CENTER for GREEN SCHOOLS

PANEL on REOPENING STANDARDS AND TOOLS

Anisa Heming
Director, Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council
Global leader in advancing green schools, providing school districts and education leaders with resources and training to create sustainable, healthy, resilient and equitable learning environments.
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR IMPACT

GUIDING POLICY AND INVESTMENT
LEARNING LAB

USGBC’s platform to host high-quality K-12 curriculum, providing hundreds of lessons in English and Spanish to educators looking for standards-aligned sustainability content. learninglab.usgbc.org
Self-guided and interactive online course that teaches educators how their actions impact the learning environment and sustainability, focusing on ways to act, communicate, and advocate within their schools. [usgbc.org/classroom/gcp]
YOUR SCHOOL’S ECO-FOOTPRINT: STUDENTS GRADE IT, THEN IMPROVE IT.

TRAINING

CURRICULUM

ARC

MENTORSHIP
As USGBC’s primary definition for what it means to design, build, and operate a green building, the adoption of the LEED green building rating system across K-12 schools offers insight into the adoption of green practices in this sector. The Center for Green Schools actively seeks guidance from K12 professionals and building industry professionals to improve how LEED serves the needs of schools.
Local, state, and federal advocacy for green schools, driven by grassroots support and targeted policy guidance.
Ensuring that state legislators and advocates have the resources and information they need to advance legislation for greener schools.
ADVOCACY

Through our growing School Sustainability Leaders Network, equipping powerful voices for change within the largest school districts in the U.S.
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Geographic distribution of School Sustainability Leaders Network participants

NETWORK PARTICIPANTS: >300

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN: 31 districts

STUDENTS in SCHOLARSHIP DISTRICTS: 2.1 million
64% disadvantaged

AMOUNT INVESTED in SCHOLARSHIPS: $240,000
COVID-19 RESPONSE

Focus on equipping our school district network with air quality and sustainability recommendations and troubleshooting.

https://centerforgreenschools.org/join-us-monthly-green-schools-webcast-opportunities
LEED Safety First pilot credits

As part of the Healthy Economy strategy, USGBC has introduced LEED pilot credits to help building owners provide healthy spaces and assist with re-entry. The pilot credits outline sustainable best practices that align with public health and industry guidelines related to cleaning and disinfecting, workplace re-occupancy, HVAC, and plumbing operations. The credits can be used by LEED projects that are certified or are undergoing certification.

- Safety First: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Space credit
- Safety First: Re-enter Your Workspace credit
- Safety First: Building Water System recommissioning credit
- Safety First: Managing Indoor Air Quality During COVID-19 credit
- Safety First: Pandemic Planning credit
- Safety First: Social Equity in Pandemic Planning credit
- Safety First: Arc Re-Entry credit

USGBC actions to support the building industry and building owners
https://www.usgbc.org/about/covid-19-resources
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND GREEN SCHOOLS
Assessing Students’ and Communities’ Access to Green Schools

Research team:
Shuang Zhao, University of Alabama Huntsville (presenting)
Shan Zhou, Michigan Technological University
Douglas S. Noonan, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Generally: “reverse injustice” story
• for all ethnicity variables
• maybe a tendency for better-educated communities to host green

A new school is **more** likely to be green as
• % minorities enrolled *increases*
• % minorities in host neighborhood *increases*
• Average income in host neighborhood *decreases*
• % receiving lunch subsidies is uncorrelated with likelihood