

IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024



Empowerment + Education = Environmental Stewardship

Platinum
Transparency
2024
Candid.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends & Supporters,

I am proud to mark the completion of Dream in Green's 18th year of programming and confirm that we remain steadfast in our vision for a cleaner, greener South Florida. As we navigate the educational complexities of the 21st century, the importance of understanding and protecting our environment has never been more critical.

Our planet faces unprecedented challenges, from climate change and biodiversity loss to pollution and resource depletion. Addressing these issues requires a well-informed and proactive citizenry equipped with the knowledge and skills to tackle them. In response, our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers continuously inspire, inform, and empower educators, students, and citizens to take meaningful action toward a sustainable future.

Environmental education plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, fostering a deeper connection to nature and a commitment to stewardship.

This 2023-2024 academic year has been remarkable for Dream in Green and particularly for our flagship Green Schools Challenge (GSC) program.

Here are some key highlights:

Most Schools Served Ever:

We have seen an unprecedented level of participation, with the highest number of schools ever served by our programs. This milestone reflects the growing commitment of our community to environmental education and sustainable practices.

Expansion to Neighboring Counties:

We are excited to announce the GSC's expansion in neighboring counties, namely Broward and Palm Beach, broadening our reach and impact. This growth allows us to support more schools and communities in their journey towards sustainability.

Building Strong Local and National Partnerships:

We have strengthened our network by building robust partnerships with local and national organizations. These collaborations enhance our ability to deliver high-quality programs and resources, amplifying our collective impact.

Connecting with Diverse Communities:

To better serve our diverse community, we have conducted numerous educational workshops on conservation and sustainable behaviors in Spanish. This initiative ensures that language is not a barrier to participation and that all members of our community can engage with our mission.

New Opportunities for Internships and Volunteers:

We have partnered with local colleges and universities to provide valuable internship and volunteer opportunities for their students. These collaborations not only support our programs but also help to cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders.

As you read through this year's impact report, I hope you find valuable information and are inspired to continue to support our programs. Together, we can cultivate the next generation of environmentally conscious individuals who will lead the charge toward a more sustainable world.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated partners, sponsors, and educators who have generously contributed their time, expertise, and resources over the past year. Their commitment to advancing environmental education continues to inspire me and my team at Dream in Green.

With gratitude,



**Barbara
Martinez-Guerrero,
Executive Director**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction

About Us4
Programs5
Guiding Principles6

II. GREEN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE (GSC)

GSC Program Overview7
What We Offer8
GSC Signature Events9-10
GSC Highlights11
GSC Testimonials12
GSC Partners13

III. WE-LAB PROGRAM

WE-LAB Program Overview14
WE-LAB Highlights15
WE-LAB Partners16

IV. In the Community

Recognition17
Community Outreach18

V. FUNDING

Corporate Partnerships19
Sponsors20
Financial Report21

VI. CLOSING

Looking Ahead22



ABOUT US

MISSION

To empower individuals, especially youth, to lead in the response to climate change and other environmental challenges facing South Florida.

VISION

To ensure a sustainable community through environmental stewardship.

HISTORY

Founded in 2006, Dream in Green (DIG) aims to tackle South Florida's environmental challenges and empower individuals to respond to climate change.

Recognizing the potential of schools to foster environmental stewardship, DIG's flagship platform, the Green Schools Challenge, delivers sustainability education to K-12 students in various types of schools across South Florida.

Starting with three schools, the program has expanded to over 170 schools and continues to grow.

VALUES

Responsibility

We foster a culture that values personal and community responsibility for the environment.

Teamwork

We develop and nurture a community of care and collective impact by actively engaging in collaboration and partnerships.

Leadership

We strengthen teachers' and students' ability to understand, analyze, and develop solutions in preparation to lead in their implementation.

Engagement

We spark curiosity, critical thinking, and solutions-based approaches to inspire teachers, students and school communities to action.



DIG aligns its resources and efforts with its mission, maximizing impact and ensuring sustainable progress toward our goal to increase environmental stewardship in our community.

For a copy of our Strategic Plan, please contact us.

