

Nebraska Green Ribbon Schools Application--District

* Required

District Information

District Name *

Your answer

Street Address *

Your answer



City *

Your answer

State *

Your answer

Zip Code *

Your answer

District Website *

Your answer

Superintendent First Name *

Your answer



Superintendent Last Name *

Your answer

Superintendent e-mail Address *

Your answer

Superintendent Phone Number *

Your answer

Lead Applicant Name (if different)

Your answer

Lead Applicant e-mail Address

Your answer



Number of Early Learning Centers in District

Your answer

Number of Elementary Schools in District (PK-5 or 6)

Your answer

Number of K-8 Schools in District

Your answer

Number of Middle Schools in District (6-8 or 9)

Your answer

Number of High Schools in District (9 or 10-12)

Your answer



District Description *

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

District Type (select all that apply) *

- Public
- Private
- Magnet

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District Demographics

Total Enrollment *

Your answer

Percent of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch *

Your answer



Percent of students who are limited English proficient *

Your answer

Does your district serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households? *

Yes

No

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Cross Cutting Questions (5 points)

Is your district participating in a local, state, or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in any or all of the Pillars? (e.g. EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager, Eco-Schools USA, PLT Green Schools, Nebraska Green Schools)? *

- Yes
- No

Please explain what program(s), current level of achievement, and the years you have been involved in these programs.

Your answer



Has your district, staff, or student body received any awards for environmental stewardship, health and wellness, or environmental education/civic programs? *

Yes

No

Please provide the award and year(s) received

Your answer

Has your district created a Green Team? *

Yes

No

List team members and their roles.

Your answer

Has your School Board adopted a Green Strategic Plan?

Yes

No



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Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education (40 Points)

Element 3A: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems (20 points)

Element 3B: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills (10 points)

Element 3C: Development and application of civic knowledge and skills (10 points)



Which practices does your district employ to help ensure effective environmental and sustainability education? *

- Our district has an environmental or sustainability literacy requirement.
- Environmental and sustainability concepts are integrated throughout the curriculum.
- Environmental and sustainability concepts are integrated into assessments.
- Students evidence high levels of proficiency in these assessments.
- Professional development in environmental and sustainability education are provided to all teachers.
- Our high schools have active enrollment in an AP Environmental Science courses.
- Our high schools have active enrollment in Environmental Science courses.
- Other:

Provide specific examples of actions taken for each checked practice, highlighting innovative or unique practices and partnerships. *

Your answer



Describe how environmental and sustainability education in your district supports teaching science and engineering practices and supports robust general science education that includes a deep understanding of life, physical, and earth sciences. (Maximum 200 words) *

Your answer

Describe how your curriculum connects classroom content to college and career readiness, particularly post-secondary options that focus on environmental and sustainability field studies and/or careers. (Maximum 200 words) *

Your answer

Describe students' meaningful outdoor learning experiences at every grade level and how outdoor learning is used to teach an array of subjects in context, engage the broader community, and develop civic skills. (Maximum 200 words) *

Your answer



Describe any other ways your district integrates core environment, sustainability, STEM, equity and environmental justice issues (as defined by EPA), green technology, and civics into curricula to provide effective environmental and sustainability education, highlighting innovative or unique practices and partnerships. (Maximum 200 words) *

Your answer

Additional supporting evidence will be submitted (e.g. photographs, video, curriculum/assessment samples) to sara.cooper@nebraska.gov *

Yes

No

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Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff (25 points)

Element 2A: Integrated School Environmental Health program (10 points)

Element 2B: Nutrition, Fitness, and quantity and quality of outdoor time (15 points)



Which of the following programs or practices does your district utilize to ensure the environmental health of the school community? (Check all that apply) *

- Our district implements an up-to-date Integrated Pest Management program.
- Our district implements an up-to-date Indoor Air Quality Management Plan modeled after the EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools or other nationally recognized model.
- Our district has identified and properly removed sources of elemental mercury and prohibits its purchase and use in the school.
- Our district does not have any wood playground equipment or other structures that contain chromate copper arsenate or we have identified these structures and have taken steps to reduce exposure.
- Our district has a comprehensive green cleaning program.
- Our district has tested all frequently occupied rooms in contact with the ground, and first floor rooms above basement spaces that are not frequently occupied for radon gas and has fixed and retested all rooms with levels that tested at or above 4 pCi/L
- Our school buildings were built with radon resistant construction features and tested to confirm levels below 4 pCi/L
- Our district has an Asthma Management Program consistent with the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program.
- Our district has a chemical management program in place, with



elements of purchasing, inventory, storage, training, spills, and hazards communication.

