



Letter from
RICK FEDRIZZI



Dear friends and colleagues:

A commitment to the education of our children reflects a society's highest hopes for a prosperous, equitable future; so does green building. As a community, the U.S. Green Building Council's members have long been the driving force behind the movement to give every child a healthy, nurturing green school within this generation. This fall, that movement took the next leap forward with the launch of the Center for Green Schools at USGBC.

As president, CEO and founding chair of USGBC, I've witnessed the profound impact green buildings have on our lives and the innovation they have poured into the marketplace, and I believe no other market speaks more powerfully to the benefits and potential of green buildings than our schools. More importantly, I'm the husband of a Syracuse, N.Y., public school teacher and the father of two, so there are few issues to which I am more committed than providing our children with a world-class education.

The Center for Green Schools at USGBC is helping to engage educators in creating sustainable learning environments for their students and apply solid research to inform leadership—from school boards to college presidents—about the benefits of healthy, high-performing schools. We are working with state and local governments to draft smart, practical policies, and we provide trainings and helpful resources to those who need it most—K-12 schools serving lower-income families, under-resourced institutions and community colleges. The Center serves to convene conversations with key decision makers, collaborate with leading education and environmental associations and create tools and resources that help make green schools possible.

New advocacy tools are also being created and disseminated to support USGBC Student Groups and our nationwide network of more than 1,000 Green School Committee volunteers. We want to inspire innovation that can be replicated and deployed at lightning speed to every school and every college and university campus in this country and beyond.

We hope you will join us as we continue to elevate dialogue, accelerate policy and institute change and innovation toward green schools and campuses for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a period and a horizontal line.

S. Richard Fedrizzi

CEO, President and Founding Chair of the U.S. Green Building Council



“We see an opportunity to educate the new generation of leaders—sustainability natives—who are capable of driving global market transformation toward healthy, high-performance learning environments.”

Rachel Gutter
Director, Center for Green Schools

ACHIEVING GREEN SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE WITHIN THIS GENERATION

THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS



Approximately 25 percent of our national population—more than 60 million people—go to school every day. Many of these students, teachers, staff and administrators

walk into classrooms, libraries, cafeterias and lecture halls that are compromising their ability to learn and teach. At the U.S. Green Building Council, we are committed to connecting these individuals with the green building industry’s innovators, elected officials and members of communities across America so, together, we can realize the benefits of ensuring all of our schools support a prosperous economy, nurture healthy and active young minds, and protect our environment.

This fall, in an effort to equip the people who make the case, the people who make the decisions and the people who get things done when it comes to greening our schools and campuses, USGBC launched the Center for Green Schools. The Center is working toward a bold mission: green schools for everyone within this generation. We believe that all students, from the kindergartner entering the classroom to the Ph.D. student performing research in a lab, should have the opportunity to learn in a green building.

The Center’s foundation is built upon the leadership, partnerships and programming USGBC started more than three years ago through its Green Schools and Green Campus campaigns by convening conversations with key decision makers, collaborating with leading education, green building and environmental associations and creating tools and resources that help make green schools possible.

KEY INITIATIVES AT THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS centerforgreenschools.org

The Coalition for Green Schools

An alliance of the nation’s leading educational and environmental associations, including the American Architectural Foundation, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, National PTA, National School Boards Association and many others, the Coalition is in pursuit of a common mission: **Provide Every Child in America with a Green School.**

The 50 for 50 Green Schools Caucus Initiative

This initiative equips state legislators with the knowledge, tools and networks they need to advance effective state policies that promote the benefits of green schools. The goal of the initiative, established in 2008, is to have **representation in all 50 states**. Currently, there are more than 30 states with caucuses or working groups on green schools.

Mayor’s Alliance for Green Schools

The Alliance unites mayors from major cities and small towns across the country around a common goal: **bringing the benefits of green schools to their local communities.**



JOIN THE COALITION

Is your organization committed to green schools? Learn how to join the Coalition for Green Schools at centerforgreenschools.org/coalition



Apply now to become a 2011-2012 Center for Green Schools Fellow

Professionals can now apply to become a 2011-2012 Center for Green Schools Fellow. The Center for Green Schools Fellowship program is a **new initiative from USGBC** that will ensure school districts have the tools and resources to not only implement improvements to facilities and operations, but to sustain these improvements over the years.



This unique opportunity will provide partner school districts with a fully funded, dedicated expert who will collaborate with district leadership to change the culture of the district from the inside out by providing clear direction, comprehensive training and valuable resources.

Hired for a three-year term, the Fellow will work with the school district to initiate and/or accelerate various initiatives that may have languished for lack of manpower or resources, including: monitoring energy usage and decreasing consumption by educating staff and students, disseminating environmental curriculum resources, establishing indoor air quality policies and practices, revising maintenance and transportation contracts and improving recycling, school garden and composting programs. The sweeping improvements that result from having a single individual organize system-wide sustainability efforts will affect thousands of children, teachers and staff as well as the surrounding community.

Each Fellow will be jointly overseen by the Center for Green Schools and the participating school district. Individual districts will define their own metrics for success, and Fellows will be required to report and document their progress quarterly. The Fellows will regularly communicate with one another to share lessons learned, successes and challenges faced by their respective school districts as they attempt to green schools and educate communities.



Applications

Applications to become a fellow are **due by Feb. 28, 2011**. Visit **centerforgreenschools.org/fellowship**



Fund a Fellow

If your company is interested in funding a fellowship position, visit **centerforgreenschools.org/support**

USGBC Chapter Committees

Across USGBC's national chapter network, more than **60 Green Schools Committees with 1,000 dedicated volunteers** are leading local and regional campaigns to promote healthy, green school buildings. Committees raise community awareness, host green school community events, make presentations, "adopt" local schools, recruit teachers as members and engage the media.

USGBC Students

Representing college- and university-based groups of students from all disciplines who come together to green their campuses, communities and careers, USGBC Students has **53 active groups** and expects to engage more than **250 student groups** nationwide over the next five years.

Congressional Green Schools Caucus

Under bipartisan leadership on Capitol Hill, and with programmatic support from the Center for Green Schools, **the Caucus brings together more than 70 federal legislators to educate and inform Congress** on the enormous impact of greening our nation's schools.

For more information on the resources and initiatives through the Center for Green Schools, visit **centerforgreenschools.org**.



United Technologies

These programs are supported in part through financial contributions, grants and partnerships, including the Center's first Founding Sponsor, United Technologies Corp (UTC). With UTC's support, the Center will help hundreds of schools across the nation become green and more energy efficient.