PROGRAMS



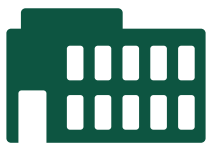
Serving Schools

The Green Schools Challenge (GSC) provides a curriculum that builds upon required STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) materials to address sustainability topics related to climate change and environmental sustainability.

Our curriculum focuses on the following core sustainability concepts:

- ✔ Energy efficiency and conservation
- ✔ Waste management and reduction
- ✔ Water quality and conservation
- ✔ Alternative transportation
- ✔ Food security
- ✔ Green living (buildings and careers)

Since Inception GSC Saved



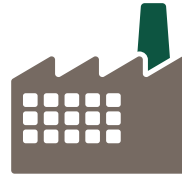
\$4.5

Million dollars saved in energy costs.



> 49.8

Million kilowatt hours of electricity saved.



> 75.5

Million pounds of CO₂ emissions reduced or offset.



= 6,500

Homes off the grid for one year.

Serving Households & Residents

DIG's Water & Energy – Learning and Behavior (WE-LAB) program aims to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand and address environmental and public health issues.

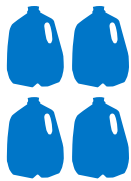
WE-LAB programs are one hour-long interactive workshops organized in diverse communities throughout South Florida.

The workshops educate participants on:

- ✔ How the water/energy nexus affects their home utility usage and costs.
- ✔ Behaviors that decrease greenhouse gasses and pollution.
- ✔ Sustainable actions/practices to protect the health of our water supply.
- ✔ Conservation and money saving strategies.



Since Inception WE-LAB Saved



9.4

Million gallons of water saved.



> 2.1

Million kilowatt hours of electricity saved.

\$\$\$

> 319,000

Utility costs saved.



= 3.17

Million pounds of CO₂ emissions reduced or offset.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

DIG is committed to implementing proven frameworks that integrate principles and practices promoting sustainability and climate readiness within our community.

We abide by the following principles when we design and deliver our programs:

Action-Oriented

Our programs provide tools and resources that can be used to inspire behavior changes.

Research-Based

Implementation of evidence-driven strategies enhance each of our program's effectiveness.

Collaborative Approach

As a small organization our collaborations help leverage resources and creates synergy with local and national partners.

Comprehensive & Relevant

All programs are well-rounded, context-specific, and effective in addressing our community's needs and challenges.

Measurable Results

We provide clear, quantifiable evidence of progress and impact, enabling continuous improvement and accountability.

Quality Content

Staff ensures that information presented is accurate, engaging, and valuable to build trust with the people we serve.

Global Connection

DIG is proud to support the United Nations in its pursuit of a more equitable society. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.



Below is a quick guide to how our programs address the SDGs.



2 ZERO HUNGER



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



GSC PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The GSC utilizes schools as a living laboratory for sustainability learning, engaging students, teachers, facilities staff, and administrators in low-to-no-cost activities to 'green' their school.

172

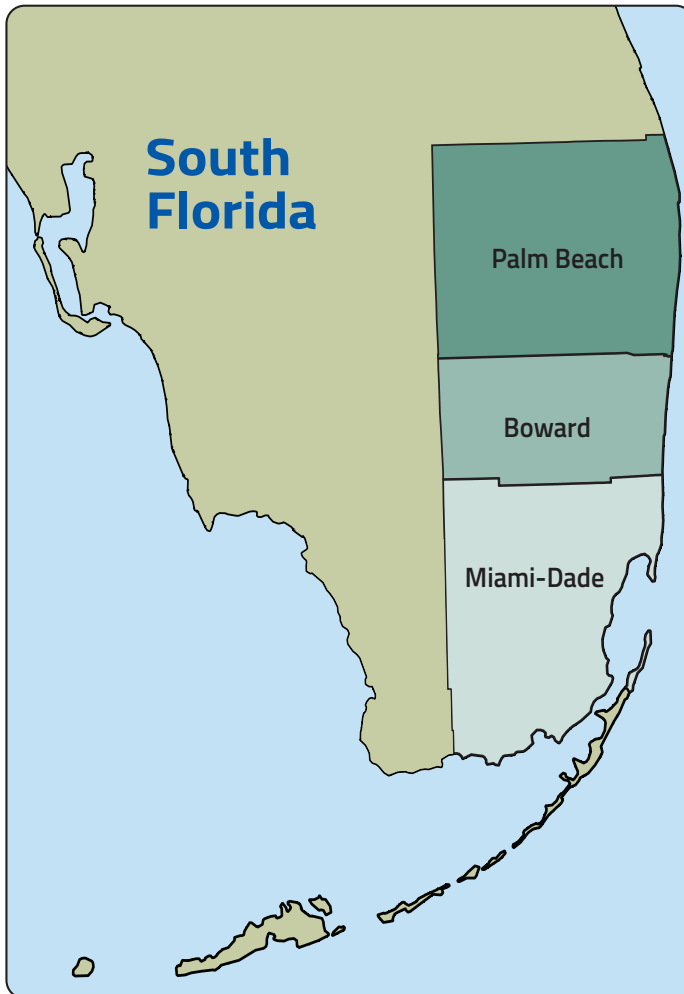
Schools Served - a new record!