- Our district controls moisture from leaks, condensation, and excess humidity and promptly removes moldy materials.
- Our district practices routine inspection and maintenance of our building's ventilation systems.
- Other:

Use the list above as a guide to describe how your district implements and measures the success of your integrated environmental health programs and practices to ensure the health and safety of the school community. Include information on how your school addresses exposure to health hazards including radon, chromate copper arsenate, carbon monoxide, chemicals, asthma triggers, and mold. (Maximum 300 words) *

Your answer



Does your district take any other steps to protect indoor environmental quality such as implementing EPA IAQ Tools for Schools and/or conducting other periodic, comprehensive inspections of district buildings to identify environmental health and safety issues and take corrective action? *

Yes

No

Describe other steps taken to protect indoor environmental quality.

Your answer



Which of the following programs or practices does your district implement to promote nutrition, physical activity, and overall school community health? (Check all that apply). *

- Our schools participate in the "Coordinated School Health" program
- Our schools participate in the USDA's Healthier School Challenge
- Our schools participate in a Farm to School or comparable program to use local, fresh food in our cafeteria.
- Our schools have a food garden either on-site or in close proximity, which is utilized by the cafeteria or by teachers.
- Over the past year, our students spent an average of at least 120 minutes per week (for middle and high schools) or 90 minutes per week (for elementary schools) in school supervised physical education.
- At least 50% of our students' annual physical education and physical activity (including recess) takes place outdoors.
- At least 50% of our students have participated in the EPA's Sunwise or equivalent program (to protect students from skin cancer)
- Our schools integrate health measures into student assessments
- Other:



Use the list above as a guide to describe how your district implements high standards of nutrition, fitness, and quality outdoor time for both students and staff. Highlight any innovation and/or unique partnerships. (Max. 250 words) *

Your answer

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Pillar 1: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs (30 points)

Element 1A: Energy conservation strategies (10 points)

Element 1B: Water quality, conservation, and efficiency (10 points)

Element 1C: Waste management and product procurement (5 points)

Element 1D: Alternative transportation (5 points)



1A Which of the following programs or practices has your district implemented to conserve energy and to protect our environment from the negative effects of buildings and transportation? (Check all that apply) *

- Our district participated in an energy efficiency program that resulted in a comprehensive energy audit and cost effective energy efficiency improvements.on 1
- Our district has met our energy conservation target every year since we started our program
- Our district energy use is tracked and benchmarked using EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager or an equivalent program
- 5% or more of the energy used at our district is obtained from on-site or off-site renewable energy sources.
- Buildings in our district were built or modernized to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Green Globes, Living Building Challenge, or another green building standard.
- Our district has a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan in place that targets energy use. We measure our annual progress against our reduction goal.
- Our students helped to collect data, analyze and implement actions plans whenever appropriate (e.g. NE Green Schools Energy Investigation).
- Other:



Use the list above as a guide to describe how your district programs, policies, and actions have reduced the amount of energy used in your building(s). Include data. Also include information about your efforts to protect our environment from greenhouse gas emissions, how you engage students, how you set your goals for reduction, and how you measure your progress. Also include any student learning objectives, and the educational and environmental benefits to date. (Max. 250 words) *

Your answer

Other indicators of your progress towards reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and/or increased energy efficiency (describe in detail and include metrics if available including information from completion of the NE Green Schools Energy Investigation)

Your answer



1B Which of the following practices contribute to the protection and conservation of the district's domestic (drinking) water (Check all that apply) *

- We are served by a community/city/county owned water provider that is required to report annually on the quality of our water.
- Our district has a plan to minimize run-off and limit impermeable surfaces.
- Our district has its own well and we do water sampling in accordance with our local and state health authorities.
- Our district maintenance department cleans all water taps and drinking fountains on a regular basis to prevent bacterial contamination.
- We have a water reduction plan in place that includes:low-flow water fixtures
- native drought-tolerant plants
- minimal or no landscape irrigation
- Our district water use is tracked and bench marked using EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager or an equivalent program.
- We use only non-potable water (such as water collected from a rain barrel or rain cistern) for irrigation.
- Our district has a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan in place that targets water use. We measure our annual progress against our reduction goal.



