

IMPACT REPORT

2025 - 2026



Empowerment
+ Education

=

Environmental
Stewardship

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



+ THREE-STAR +
2026

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Partners, Educators, and Supporters

As we reflect on another year of growth, impact, and resilience, I am filled with gratitude for the community which continues to make Dream in Green's mission possible. Since our founding twenty years ago, we have remained committed to empowering youth and communities to take meaningful action in response to climate change and environmental challenges. This year, that commitment has never been more important.

The 2025–2026 year marked a period of continued expansion and innovation. Through our Green Schools Challenge, we engaged more than 12,800 students and trained nearly 745 educators across South Florida, providing hands-on environmental education that inspires the next generation of sustainability leaders. Students explored topics ranging from energy efficiency and water conservation to food security, waste reduction, and green careers, while developing the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to address real-world environmental challenges.

Beyond the classroom, our WE-LAB workshops continued to connect residents with practical tools and knowledge to conserve resources, reduce utility costs, and build resilience in the face of climate-related impacts. Through partnerships with municipalities, community organizations, and public agencies, we expanded our reach to diverse audiences throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, offering programming in multiple languages to ensure greater accessibility and inclusion.

This year also reinforced the power of collaboration. We are grateful to our school districts, municipal partners, foundations, corporate sponsors, volunteers, and individual donors who share our vision of a more sustainable future.

Together, we have again demonstrated that environmental stewardship is not the responsibility of a few—it is an opportunity for all of us to create healthier communities, stronger economies, and a more resilient South Florida.

While challenges remain, including the increasing impacts of climate change on our region, I am encouraged by the passion and dedication of the students, educators, and community members we serve. Every school garden planted, every conservation project completed, every workshop participant empowered, and every young person inspired represents a step toward a more sustainable future.

As we celebrate our twentieth year of service, we also look ahead with optimism. Dream in Green will continue to innovate, strengthen partnerships, and expand opportunities for environmental learning and action. Together, we can ensure that today's students and communities are prepared to become tomorrow's environmental leaders.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for investing in a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future for all.

With gratitude,



**Barbara
Martinez-Guerrero,
Executive Director**



Pictured:

Nick Gunia, Diego J. Cancel, Emily Guerra, Odette Smalley, Justine Deresz,
ED Barbara Martinez-Guerrero, Alexandra Gruenbaum.

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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.

PROGRAMS

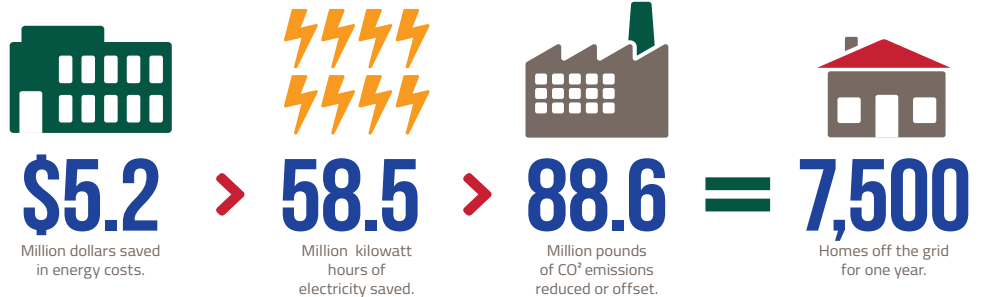


Since Inception
GSC Saved 

Serving Schools

The Green Schools Challenge (GSC) provides an award-winning program that builds upon required STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) materials to address sustainability topics related to climate change and environmental sustainability, including the following:

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



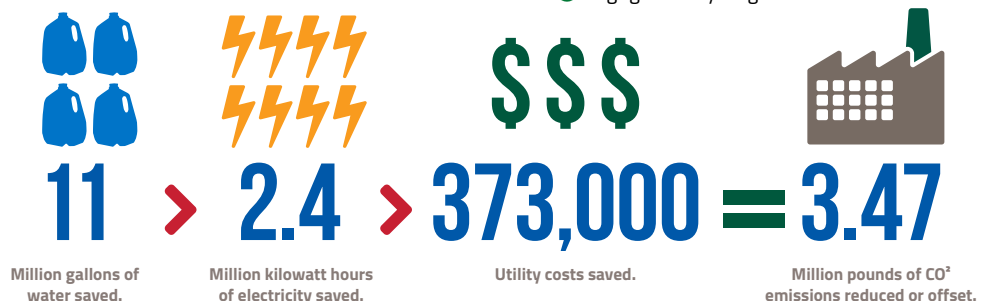
Since Inception
WE-LAB Saved 

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 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 natural resources.
- ✓ Engage in recycling & waste reduction.