88

Title 1 schools – **60%** of total enrollment (receiving federal funds for low income students).

78

New Green Teams organized at schools to implement lessons and initiatives.



Palm Beach County

10th largest school district in US.

28

Total schools participated.

+1,000

Students engaged and **140** teachers.

2

Professional development trainings implemented.

Broward County

6th largest school district in US.

12

Total schools participated.

500

Students engaged and **50** teachers.

Miami-Dade County

3rd largest school district in US.

132

Total schools participated.

+12,000

Students engaged and **650** teachers.

4

Professional development trainings implemented.

WHAT WE OFFER

Award-Winning Curricula

The GSC curriculum is divided into grade-appropriate lessons. Each registered school has access to resources and special opportunities developed annually to support the integration of the lessons and activities.



Elementary Schools



Middle Schools







High Schools



Professional Development for Teachers

The GSC program features opportunities for educators to participate in various professional development (PD) trainings throughout the academic year. These trainings provide resources, tools, and information that teachers can implement into their lessons.

Topics covered:

-  Incorporating Citizen Science in Schools.
-  Integrating Garden and Nutrition Activities.
-  School Sustainability.
-  Launching the GSC at Your School.

Impact:





- 6** PDs implemented.
- 184** Teachers trained.
- 2** Virtual workshops conducted.



Green teams submit applications throughout the academic year to receive mini-grants that helps schools implement environmental initiatives.

- 29** Grants Awarded!
- 17** Title 1 Schools - **59%** overall.
- 12** Elementary Schools.
- 7** Middle Schools.
- 8** High Schools.

Examples of Funded Projects

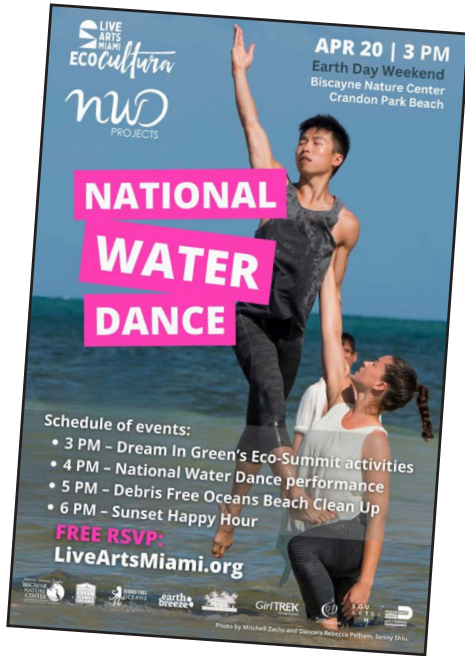
-  Set up a monthly pickup service for food waste to be composted off site.
-  Purchase water quality testing kits to test drinking water sources on school grounds.
-  Establish a hydroponic system to learn about efficient horticulture practices.
-  Purchase of native seeds/plants and supplies for school garden.

82% of schools that submitted grants expressed that projects developed would not have been started without the support of the Green Leadership Grants.

