washington D.C. and the Bureau of Indian Education have announced they will nominate schools for this award.
- The program aims to achieve its goals by encouraging coordination between the public (at federal, state and local levels), for-profit and non-profit sectors and among schools.

REGION – SACRAMENTO AREA

Mayor Kevin Johnson has led the charge to bring together mayors and superintendents from across the Northern California region to create a \$100 million revolving loan fund for green school retrofits.

- Johnson has committed to transforming the Sacramento region into the “Emerald Valley,” the greenest region in the country and a hub of clean technology by working with local stakeholders and decision makers to establish sustainability goals, performance measures and implementation strategies.
- Sacramento has signed on to the “Better Buildings Challenge,” a national energy initiative launched by President Obama to catalyze private sector investment in commercial building upgrades and make America’s commercial buildings 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020.
- Sacramento hosts a Center for Green Schools Fellow, who is working to green every school in the district specifically through “green teams,” which include students and teachers and work to reduce energy costs, grow organic fruits and vegetables and show their peers it’s easy to be green.

STATE – OHIO

Ohio has 315 LEED registered and certified projects, including 19 schools registered in 2011, leading the nation with more green school projects underway than any other state.

- Over a 40 year period, Ohio will recoup more than one-third of their total construction expenditure on these schools on energy savings alone.
- Additionally, over that same amount of time, Ohio’s green schools are expected to save \$1.4 billion dollars.

CITY – PHILADELPHIA

The School District of Philadelphia made amazing steps in 2011 toward the greening of all of their 291 public schools.

- As the eighth largest school district in the country, Philadelphia is making major strides along a path of sustainability with help from the Delaware Valley Green Building Council’s Green Schools Circle.

- The district made a commitment that all new construction projects certify to LEED Silver and also has a plan in place to green the city's existing schools.
- This year, Kensington Creative and Performing Arts High School – a Title 1 school where 90 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch— made AYP for the first time after moving into the district's first LEED Platinum facility.

SCHOOL – LAKE MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL (LAKE MILLS, WI)

In March of 2011, Lake Mills Middle School became the first public school in the nation to achieve LEED Platinum certification.

- The renovation and expansion of this existing school was completed on-time and \$700,000 under budget.
- Lake Mills Middle School features a geothermal heating and cooling system, contributing to the school saving \$85,000 annually in energy costs.
- By utilizing a geothermal system, the school has shifted its load from gas to electric. Because the city of Lake Mills owns its own electric company, the energy dollars are staying within the community.

HIGHER ED INNOVATOR – UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

UT Dallas was the winner of this year's Innovation in Green Building Award for their LEED Platinum Student Services Building.

- The Student Services Building was built \$1.1 million under budget, and is designed to serve as a “one-stop-shop” destination for all student service activities, housing 14 departments under one roof.
- The most notable characteristics of the building are the “floating” terra-cotta shades on the building's exterior, which respond to the solar exposure and provide a unique energy efficient shading strategy.
- The building has an annual electrical savings of \$60,000, and 63 percent improvements in operating costs over average buildings on campus. 76 percent of all occupied spaces in the building have natural daylight, and 93 percent have views to the outside.

COLLABORATOR – KENTUCKY'S BIPARTISAN GREEN SCHOOLS MODEL

Kentucky's green schools efforts have been led by a strong bipartisan team – KY Rep. Jim DeCesare (R) and Rep. Mary Lou Marzian (D). Together, they've worked with their colleagues in the Kentucky General Assembly to unanimously adopt resolutions in support of green schools, and have encouraged their peers in other states to work across party lines as well.

- In November 2011, Reps. DeCesare and Marzian hosted a bipartisan group of lawmakers from six states around the region to discuss the common ground around green schools. The event took place in Warren County, KY, at Richardsville Elementary, the nation's first net-zero school, which serves a 78 percent free and reduced lunch population.
- The district, which grows by about 400 students annually, has built six new schools since 2006. Each building at Richardsville has served as an energy efficiency milestone as officials have honed designs to achieve a 77,000-square foot building that operates at 18 kBtus per square foot.
- Since instituting an energy management plan in 2003, Warren County Public Schools have saved more than \$6 million dollars – enough to retain more than 160 teacher positions.

CONVENOR – BOSTON

In September 2011, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino hosted the Research Summit on Childhood Health and School Buildings, which brought together a team of interdisciplinary researchers to explore the connection between school facilities and student health. Boston's public school district is also home to one of the first Center for Green Schools Fellows – a sustainability coordinator who will work within the school district for three years, bringing together faculty, administration, facilities staff, teachers and students to advance whole-district sustainability initiatives.

- Phoebe Beierle, Boston Green Schools Fellow, convened the first Massachusetts Green Schools Coalition meeting in September 2011. Attendees were from leading organizations working to expand green schools, energy and environmental initiatives in K-12 schools across the Commonwealth.
- The City of Boston also boasts 55 higher education projects, including 14 out of the now 50 certified Harvard University projects. Harvard engaged over 200 faculty, students and staff in this process, and set clear goals such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2016.

POLICY MAKER – WASHINGTON D.C., HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

In May 2010, the District of Columbia City Council unanimously passed the Healthy Schools Act of 2010. 2011 updates to the bill included participation in the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program, making D.C. the first "state" to sign up for the voluntary federal program.

- This comprehensive green schools policy builds upon the District's existing LEED Silver requirement and encourages schools to achieve LEED Gold.
- The policy also contains provisions around health, nutrition and time spent outdoors including establishing a goal of 60 minutes of daily physical activity, creating a farm-to-school program, and requiring full disclosure of environmental testing results.

K-12 INNOVATOR – PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN ILLINOIS

A report outlining a plan to green all the schools in Illinois was released in March of 2011 as a result of a public-private partnership commissioned by the Illinois' General Assembly's October 2009 adoption of House Joint Resolution 45.

- Introduced by IL State Rep. Karen May, HJR 45 brings together civic and corporate partners as a pilot project to support the greening of three existing school buildings in Illinois.
- This fall, one of the schools in the pilot, Adlai E. Stevenson High School, became the first public high school in the nation to receive LEED for Existing Buildings certification, in a plaque ceremony featuring IL Congressman Dold (R-IL), co-chair of the Congressional Green Schools Caucus.
- Shortly thereafter, the Illinois House of Representatives adopted a resolution congratulating all those associated with the Adlai E. Stevenson LEED certification process, and noted that "since 2007, the school has saved almost \$1,000,000 in energy costs by adhering to LEED standards."