

San Diego Green Schools Challenge 2016 - 2017 Program Guide

Why Schools?

Students spend 90 percent of their time indoors. Making sure the school provides a healthy environment is essential.

What is a Green School?

Green Schools are school buildings or facilities that create healthy environments, conducive to learning, while saving energy, water, resources and money, and limiting their impact on the environment and promoting healthy living.

What is the Green Schools Challenge?

The **Green Schools Challenge**, sponsored by the San Diego Green Building Council (SDGBC), is a friendly competition where K-12 schools develop a sustainable or “green” project that they complete throughout the school year and then document the results for a chance to be recognized and win a variety of prizes.

Any public, charter, or private K-12 school located in San Diego County is welcome to participate.

How it Works

1. Green Schools Challenge Kick-off August 2016.
2. Schools form a Green Team. Teams can be a single classroom, a single grade-level or an entire school. Please only one entry per school.
3. Teams develop a no cost or low-cost project idea and submit application by **November 14, 2016 to take the Green Schools Challenge. *Deadline extended**
4. The SDGBC assigns each team with a green mentor to help keep them on track and provide support as needed. The mentor & teacher should work together to ensure that the project makes progress throughout the school year.
5. Teams conduct their projects between November 2016 – March 31, 2017.
6. Teams submit project presentation & documentation in the form of a short video (approximately 5 minutes or less) or presentation (powerpoint, or prezi), and a one-page

project summary worksheet by 11:59 PM PT on March 31, 2017. The teacher or project coordinator is responsible for turning in the final challenge submission.

7. Projects from each school (elementary, middle, and high school) will be judged using an evaluation rubric by green building professionals and local leaders.
8. Winning projects will be announced May 2017.

Types of Projects

Projects should be no or low-cost projects and can range from an energy audit, to signage promoting sustainable practices, saving energy or water, or healthy eating, to a green club, a zero waste lunch program, or building a school garden. The project is up to the individual team to decide what will provide the greatest impact for them.

View Project Ideas online: www.usgbc-sd.org/take-the-challenge

School Responsibilities

The Green Schools Challenge is about empowering schools and students to create healthier, more sustainable learning environments and communities. Our goal is to provide access and resources to increase environmental stewardship, and then to reward teachers and students who have implemented their knowledge and improved their schools.

The school is the foundation for a success project and will be expected to:

- Support a teacher (called the “Project Coordinator”) to act as a liaison & primary contact between the school, the mentor, and USGBC San Diego
- Provide access to classroom / space to conduct meetings for your “Green Team”
- Establish a relationship with your mentor and advise them on how they can best assist with the green project
- Complete a project and submit documentation for the competition

Submitting your project

At the completion of your project, teachers should submit their project for judging and inclusion in the judging process.

Please email the following items to greenschools@usgbc-sd.org with the subject line: Green Schools Challenge – Your School Name or mail to San Diego Green Building Council, 797 J Street, San Diego, CA 92101

- (1) Submission Coversheet
- (2) One - page summary of project goals, observations & results
- (3) Link to maximum 5-minute video or digital (e.g. Powerpoint, Prezi) presentation
- (4) Photo release forms of any students in the presentation

Mentor Responsibilities

Mentors lend their real world expertise to Green Teams, in order to help the schools implement successful green projects.

Mentors are expected to:

- Engage regularly with your “project coordinator” and Green Team
- Provide ideas & guidance for completing a green project
- Provide continuous feedback & discourse with the teacher
- Help obtain resources or materials needed to complete the project
- Assist in collecting the documentation of the green project, throughout the school year
- Assist with data collection; provide expertise in what metrics to use.
- Assist with photography & proof of project successes.
- Respond to requests for updates and information from USGBC San Diego

Mentors may receive credential maintenance hours from GBCI for their participation in the Green Schools Challenge.

Mentor Code of Conduct

1. Mentors should never be alone with students. Ensure that the teacher is always present.
2. Mentors should never offer to give students rides in personal vehicles.
3. Background checks may be conducted, based on the requirements of each school district.

Green Schools Challenge Schedule

School and Mentor Applications Due – November 14, 2016, 12:59 PM PT

Mentors assigned to schools – November 17, 2016

Mentor and Project Coordinator Orientation (online webinar) – TBD

Teams conduct their projects between November 2016 – March 31, 2017

Teams submit project presentation & documentation - by 11:59 PM PT on March 31, 2017

Projects from each school (elementary, middle, and high school) will be judged using a scored judging rubric – April 2017

Winning projects announced – May 2017

Additional Resources

Online resources including the presentation submission guidelines, photo release forms, project ideas, participation forms, and other materials can be found on the chapter website:
www.usgbc-sd.org/greenschools-challenge

Official Rules

Official Rules can be found online at: <http://usgbc-sd.org/Green-Schools-Challenge-OfficialRules-16-17>