Since 2013, DIG has awarded over **\$95,000!**

GSC SIGNATURE EVENTS

Eco-Summit



The Eco-Summit annual event showcases high school projects. This year the event was held at the Biscayne Nature Center on April 20th. The highlights were:

- ✔ Event was co-organized with Live Arts Miami.
- ✔ Over **500** people attended.
- ✔ National Water Dance performed.
- ✔ **35** Students presented to the public.
- ✔ Attendees participated in a beach clean-up.



Design & Build Competition



The Design & Build Competition challenges student teams to create 3D models. This year they redesigned a local park integrating "Green Infrastructure" features and presented their ideas to a panel of expert judges.

The highlights were:

- ✔ **+200** people attended.
- ✔ **22** teams presented their models.
- ✔ Each team was mentored by FIU students.
- ✔ A panel of 9 judges reviewed designs.
- ✔ **14 schools** received grants for materials.

Special thanks to **Chelsea Ambriz** Meteorologist & Climate Reporter from NBC 6 for serving as judge and presenting winners!

Winners

1st Place > Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart.

2nd Place > Dr. Michael M. Krop Sr. High.

3rd Place > Saint Brendan High School.

Special Merit > Hialeah Sr. High.



Thank you to our sponsor:



GSC SIGNATURE EVENTS



Awards Ceremony 🏆

Held at the Overtown Performing Arts Center on Wednesday May 29, 2024. DIG staff and Board of Directors spent the evening highlighting all of the amazing teachers, students, administrators, and schools that participated in Miami-Dade and Broward.

2023/2024

🏆 Winners

	Elementary	Middle	High
1st	Ludlam	Rockaway	Robert Morgan Ed. Center
2nd	The Growing Place	G.W. Carver	Dorothy M. Wallace C.O.P.E.
3rd	Pinecrest	Nautilus	Saint Brendan

🌱 Finalists

4th	Claude Pepper	Richmond Heights	BioTECH @ Richmond Heights
5th	Kendale	Aventura Waterways	Miami Palmetto
6th	Miami Springs	Ponce de Leon	International Studies Preparatory Academy
7th	Palm Springs North		
8th	Twin Lakes		



Prize Donations 🍷



GSC HIGHLIGHTS

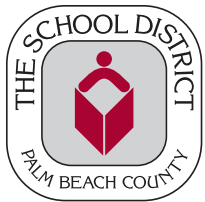
Palm Beach Expansion

The GSC is now offered to Palm Beach County schools!

Through a partnership with the School District's Environmental and Conservation Services Department, Division of Facilities Management the program expanded to provide teachers with lessons, mini-grants, and resources to help with waste reduction and recycling, energy and water conservation, and other green practices that support a healthy school environment.



Winners



1st	Palm Beach Central High
2nd	Conniston Middle
3rd	Hidden Oaks K-8
4th	Sandpiper Shores Elementary
5th	Forest Hill Elementary

Thank you! 🍷



GSC TESTIMONIALS

Surveys reveal huge success



97.5% of teachers would participate again.



85% of teachers say that post GSC they have confidence in integrating environmental education into their curriculum.



93% of students are more aware of environmental issues at school and feel environmental responsibility.



96% of students can identify environmental issues thanks to participating in the GSC.

“ The changes in the entire school community have been a breath of fresh air and have been so fulfilling to witness. Our students and their families have committed to being more conscious about our environment and our decisions that could impact our environment.

Our parental involvement has increased due to our participation in the program. They love to see the values being instilled in their children.”