Our district engages students in collecting water use data, analyzing and implementation of water use plans

Other:

Use the list above as a guide to describe how your district implemented and is maintaining your water conservation program including your baseline, your goal, and your reduction rate to date. Explain how you will continue to reduce water use to meet your goal. Include who in the district participates in the water conservation program. Describe the work done to protect water taps and drinking fountains from bacterial contamination. Describe any efforts by the district to minimize its water quality impacts and any student learning objectives, and the educational and environmental benefits to date. (Maximum 250 words) *

Your answer

Other ways you are working to improve water quality, efficiency, and conservation (including action plans from NE Green Schools Water Investigation)

Your answer



1C Which of the following programs has the district initiated and maintained to reduce solid waste, eliminate hazardous waste, and procure environmentally preferable products? (Check all that apply) *

- Which of the following programs has the district initiated and maintained to reduce solid waste, eliminate hazardous waste, and procure environmentally preferable products? (Check all that apply)
- Our recycling program collects every material that is collected in our city/county.
- Our district composts organic materials on site
- Our district only purchases office/classroom paper that is 50% or more post-consumer material.
- Our district only purchases office/classroom paper made of fibers from forests certified as responsibly managed in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, or a comparable certification standard.
- Our district purchases office/classroom paper that is totally chlorine-free (TCF) or processed chlorine free (PCF).
- All new furniture purchases are certified by the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association or a comparable standard
- Hazardous and dangerous products in our district have been reduced or eliminated.



- Hazardous, dangerous, and universal wastes in our district are handled and disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations.
- Our district has a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan in place that targets solid waste reduction and recycling. We measure our annual progress against our reduction goal.
- Our district uses green cleaning supplies
- Our students are engaged in collecting data, analyzing and applying data analysis to develop and implement waste reduction and green purchasing.
- Other:

Use the list above as a guide to describe your solid waste management plan, including goals, materials you collect to be recycled or composted, your current recycling rate, and how you calculated the recycling rate. Include who participates in the waste management program, any student learning objectives, and the educational and environmental benefits to date. Provide an overview of your environmentally preferred purchasing. (Maximum 250 words) *

Your answer



Other indicators that you are reducing waste and eliminating hazardous waste (including action plans from NE Green Schools Waste and Recycling Investigation)

Your answer



1D Our district provides the following alternative transportation options to driving in single occupancy vehicles to and from school. (Check all that apply) *

- Our district participates in a "Safe Routes to School" or similar program.
- Our district has designated carpool parking stalls.
- Our district offers yellow school bus service.
- Our district is served by city/Metro public transportation service.
- All district buses that serve our students were built after 1994 when the first emission standards were adopted.
- Our district has a well-publicized no idling policy that applies to all vehicles including school buses.
- Our district has a vehicle loading/unloading area(s) at least 25 feet from building air intakes, doors, and windows.
- Our district has a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan in place that targets transportation. We measure our annual progress against our reduction goal.
- Other:



Use the list above as a guide to describe alternative transportation options to driving in a single occupancy vehicle to and from school. Include how the alternatives are promoted, any data you have about participation in school bus service, public transportation, carpools, ride-sharing, and commuting to school by walking or biking. Discuss how your school transportation use is efficient and has reduced environmental impacts (e.g. the percentage of school-owned electric/hybrid/alternative fuel vehicles in your fleet, or other indicators of significant reductions in emissions): (Maximum 250 words) *

Your answer

Describe any other efforts to engage students toward reducing environmental impact, focusing on innovative or unique practices and partnerships, including investigations and action planning from NE Green Schools Investigations

Your answer

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Summary Narrative

**You may want to complete this section after you have completed all other sections.

Provide an 800 word maximum narrative describing your district's efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs, improve student and staff health, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Focus on unique and innovative practices and partnerships. Focus on your commitment and progress toward meeting Green Ribbon School criteria, especially:

- * Partnerships or memberships the district has developed to meet your green goals
- * Student involvement in your Green School efforts
- * Your progress thus far, including results and benefits
- * The plan to sustain your work

If selected as a nominee, this narrative will be used in press releases and other outreach materials.



(maximum 800 words) *

Your answer

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