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 schools.

157

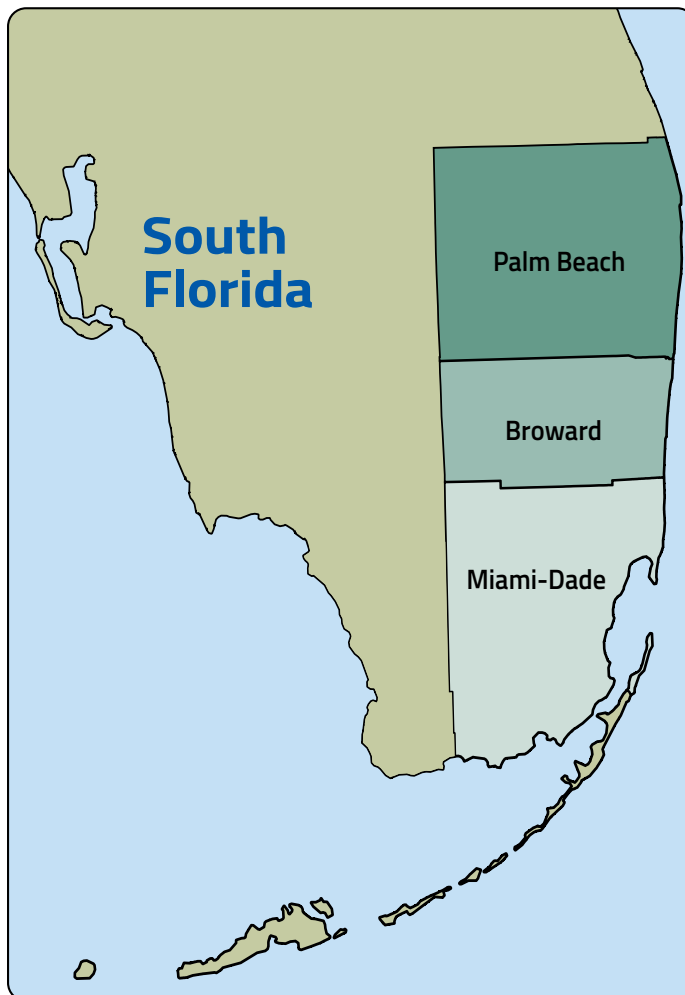
Schools Served.

90

Title I schools – 57% of total enrollment (receiving federal funds for low income students).

77

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



2025 - 2026 Accomplishments:

Palm Beach County

10th largest school district in US.

22

Total schools participated.

1,400

Students engaged and **95** teachers.

Broward County

6th largest school district in US.

9

Total schools participated.

400

Students engaged and **30** teachers.

Miami-Dade County

3rd largest school district in US!

126

Total schools participated.

78

Title I schools (62%).

+11,000

Students engaged and **620** teachers.



WHAT WE OFFER

Award-Winning Curriculum

Visit website for full list of Awards & Recognitions

The GSC curriculum is divided into grade-appropriate lessons for Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. 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

STEAM Workshop for Students

Impact:

18 workshops conducted in schools.

455 students participated.



Professional Development for Teachers

Topics covered:

- ✓ Launching the GSC at Your School.
- ✓ School Sustainability.
- ✓ Incorporating Citizen Science in Schools.

Impact:

8 Professional development workshops delivered.

220 Teachers trained.



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

27 Grants Awarded!

16 Title I Schools - **59%** overall.

13 Elementary Schools.

5 Middle Schools.

9 High Schools.

Examples of Funded Projects

- ✓ Purchase recycling bins for individual classrooms to help in the collection.
- ✓ Purchase a school set of reusable party supplies including cups, trays and utensils.
- ✓ Establish a butterfly garden to learn about pollinators.
- ✓ Help to establish a composting program in the school garden.

100% of teachers reported their project would not have been possible without this funding.

Since 2013, DIG has awarded over **\$110,000!**

“Your support allowed us to purchase recycling bins that are already helping improve our sustainability efforts. We truly appreciate your commitment to making a positive environmental impact in our community!”

“I’m thankful for the big difference this grant made in our school garden!”

– Academic Charters School South

– Cutler Bay Middle School

GSC EVENTS

Design & Build Competition



This annual event invites students to reimagine their local community with a focus on sustainability. This year, the challenge was to design a net-zero school. Students were judged by a panel of school district sustainability managers, solar panel experts, and architects.



Winners

1st Place > BioTECH @ Richmond Heights 9-12

2nd Place > Robert Morgan Educational Center

3rd Place > Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy

Special Merit > International Studies Preparatory Academy

Student Award > Palmer Trinity School

Thanking our sponsor:



Trashion Show

Students were tasked with creating outfits made completely out of post-consumer materials, re-purposing waste for their designs.