Asia Fernandez, Ludlam Elementary

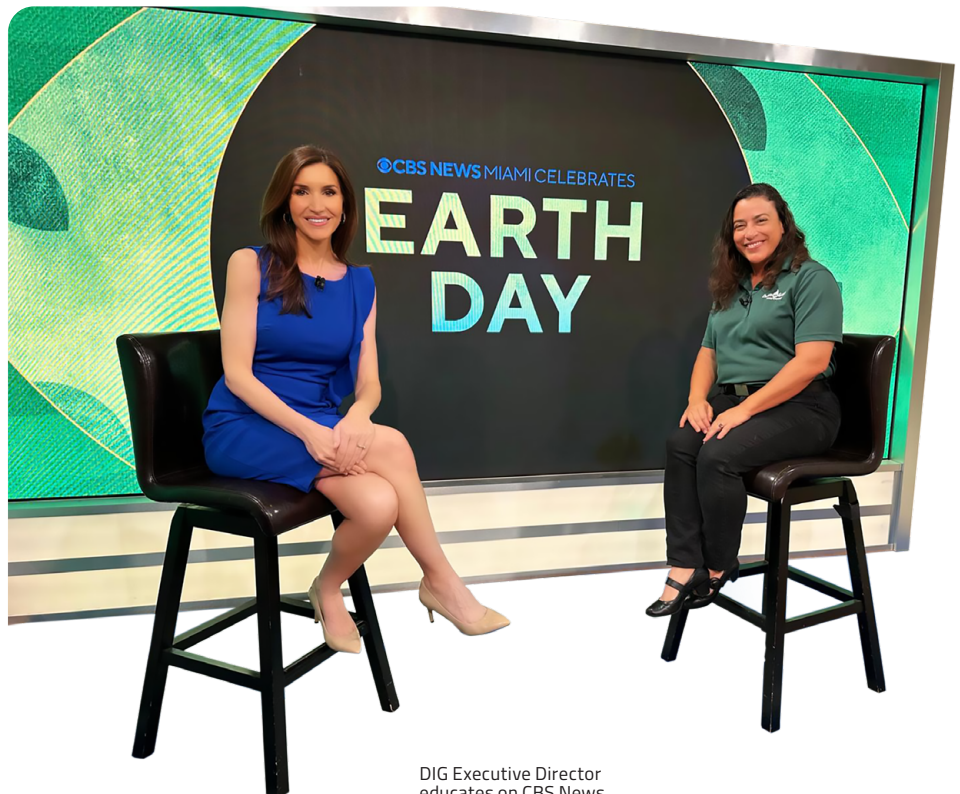


“ Our students turned into leaders and teachers. They were engaged and excited to talk and inform others about conservation. They were excited to talk to their families and start conversations with them with what they learned in their activities and lessons. It was a pleasure to watch them soar!”

Joanne Pol Urrechaga | North Beach Elementary


“ The training that was offered was very informative and detailed. I liked learning about the plants that grow well in South Florida and the varieties of plants attracting different butterflies.”

Sylvia Irias | Spanish Lake Elementary School | Sustainable Gardens PD



DIG Executive Director educates on CBS News.

GSC PROGRAM PARTNERS

 Collaboration with local and national partners help provide multiple resources for participants.



Thank you! 

Partnership Spotlight

Since 2021, a partnership between Miami-Dade College's Live Arts Program and DIG introduced visual and performing arts into the GSC program.

Students can connect with artists through in-school workshops and field trips that tackle climate anxiety through artistic expression.



14 workshops with local artists were conducted in schools.

340 students and **19** teachers reached through on-site activities.

544 students, **48** teachers, **10** schools attended performances through field trips.



WE-LAB PROGRAM OVERVIEW

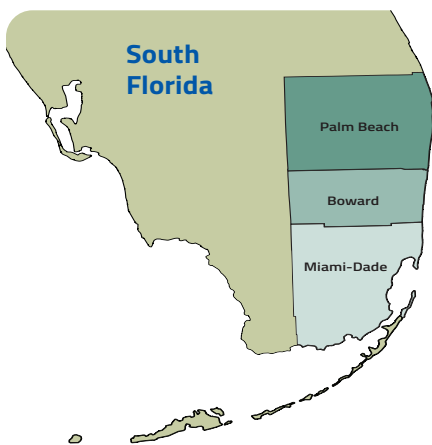


2023-2024 By the Numbers

WE-LAB is a free program that works with local municipalities and counties to engage residents in conversations about conservation and sustainability.

This innovative component helps to connect households with utility providers.

9 Workshops conducted!



104 households reached.

100 Conservation toolkits distributed.

Workshops conducted:

- 1** Palm Beach County - City of Boca Raton.
- 1** Broward County - City of Hollywood.
- 7** Miami-Dade County - City of Miami, City of Miami Beach, and City of Doral.

