



WINNER  
Green  
Education  
Outreach

Sustainable  
South Florida Awards

# Green Schools Challenge 2011-2012 Application

Completed applications are due by September 23, 2011

Dream in Green's Green Schools Challenge involves whole schools in reducing their school's energy consumption, water usage and waste output. By focusing on measurable results, the Green Schools Challenge provides a holistic framework to empower students to create sustainable solutions.

## The goals of the Green School Challenge are to:

- Provide immediate energy savings in schools through cooperative, school-wide changes in behavior, operations and maintenance procedures, and longer term savings by encouraging school retrofits;
- Educate students, teachers, administrators, facilities staff, and the whole school community about energy efficiency and its links to the environment; and
- Strengthen student academic learning using hands-on, project-based instruction and tools.

The Green Schools Challenge will provide motivation and tools for schools to conserve resources and will also help students translate their energy efficiency experience in schools to their homes.

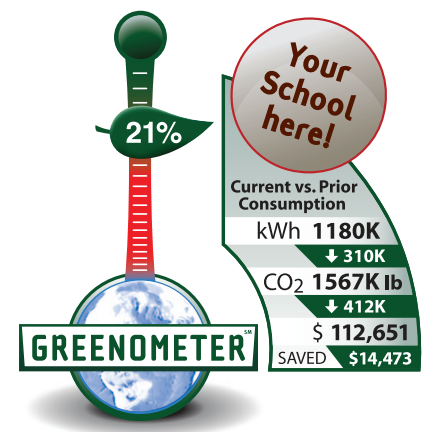
## By participating in the program, your school agrees to:

1. Identify a School Team to champion and implement program activities. Your school can participate with three active team members, including at least one teacher and one custodian. Other team members can be additional teachers, administrators, students, parents, or community volunteers.
2. Active participation includes attendance at professional development workshops, mid-year meetings, and end-of-year ceremony. Teachers will integrate energy into instruction and work with students and school staff to save energy. Custodial staff will take energy saving actions where possible and point out relevant savings opportunities to team members.
3. Adapt the Green Schools Challenge program to your school's priorities and curriculum. Making the program your own will help energy efficiency become a regular part of your school's culture and will likely result in greater long-term savings.
4. Maintain high visibility for the program to encourage participation. The program is most successful when the whole school is involved. An effective strategy is to communicate school-site energy use and your commitment to becoming a more energy-efficient school (for example, a kick-off assembly, posters, etc.).

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## What are the Benefits?

1. Avoided energy, water & waste management costs. **Schools on average spend more on energy alone than on computers and textbooks combined.** Reducing energy use is an effective way to help cash-strapped schools funnel more money into the classroom.
2. Student learning & leadership development. Energy efficiency and protecting the environment are hands-on, real world topics that energize students and add meaning and excitement to academic learning. Past student participants have made presentations to their school administration on energy retrofit recommendations, authored pieces for the local newspaper, and conducted energy/environmental audits for local small businesses, among other activities.
3. Integration with curriculum. The program brings a wealth of top-quality resources to schools, such as lesson plans, local speakers and energy/environmental auditing kits and checklists. The Green Schools lessons are interdisciplinary, integrate into a teacher's regular curriculum, and are aligned with state curriculum standards in science, math and language arts.
4. Improved school staff relations and school morale – An often unexpected benefit of the program is the working partnership created between teachers and school facilities staffs as these two different groups work together in a team to implement activities. Reducing energy costs and protecting the environment are causes that the whole school community can rally around, and when students conduct research and advocate for cost-effective energy, water and waste improvements, everyone wins.
5. Teachers will receive TEC credits.



## Guidelines:

1. This is a competitive application. Selections will be made based on commitment from principal, teachers, facilities staff and geographic diversity. At a minimum, Green School Challenge participants will be expected to participate in 1.5 training/planning days and submit documentation of their projects.
2. Participating schools agree to provide their energy and recycling data to Dream in Green in order for us to measure the reduction of the school's carbon footprint. Dream in Green has an agreement with MDCPS to receive this information.
3. The signature of the school principal is required.
4. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
5. Completed applications are due by August 20, 2010.

## Questions?

Please contact Lesmarie Nicholson, GSC Coordinator, Dream in Green, at:  
lesmarie@dreamingreen.org or 305-576-3500.



# Green Schools Challenge School Application

**YES!** My school is ready to save energy and money in the 2011-2012 Green School Challenge

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Principal's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our Green Team members:** (Teams are typically made up of 2-3 teachers, a custodial staff person, and/or an administrator)

Name	✳	Position	Contact

\*Please put a star by the name of teacher champion who you would like to be the main contact, and provide this person's phone number and/or email (whichever is best way to contact)

**Why we want to be a green school:** Briefly describe why the Green Schools Program is right for you.

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## Principal's approval:

By signing here I am indicating that I have seen this Green Schools Proposal and am in support of this team of teachers, administrators & other staff implementing it.

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax completed application to Dream in Green at 786-472-4128 or email to [Lesmarie@DreamInGreen.org](mailto:Lesmarie@DreamInGreen.org)