Green Schools Community Gearing Up for History-Making Day of Service

Published on **7 Feb 2012** | Written by **Emily Riordan** | Posted in **Center for Green Schools**

"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the Center for Green Schools, we are looking forward to how we can continue to transform schools into healthy and safe places to learn, work and play, with a focus on community service. This fall, with your help, we will do so in a way never before attempted by the green building community.

The Green Apple Day of Service – set for Sept. 29, 2012 – is on track to be the largest one-day service project in USGBC's history. The Center for Green Schools is hard at work standing up resources to meet the growing interest in this event. After officially announcing the initiative to USGBC Chapter Green Schools Committees during their December 2011 webcast, we received immediate interest from advocates wanting to organize local events.

Our community is telling us that there are infinite opportunities to transform schools around the world on Sept. 29, but the most commonly asked question is where to begin. The best place to get connected is our website, where we'll be posting project suggestions and how-to's, tools for promoting your local events and a forum for sharing what you will be doing. Our goal is to provide a dynamic space for supporters, organizers and volunteers to connect to events near them, and equip themselves with everything they need to make the inaugural International Green Schools Day of Service a worldwide success.

We'll be relying heavily on the USGBC Chapters, their Green Schools Committees,USGBC Student groups and the rest of our extended family to pull this off. We've worked with our networks to identify more than 100 organizations to collaborate with on outreach and development of local service projects.

There will be plenty of ways for you to get involved with this effort leading up to and on Sept. 29, and great ideas have already been pouring in. Perhaps your community wants to help an elementary school plant or maintain a garden. Or maybe your local school's hallways could use a fresh coat of VOC-free paint, or a local artist wants to paint a mural that shows off a school's commitment to conservation. Whatever you decide to do, be sure to share your idea with us by using the "What Will you Do" button on the website to tell us about it.

As Dr. King said, "Anybody can serve," regardless of education or expertise. I hope you will join us for this exciting new chapter in the Center's work by visiting mygreenapple.org today. Sept. 29 presents a new opportunity to demonstrate the depth and breadth of the green schools movement. What will you do?

Emily Riordan
Community Programs Manager, Center for Green Schools
U.S. Green Building Council

Member employees, USGBC staff

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