Toolkit items most commonly included:

- ✔ Reusable water bottles and canvas bag.
- ✔ Leak detection tablets.
- ✔ Low-flow shower-heads provided by the Water & Sewer Department of Miami-Dade.
- ✔ 5-minute shower timers.
- ✔ Location-specific pamphlets.



Participant Surveys Reveals



100%
Participants found the workshop very useful.

98%
Would recommend workshop to others.

89%
Participants agree that changes made by individuals can have positive impact on local community.



WE-LAB HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Youth Internship Program 🍷

This 5-week work-based learning experience between M-DCPS high school students and businesses and organizations throughout Miami-Dade County develops the skills that are required to be successful in the 21st century workplace.

DIG had the pleasure of working with Gabriela Figueredo, from MAST Academy.

Gaby helped create graphics and content for all of DIG's programs. She also joined staff in presentations to promote sustainability.



Gabriela Figueredo, M-DCPS SYIP Intern

Community Solutions Program & CEE Program 🍷

The Community Solutions Program (CSP) and the Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) Program are both sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and implemented by IREX.

Through the Community Engagement Exchange Program, DIG worked with Djivenson Macius from Haiti during the Fall of 2023. He helped present to students regarding COP and enhanced our ability to reach the local Haitian community.

DIG was among nearly 100 U.S.-based organizations selected to participate in the programs as a host organization.

Djivenson Macius presenting in Liberty City

Through the Community Solutions Program, DIG worked with Merushe Zeneli from Albania during the Fall of 2023.

As part of the program, she used the skills and expertise she learned to develop an impactful program that will assist young children and teachers in understanding and preserving the environmental issues faced.



Below: Merushe Zeleni introducing DIG programs to local students



DIG has launched its inaugural WE-LAB Volunteer + Internship Program 🍷

The volunteer program will target undergraduate and graduate students interested in exploring residential climate sustainability efforts through service learning.

To date, we have fostered collaborative agreements with Miami-Dade College, Broward College, and Florida International University to recruit students to participate in our green change maker cohorts.

Program participants will work to support DIG's community outreach efforts by becoming trained peer educators on residential environment stewardship.

We hope to expand our institutional partnerships across South Florida to further strengthen our geographic impact on water and energy conservation.



WE-LAB PARTNERS

WE-LAB relies on great partners that help to promote and organize the community workshops. A special thank you to Miami-Dade County's Water and Sewer (WASD) and Solid Waste (SWD) Departments for not only co-presenting but providing materials for the conservation toolkits.

This year DIG also worked with Broward and Palm Beach to bring the program to their municipalities.



Special thanks to Patrick Martin from WASD and Jeanmarie Massa from SWD for their continued support!

University Internships

DIG worked with several local universities to provide various internship opportunities every semester.

Desiree Walker and Alondra Padilla served as our Digital Marketing, Outreach and Communications interns.

South Florida Sustainable Environments Intern Iuliia Tsarkova worked with DIG. The internship program was a 9-month research internship for FIU undergraduates with an interest in environmental studies.

Iullia Tsarkova worked with DIG staff to create and collect surveys as well as conduct presentations around South Florida.



Iuliia Tsarkova – FIU Sustainable Environments Intern



Desiree Walker and Gabrielle Harris -UM Interns



Gabrielle Harris presenting to the cohort

Partnership Spotlight

The ULINK Climate and Racial Justice team launched a community-based, interdisciplinary course focused on climate, energy, and environmental justice called "Shifting Power." The course was designed to create a transformative impact.

Students partnered with local community organizations to assist with a current project or policy campaign. DIG was honored to be chosen as a community partner for this year's pilot launch and worked with student Gabrielle Harris.

AmeriCorps VISTA

As an AmeriCorps member in the VISTA program, Leslie Elus is supporting DIG to make sustainable change through activities such as fundraising, research, and volunteer recruitment, gaining professional experience and leadership skills.



Leslie Elus
– AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow



AmeriCorps

RECOGNITION

School Board Proclamation

The Miami Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Resolution No. 24-023 brought forth by School Board Member Luisa Santos recognized Dream in Green this April as an outstanding sustainability education organization.

