



Calling all Deep Thinkers!

We currently are recruiting guest bloggers to submit posts for inclusion on the Green Schools National Network website.

Whether you're a student, teacher, administrator, or other supporter of the green schools movement, we encourage you to share your thoughts, best practices, experience and expertise with our various audiences.

Guest blogs should address one of the following themes/subthemes, based on the core practices found in the GSNN GreenPrint Document. We will spotlight one theme each week on a rotating basis.

Our themes (and subthemes, in bullets):

Core Practice 1: Curriculum that Advances Knowledge and Skills for a Sustainable Future

- Environmental literacy & education for sustainability, as defined by local, state & national standards, is integrated in all grades;
- All teachers use inquiry, problem, and project-based pedagogy to facilitate learning about global systems and relationships;
- Outdoor experiences and fieldwork support learning about complex systems, connecting humans with other humans and all aspects of the natural world;
- Content areas are integrated by using environmental and sustainability topics as the common theme; and
- STEM education supports a sustainable workforce for a green economy.

Core Practice 2: Stewardship and Service Learning

- Real world service learning projects explore solutions to local, regional, global problems and issues and teach 21st century skills;
- Stewardship projects allow the student to take responsibility for their own school grounds;
- Place-based projects and practices that include, but are not limited to, school farms, forests, and gardens;
- All students are given the opportunity to participate in land restoration projects, such as native eco-system or brown fields remediation; and
- Teacher and leaders provide opportunities for students to make local and global connections.

Core Practice 3: Sustainable Facilities Design and Operations

- Green facilities design and construction retrofit for existing buildings as defined by state, regional or national certification programs;
- Management practices, operations, and maintenance that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improve indoor air quality and lighting, decrease waste stream and improve water conservation;
- Zero-waste or reduced-waste cafeterias;
- Use of non-toxic and eco-friendly supplies and materials; and
- Facility managers and teacher work together to use buildings, management practices, materials and supplies purchasing to teach about sustainability.

Core Practice 4: Health and Well Being

- Healthy eating programs that utilize locally sourced and whole foods;
- Curriculum and support for physical fitness and healthy lifestyle choices;
- Fitness and recreation programs that include lifetime outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, biking, skiing, and camping;
- Healthy air quality practices and lighting that reduce illness and absenteeism; and
- Healthy and thoughtful relationships with others that support character development.

Core Practice 5: Strong Partnerships and Networks

- Long-term partnerships that support systemic change and ecological balance within the school and community;
- Strong alliances among groups of diverse cultural heritage to promote the greening of schools in all communities;
- Participation in the development of state and national green school networks;
- Participation in research and evaluation of student learning and best green school practices; and
- Collaboration with research-based curriculum and assessment models.

How to Submit a Blog Post

- Your post should be between 250-750 words.
- Include a suggested headline, if possible (short 'n snappy is always a plus!).
- Provide a brief bio (1-2 sentences) and a head shot (thumbnail).
- Please suggest accompanying images, or provide one, if possible (be sure to provide us with the source in the event permission is required).
- Your blog post can include live links to related/supporting material.
- Include your name, title, organization, contact email and telephone number (to contact you during the editing process, if needed).
- Email your draft post to **Carmelle@greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org**

We will review all submitted posts and edit as needed. You will be contacted when the post is scheduled to appear.