24 students were invited to walk the runway in Downtown Miami during Flagler District's Farmers Market.



Green Career Speaker Series

In order to expose students to the green careers sector, DIG invited local professionals in a green job to speak to classrooms through virtual sessions.

Students learned about solar companies, water management, transportation and city planning, and sustainable fashion.

Over 800 students joined the sessions and all recordings are on our YouTube page.



Eco-Summit

The Eco-Summit took place at the Museum of Miami.

This annual event showcases all the various initiatives and projects implemented by dedicated high school students.





Awards Ceremony

This year's celebration was held at Make-A-Wish South Florida on May 27, 2026.

Over 100 teachers, parents, partners, and students joined DIG staff and Board to celebrate this year's achievements.

The event highlighted schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

2025 / 2026

Winners

	Elementary	Middle	High
1st	Gloria Floyd	Kinloch Park	Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy
2nd	Ludlam	G.W. Carver	Robert Morgan Ed. Center
3rd	Air Base K-8	Southwood	Dorothy M. Wallace C.O.P.E.
4th	Miami Springs	Rockway	BioTECH @ Richmond Heights
5th	Banyan	Palmetto	Everglades Preparatory Academy
6th	Coral Park	Cutler Bay	Palmer Trinity School
7th	Ojus	Everglades K-8	Miami Palmetto
8th	Sandpiper Shores	John F Kennedy	Somerset Prep Academy Homestead

Finalists



Prize Donations + Event Sponsors



GSC PROGRAM PARTNERS



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

Thank you!

GSC TESTIMONIALS

Surveys again reveal huge success



98% of teachers would participate again.



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



96% of students are more aware of environmental issues at school and feel environmental responsibility.



92% of students can identify environmental issues thanks to participating in the GSC.

“Participating in the Green Schools Challenge brought many positive changes to both our students and our school community. Students developed a stronger awareness of environmental issues and began practicing more sustainable habits, such as recycling, conserving energy, and reducing waste.”

*Desiree Capote,
Gloria Floyd Elementary School*

“Students have been able to recognize the environmental impact behind many everyday practices and address them through identifying potential 'greener' alternatives.”

*Wilson Rodriguez,
Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy*



WE-LAB OVERVIEW



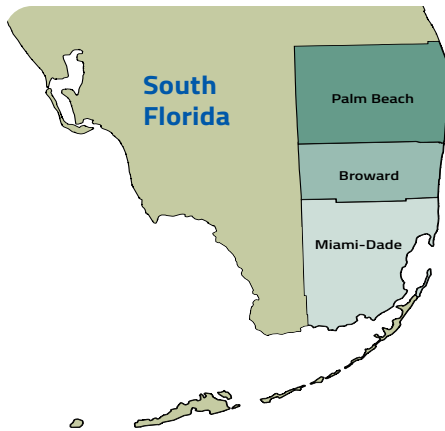
2025-2026 By the Numbers

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

17 Workshops conducted.

406 households reached.

455 Conservation toolkits distributed.



Workshops conducted:

1 Palm Beach County

2 Broward County

14 Miami-Dade County



WE-LAB Toolkit Sample

Partners

WE-LAB thrives thanks to the support of dedicated partners who help promote and coordinate our community workshops.

We extend special thanks to Miami-Dade County's Water and Sewer Department (WASD) and Solid Waste Department (SWD) for their continued collaboration—not only co-presenting workshops but also contributing valuable materials for our conservation toolkits.



United
Women
in Faith



Baptist
Health



The Allapattah
Collaborative, CDC

Participant Surveys Reveal

94%

Participants found the workshop very useful.

94%

Would recommend workshop to others.

90%

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



INITIATIVES

One of the biggest challenges facing recycling and its success rate is contamination

When non-recyclable items are placed in the recycling bin, they can contaminate the system and reduce the effectiveness of recycling efforts.

One of the main challenges is that residents in different municipalities often face confusion about what materials are actually accepted in their local recycling programs.

Providing up-to-date, easily accessible information about community-specific recycling guidelines can help reduce contamination, improve recycling accuracy, and increase the amount of materials successfully recovered and reused.

Recyclepedia

Waste Made Simple

Visit www.recyclepedia.info which will help Miami-Dade County and its municipalities reach their recycling goals while educating residents on proper participation and the benefits of recycling.

“Recyclepedia serves as a way to access current recycling information so that it is comprehensive and readily accessible for all residents to recycle properly.”



INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

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 Hymee Chancy from Robert Morgan Educational Center and Eric Pedroso from Coral Reef Senior High School.