M-DCPS recognized the GSC program for its initiatives, both inside and outside the classroom, to conserve natural resources, prevent pollution, reduce, and better manage our waste.

DIG's expertise, technical support, educational programming, and training of students, teachers, staff, and community help amplify the District's reach and impact.



DIG and other organizations recognized by M-DCPS



School Board Member Luisa Santos presents DIG staff with proclamation in April

Larta Institute

The Larta Institute, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit, is advancing innovation and entrepreneurship through its Venture Fellows cohort, which supports 10 startups from Los Angeles and Miami.

DIG was among the selected organizations and participated in EcoFest LA in December.

DIG received backing for our climate change solutions in vulnerable communities, with funding from Wells Fargo and support from several organizations, including the County of Los Angeles Chief Sustainability Office and Miami-Dade County.

The program focuses on combating climate change in under-served areas and aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DIG participates in various community events like school visits and festivals to build relationships, raise awareness, and educate the public about our mission.

These engagements help recruit volunteers, attract donations, enhance visibility, and foster partnerships. They also provide insights into community needs, enabling DIG to tailor their programs effectively, while promoting civic engagement and strengthening the community.



By the numbers

47 Events/Networking (in-person & virtually)

46 Presentations made (including 2 in Spanish).

14 Professional development workshops (in-person & virtually).

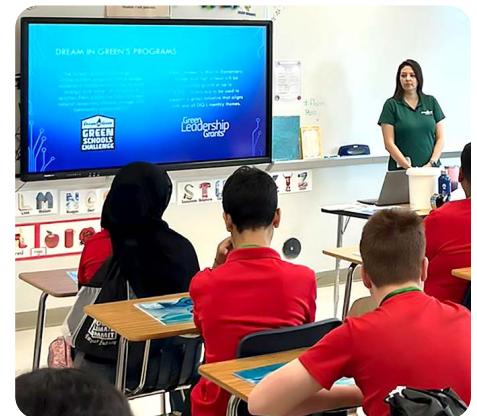
2,162 Adults educated.

1,051 Children educated.

3,213 Individuals reached.

Events Attended

- ✔ Summer Institute with Climate Generation.
- ✔ Palm Beach Schools Sustainability Summit.
- ✔ USGBC Green Schools Conference.
- ✔ Broward Youth Climate Summit.
- ✔ L.A. Eco-Fest.
- ✔ Aspen Ideas Climate Summit.
- ✔ Water Matters Day in Broward County.
- ✔ League of Environmental Educators (LEEF) Conference.
- ✔ Earth Day at Baptist Health.
- ✔ King Tide Event in Broward County.



Below: DIG presenting at the Green Schools Conference on Navigating Climate Anxiety with Students.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



DIG continues to expand its ability to work with corporate sponsors!

DIG worked with Sealand Maersk for a third year in a row and developed a new partnership with Swire Properties.

DIG is also proud to partner with Amerant Bank to sponsor events for the GSC program. Special thanks to our continued collaboration with Curtis & Rogers Design Studio and Adopt-a-Dune for their support with dune restoration.

Benefits of partnering with DIG:

- ✔ Unique opportunity to connect with local schools.
- ✔ Positively impacts the environment through organized volunteer events for employees.
- ✔ Helps fulfill sustainability goals and social responsibility initiatives.
- ✔ Custom-tailored events and initiatives developed together.

Is your business ready to take sustainability to the next level? Partner with us!

