

Nebraska Green Ribbon Schools Application

* Required

School Information

School Name *

Your answer

Street Address *

Your answer



City *

Your answer

State *

Your answer

Zip Code *

Your answer

School Website *

Your answer

Principal First Name *

Your answer



Principal Last Name *

Your answer

Principal e-mail Address *

Your answer

Principal Phone Number *

Your answer

Lead Applicant Name (if not the principal)

Your answer

Lead Applicant e-mail Address

Your answer



School Level *

- Elementary K-5 or K-6
- Elementary K-8
- Middle School/Junior High
- High School (9-12 or 10-12)

School Description *

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

School Type (select all that apply) *

- Public
- Private
- Magnet



Has your district previously received the DOE GRS District award? *

Yes

No

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Innovative School Practices

From the DOE: The award is not intended to be a certification program. We are hoping to highlight a variety of examples of innovative practices across the state, rather than multiple schools within the same district, especially if it is one that has already been recognized with our District Sustainability Award for policies district-wide. Many certification programs and tracking tools can be used by schools to monitor progress and can be found at www.greenstrides.org.

What innovative sustainability practices are taking place at this school site that are above and beyond district practices? *

Your answer



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School 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 school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households? *

Yes

No



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Cross Cutting Questions (5 points)

Is your school 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 school, 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 school created a Green Team? *

Yes

No

List team members and their roles.

Your answer

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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 school employ to help ensure effective environmental and sustainability education? *

- Our School 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.
- For High Schools Only: Our school has active enrollment in an AP Environmental Science course.
- For High Schools Only: Our school has active enrollment in an Environmental Science course.
- 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 at your school 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 school 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

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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 school utilize to ensure the environmental health of the school community? (Check all that apply) *

- Our school implements an up-to-date Integrated Pest Management program.
- Our school 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 school has identified and properly removed sources of elemental mercury and prohibits its purchase and use in the school.
- Our school 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 school has a comprehensive green cleaning program.
- Our school 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 was built with radon resistant construction features and tested to confirm levels below 4 pCi/L
- Our school has an Asthma Management Program consistent with the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program.
- Our school has a chemical management program in place, with



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

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

Use the list above as a guide to describe how your school 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 school 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 the school facility 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 school implement to promote nutrition, physical activity, and overall school community health? (Check all that apply). *

- Our school participates in the "Coordinated School Health" program
- Our school participates in the USDA's Healthier School Challenge
- Our school participates in a Farm to School or comparable program to use local, fresh food in our cafeteria.
- Our school has a food garden either on-site or in close proximity to our building, 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 school integrates health measures into student assessments
- Other:



Use the list above as a guide to describe how your school 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 school implemented to conserve energy and to protect our environment from the negative effects of buildings and transportation? (Check all that apply) *

- Our school participated in an energy efficiency program that resulted in a comprehensive energy audit and cost effective energy efficiency improvements.on 1
- Our school has met our energy conservation target every year since we started our program
- Our school 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 school is obtained from on-site or off-site renewable energy sources.
- Our school was built or modernized to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Green Globes, Living Building Challenge, or another green building standard.
- Our school 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 school 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 school 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 school has a plan to minimize run-off and limit impermeable surfaces.
- Our school has its own well and we do water sampling in accordance with our local and state health authorities.
- Our building 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 school 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 school has a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan in place that targets water use. We measure our annual progress against our



reduction goal.

- Our school 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 school 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 school 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 school 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 school 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 school 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 school composts organic materials on site
- Our school only purchases office/classroom paper that is 50% or more post-consumer material.
- Our school 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 school 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 at our school have been reduced or eliminated.



- Hazardous, dangerous, and universal wastes at our school are handled and disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations.
- Our school 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 school 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 school provides the following alternative transportation options to driving in single occupancy vehicles to and from school. (Check all that apply) *

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