

Green Schools Committee

The Green Schools Committee engages and informs educational professionals and institutions on how to transform buildings and operations to be sustainable, healthy and efficient. Its vision is Green Schools for everyone within this generation.

The Green Schools Committee is responsible for implementing the USGBC's National Green Schools Initiative by teaching educational professionals, school boards, facility management, parent and teacher organizations, and State education officials about the importance of building and maintaining high-performance schools. As a result of these responsibilities, this Committee works closely with the Chapter's Advocacy Committee.

The Green Schools Committee endeavors to offer tips, funding sources and resources to help schools identify opportunities to "green" their buildings and operations, ranging from habitat restoration to the solid waste they generate and the indoor environment they provide, to the energy, water, and durable and ongoing consumable supplies they consume.

The Green Schools Committee's efforts to assist in the creation of high performance, healthful, durable, affordable and environmentally sound school buildings include involving students in hands-on sustainability programs (e.g., audits and plans for change), which provides real-world environmental education for our next generation of leaders. Committee activity may include hosting/co-hosting green school community events with targeted outreach to school administrators, staff, teachers, parents, local business leaders, and governmental officials.

A broader goal of the Committee is, in conjunction with the Advocacy Committee, to establish a green school caucus in the Florida legislature. Assistance with this goal will be provided by Advocacy and Community at the USGBC National level.

The Chair of the Green Schools Committee at the Chapter level is required to conduct monthly meetings (either in-person or via conference call) with the Green Schools Committee Chairs of the Branches, the purpose of which is to assure that assignments are being carried out in a timely manner; that best-practices and problem-solving occurrences are being shared; and that, overall, the goals and expectations of the Committee are being met. The Executive Director is a prime resource for the Committee, as is the Executive Committee. As with all activities under the Chapter's umbrella, actions of this Committee are subject to resource constraints and Board approval.