Thanking Corporate Partners



SPONSORS

Thanking our Annual Sponsors



Thanking our WE-LAB Sponsors



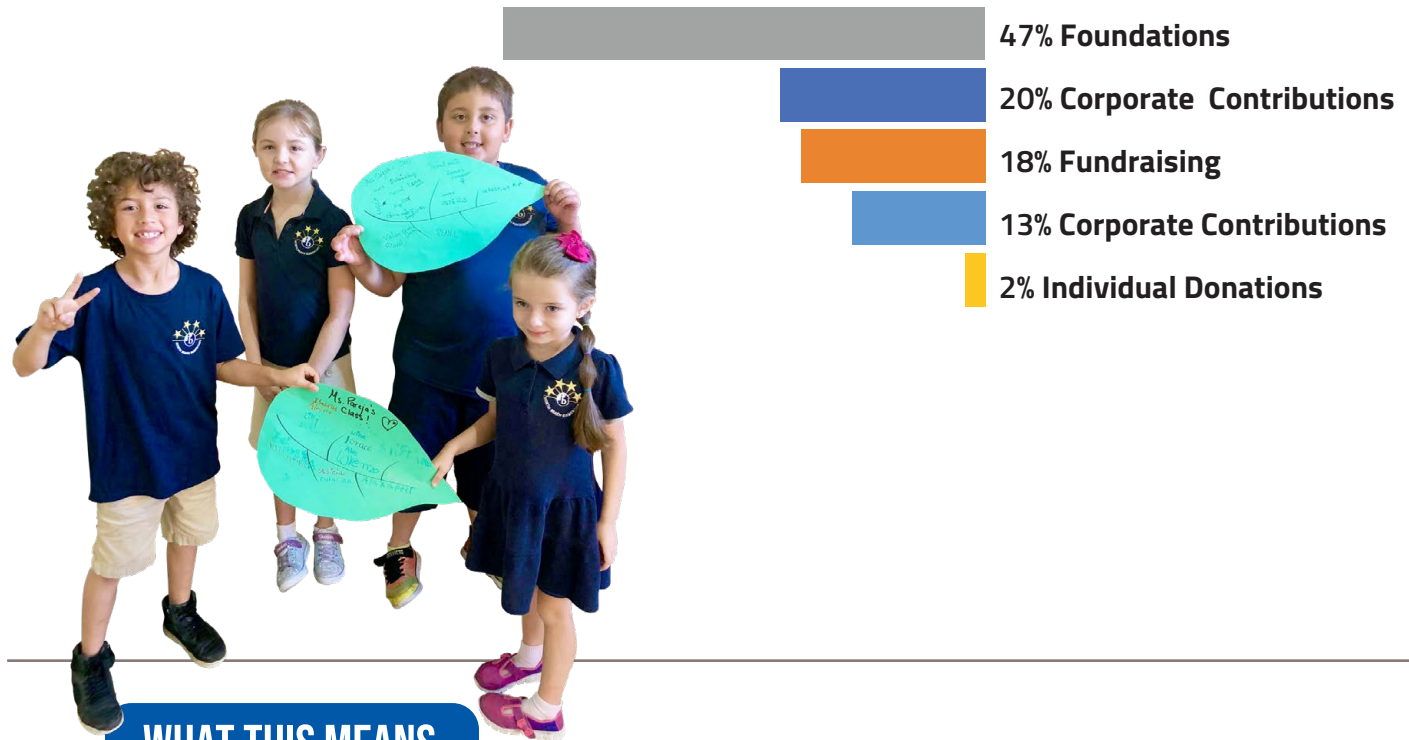
FINANCIAL REPORT

DIG is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability to its donors. Most of our funds are used to directly support our programs and services.

\$ 2023 Expenses



\$ 2023 Revenue



WHAT THIS MEANS



Candid, formerly GuideStar, provides donors with comprehensive information on non-profits. This information helps donors make informed decisions about which organization to support.

We are proud to have achieved Platinum, the highest rating an organization can receive. It indicates that we exceed industry standards for transparency and corporate governance.



Audited Financial Statements available upon request.

LOOKING AHEAD

DIG is proud of its accomplishments this past program year and will continue to strive to improve and innovate what it offers in order to support its mission and vision.

We look forward to sharing exciting new initiatives and projects in the coming year that will further amplify our impact and drive positive change.

What's Ahead

- ✔ Updated and improved Strategic Plan for 2024-2027.
- ✔ Expansion of GSC to the City of Orlando through a pilot program.
- ✔ New lessons and resources for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- ✔ Implementation of a new initiative - the Green Homes Challenge.



Support our mission and help create a more sustainable South Florida.

Together we can educate and empower our community to create lasting change.

DONATE TODAY!



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