



2012-2013 Green Schools Innovation Grants for USGBC Chapters

Grant Resources & Frequently Asked Questions

The 2012 Green Schools Innovation Grant for USGBC Chapters is a one-time matching grant of up to \$2,000 for a single chapter or up to \$5,000 for a multi-chapter effort that will fund the advancement of the national green schools movement. The primary goals of the grant are to

- Provide financial support for USGBC Chapter Green Schools Committee activities that collectively advance the mission of USGBC's Center for Green Schools, and
- Catalyze effective and innovative grassroots action that can be shared with the Green Schools Committee network.

The grant seeks to support the ever-growing national green schools movement through resource development and by encouraging community-chapter collaboration. Grant funds will help launch new initiatives or expand and replicate existing programs to increase their impact, scope and community reach. Selected projects will be creative, innovative, measurable and replicable across the USGBC Chapter network. Priority will be given to initiatives that are results-driven on a local, state and/or regional scale.

2012 Green Schools Innovation Grant Application and Guidelines may be downloaded from the USGBC Chapter Resource Center, by visiting usgbc.org/chapters.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have suggestions for in-kind resources or projected outcomes for these projects?

The intent of the Green Schools Innovation Grant is to both bolster support of green schools at the state, local, and regional level, as well as build a toolkit of resources for the entire USGBC Chapter network. As such, the end-products of the Grant, or the in-kind resources that result from the projects, should reflect areas of need within the Chapter network and the green schools movement as a whole. A few examples of grant projects that will be given special consideration by the review committee include,

- Resources or events that target and engage new audiences, in particular parents, students or teachers.
- Coordination of statewide resource centers or clearinghouses
- In-depth research, case studies or "stories from practice" of LEED certified school projects, with an emphasis on those in low-income or rural communities, as well as existing school projects and any projects built "for less" than average costs.
- Materials supporting in-school campaigns in support of green schools, such as signage, messaging, and other resources.
- "How-to" guidance for replicating successful initiatives such as events, trainings, project implementation, etc.
- Resources for successfully engaging charter schools and/or independent schools.
- Demonstrated success with external organizations.



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- Projects that include first-hand testimony of green building users and practitioners.

Do I have to be a USGBC Chapter to apply?

Yes, only individuals directly affiliated with a USGBC Chapter, Affiliate or Organizing Group may apply for the Green Schools Innovation Grant. A letter of support is required from your associated chapter with your application materials.

If awarded a grant, will my chapter definitely get the full amount requested?

Not necessarily. USGBC reserves the right to grant funds *up to the amount requested by the grant applicant*. It is USGBC's goal to fund as many of the strongest projects possible. During the 2010 Grant, USGBC awarded 17 grants, six of which were not of the total amount requested by the applicants.

How many applications can be submitted by each Chapter/group?

There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by each Chapter, but complete application materials must be submitted with each application.

What are the reporting requirements for the grant recipients?

The 2012 Green Schools Innovation Grant recipients must submit mid-cycle and final reports, to include the following information:

- a. A detailed report identifying their use of the awarded funds.
- b. A description of the program including successes, lessons learned, best practices, audiences reached, and the chapters overall performance in relation to the objectives as defined in their application.
- c. Any relevant supporting program materials.

What are the "2011 Green Schools Committee Action Items" referenced in the Application Guidelines Evaluation Criteria?

The [2011 Green Schools Committee Action Items](#) are intended to provide Chapter Green Schools Committees (GSC) with guidance on where to steer their community outreach and engagement efforts, and also provide a structure in which we can all mark the progress of our work together. These actions provide a combination of operational support, internal resource-building and external engagement, and as we have learned from GSC successes, they are proving to be the best way to gain traction and foster the green schools movement. Please visit centerforgreenschools.org/usgbc-chapters/action to download the list of Action Items.

What were the previous winning projects Green Schools Innovation Grant?

2010 Winning Projects (maximum award of \$2,000):

- Central Texas – Balcones Chapter: Adopt-a-School in San Antonio (\$2,000)
- Charlotte Chapter: Video – first LEED project in Mecklenburg (\$2,000)



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- Colorado Chapter: Green school audit contest for students (\$2,000)
- Delaware Valley GBC: Video – Green existing schools in Philadelphia (\$1,500)
- Detroit Chapter: “Green Schools Lunch Box” web-based toolkit for green schools (\$2,000)
- Georgia Chapter: Green cleaning programs for Georgia school districts (\$2,000)
- Green Building Association of Central PA: School recycling competition (\$1,000)
- Iowa Chapter: Video – School audit and resulting projects (\$2,000)
- Kentucky Chapter: Bus tour for State Green Schools Caucus to visit green schools (\$2,000)
- Long Island Chapter: Green schools showcase for Long Island student groups (\$1,000)
- Louisiana Chapter: Video – Voice of students on school facilities (\$2,000)
- Minnesota Chapter: School tours for MN Association of School Administrators conference and other regional groups (\$1,000)
- Nebraska Flatwater Chapter: Green schools state-level summit (\$1,000)
- St. Louis Chapter: Green schools event and resource binder (\$1,500)
- U.S. Caribbean Chapter: Training for phase-one of Green Existing Schools Toolkit, and development of “train the trainer” program (\$2,000)
- Virginia Chapters: Replication of SWVA’s Connect the Dots for Schools program across Virginia Chapters (\$4,000 for four chapter – SWVA, Hampton Road, James River, NCR)
- West Michigan Chapter: Video – Green Schools in Grand Rapids (\$1,000)

2011 Winning Projects (maximum award of \$3,000):

- California Central Coast Chapter: Gateway to Green Schools Initiative (\$3,000)
- Central Ohio Chapter: Ohio Green Schools Compendium (\$3,000)
- Charlotte Region Chapter: Outdoor Classroom: Green Building Systems (\$3,000)
- Delaware Valley Green Building Council: Green Your School Workshop (\$3,000)
- Florida Gulf Coast Chapter: Teaming Up for Green Existing Schools: A Public-Private Partnership (\$2,950)
- Illinois Chapter: Bringing Green to Chicago’s Classrooms (\$3,000)
- Massachusetts Chapter: Plug Load Usage Green Guide (PLUGG) Project (\$2,000)
- Minnesota Chapter: Minnesota Green Schools Coalition: Website Development (\$3,000)
- Orange County Chapter: Healthy Green Schools in a Generation: 2011-12 Green Classroom Project (\$2,500)
- Tennessee Chapters (East TN, Memphis Regional, Middle TN): Green Tennessee Schools: Website & Smartphone Application (\$3,000)
- Vermont Green Building Network: Greening Vermont’s School for Cost Savings and Student Performance (\$3,000)

Contact USGBC

For questions regarding the Green Schools Innovation Grant, or any aspect of the USGBC Chapter Green Schools Committees, please contact:

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