

November 2011 Green Schools Committee Digest

Published on **23 Nov 2011**

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Posted in [Center for Green Schools](#)



While many of us are turning the focus of our free time towards holiday preparation, sale-scouting and travel planning, USGBC's volunteers continue to be hard at work on behalf of green schools. To learn more about the recent happenings of Green Schools Committees from coast-to-coast, be sure to check out this video from this summer's Green Schools Committee Symposium.

Chapter Green Schools Committee Chair Sally Zahner and her team were involved in the groundbreaking for what could be Mississippi's first LEED certified school, [Hancock North Central Elementary](#). The school in coastal MS is being built with a combination of funds from the district and FEMA, and in addition to being green, a portion of the new structure will be able to withstand 200 mile-per-hour winds.

Earlier this month, the [USGBC Arkansas Chapter](#) launched the [Arkansas Green Schools Challenge](#). Green Schools Committee Chair Dustin Davis reports that 41 schools across the state have already signed on to participate in the competition that will "empower students and communities to be good stewards of their own environments." Dustin partnered with Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) to kick this off. Just up north, the [USGBC South West Virginia Chapter's](#) GSC Chair Steve Sunderman is busy preparing for his chapter's second year of the [VA Green Schools Challenge](#), coming in 2012.

As a part of their 2011 Green Schools Innovation Grant, the [Delaware Valley Green Building Council](#) hosted a "Green Your School Workshop" last month. More than 60 high school students and their schools' teachers, facility managers and other professionals gathered to learn about how students can save energy and reduce demand in their schools. Students left the free workshop excited to emulate a successful energy management program in the West Chester School District and influence up to 20 percent reductions and costs to for their schools.

[Montana Chapter Green Schools Committee](#) members Wendy Weaver and Dawn Smith co-authored a piece for [Montana Parent Magazine](#), introducing their state to Center initiatives and how they're being implemented in the Treasure State.

[USGBC Orange County](#) (CA) kicked off their Adopt-a-School project last month, which will connect volunteers with nearby Davis Magnet School in Costa Mesa. GSC members will work help to promote the school as a teaching tool, while actively providing a school with a classroom makeover. Congrats to Green Schools Committee Chair Wendy Rogers for [securing some major local partners!](#)

[USGBC Hawaii](#) held their 3rd Annual [Green Schools Symposium](#) at Ewa Makai Middle School, the newest LEED Certified school in the state. GSC Chair Christopher Parker reported that the 230 attendees included educators, construction industry professionals and students. The Center for Green Schools team member [Anisa Baldwin Metzger](#) was on hand to deliver a word of welcome to attendees, and fill them in on the latest with [green existing schools](#).

For more information on Green Schools Committees, or to get in on the action, [find a Committee](#) near you!

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