University – Internships



Gianna DeNicholas

Gianna is currently a junior at Florida International University majoring in Environment Studies.

Educating children and adults on the importance of caring for Earth has been a dream of Gianna's which she was able to fulfill with her time at Dream in Green.



Paloma Bustamante

Paloma is a senior student of Sustainability and the Environment.

At Dream in Green, she fulfilled part of her goals by being part of an organization that teaches and raises awareness in children and adults about the importance and ways to conserve environmental and natural resources.

Barry University

Rose Montazer

Rose is a student majoring in Pre-Law. At Dream in Green, Rose contributed to advancing sustainability initiatives and community education.

Imani Smith

Imani interned with Dream in Green as a first-year nursing student. She found that creating content about environmental issues and making those topics feel relevant to others has been incredibly rewarding.



DIG Board Members, Interns, Volunteers, and Staff prepare for events.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DIG actively participates in a wide range of community events - from school visits to local festivals - to build relationships, raise awareness, and educate the public about our mission.

These outreach efforts help us recruit volunteers, attract donations, increase visibility, and cultivate meaningful partnerships.

They also offer valuable insight into community needs, allowing us to adapt our programs for greater impact while encouraging civic engagement and strengthening community connections.

By the Numbers:

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

52 Presentations (including 4 in Spanish).

1,819 Adults educated.

1,828 Children educated.

3,647 Individuals reached.

Events Attended

- ✓ Summer Institute with Climate Generation.
- ✓ Broward Youth Climate Summit.
- ✓ USGBC Green Schools Conference.
- ✓ NAAEE Conference.
- ✓ Zero Waste Miami Coalition Workshop.
- ✓ Palm Beach Sustainability Symposium.
- ✓ Youth Environmental Career Summit.
- ✓ Biscayne Bay Marine Health Coalition Summit.
- ✓ Miami Children's Congress Environmental Planet Patrol Summit.
- ✓ Florida Green Schools PTSA Zero Waste Workshop.
- ✓ Coral Gables Sustainability Village Fair.



Above: Miami Climate Week Panel with ED Barbara Martinez-Guerrero.



DIG's Intern Gianna presenting at Planet Patrol Summit.



DIG participated a Zero Waste Workshop.



Board Member Jonathan volunteering at Baynanza Kick-off.



DIG volunteers present at Art By the Sea Festival.



DIG Staff presenting at the Coral Reef SHS.

SPONSORS

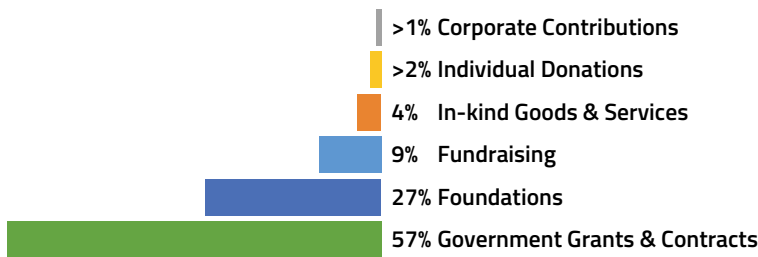
Thanking our Annual Sponsors 



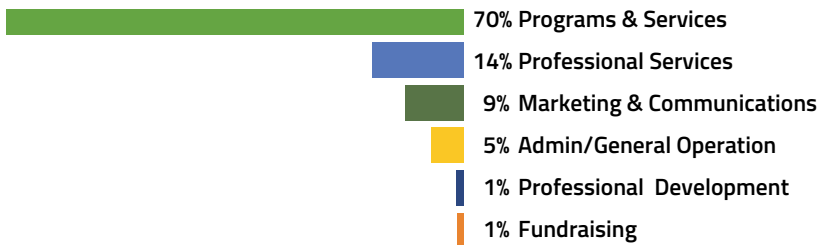
FINANCIALS

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

2025 Revenue Sources



2025 Expense Breakdown



Audited Financial Statements available upon request.



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!



Sponsorship Opportunities 💰

DIG continues to expand its ability to work with corporate sponsors! Is your business ready to take sustainability to the next level? Partner with us!

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.



Looking Ahead 🏡

As Dream in Green prepares to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Green Schools Challenge for the 2026-2027 academic year, we are inspired by how far we have come and energized by the opportunities ahead.

What began as a single program has grown into a regional movement empowering students, educators, and communities to take action for a more sustainable future.

In the coming year, we look forward to expanding the Green Schools Challenge, growing our WE-LAB community workshops, strengthening partnerships across South Florida, and launching new opportunities that connect environmental education, resilience, and workforce development.

Together with our supporters, we will continue to equip the next generation of environmental leaders with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to create lasting change.

The future is green—and we're just getting started!



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