2026 State Level Green Ribbon School Honorees

Center for Green Schools

Good Hope Primary School

Talladega, Alabama

Good Hope Primary School in the Cullman County School System demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability through energy efficiency, waste reduction, healthy learning environments, and hands-on environmental education. Through LED lighting upgrades, strategic energy management, and improved waste practices, the school has reduced its environmental impact while promoting responsible resource stewardship among students and staff.

Sustainability is integrated into learning through weekly STEAM lessons, student projects, and future plans for an outdoor classroom supporting Farm to Table education through community partnerships. Good Hope Primary School serves as a model for how schools can advance environmental responsibility while creating healthier, more sustainable spaces for students and educators.



Photo courtesy of Good Hope Primary School

Captain Leland F. Norton Elementary

San Bernardino, California

Norton Elementary School demonstrates the core principles of the California Green Ribbon Schools program by reducing its environmental impact through careful monitoring of energy, water, and waste use, achieving a 44% reduction in energy consumption, EPA ENERGY STAR Certification, and a 35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The school promotes student and staff well-being through initiatives such as Breakfast in the Classroom, healthy meal programs, and a comprehensive wellness approach that earned it the 2024 Healthiest Schools Award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Sustainability is embedded throughout learning, giving students hands-on opportunities to engage in recycling, composting, and gardening while building an understanding of environmental stewardship. One of Norton's greatest accomplishment is empowering students with the critical thinking, innovation, and sustainability skills needed to develop future environmental solutions and strengthen the well-being of their communities.



Photo credit: Norton Elementary Wellness Team

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate

Moraga, California

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School has built a culture of sustainability by integrating resource efficiency, student wellness, and environmental education into every aspect of campus life, transforming the school into a living laboratory for learning. Campus initiatives—including a 300 kW solar shade structure, student-led waste diversion that keeps 67% of waste out of landfills, reusable cafeteria ware, and expanded outdoor wellness spaces—reduce environmental impacts while supporting student health and well-being.

Through hands-on learning, partnerships with local agencies and organizations, and programs such as NOAA Ocean Guardian Schools, students apply sustainability concepts to real-world challenges, develop civic leadership, and explore pathways to green careers.



Photo Coutesy of Devin Jackson

Lycée Français de San Francisco

San Fransisco, California

Across its three Bay Area campuses, student-led Green Committees have delivered measurable environmental results by reducing energy consumption, cutting waste, and significantly decreasing the use of single-use materials, making sustainability an integral part of daily school operations.

The schools promote student and staff well-being through active outdoor spaces, nutritious food initiatives, and a culture of care that supports healthy, engaged learning environments. Sustainability is embedded throughout the curriculum—from the earliest grades through high school—in both the French program and the IB International Track, equipping students to lead environmental initiatives, apply real-world problem-solving skills, and create lasting impacts within their schools and communities.



Photo credit: Lycee Francais de San Francisco

National School District

National City, California

National School District (NSD) has embedded sustainability into every aspect of its operations, education, and student wellness, demonstrating that environmental leadership can thrive in a high-need community serving 90% unduplicated students. Districtwide investments in energy efficiency, solar power, water conservation, and waste reduction have cut greenhouse gas emissions by 13%, saved more than one million gallons of water annually, and diverted over 1,000 tons of waste each year.

Every campus serves as a living laboratory with gardens, orchards, hydroponics, and watershed education, while innovative health initiatives, including chemical-free cleaning, advanced air filtration, and the nation's first elementary-only Heart Safe District designation—support student well-being. Through hands-on learning and leadership opportunities centered on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, NSD empowers students to become environmental problem-solvers and community leaders.



Photo credit: National School District

Ravenswood City School District

East Palo Alto, California

Ravenswood City School District has transformed its five Title I campuses through more than $250 million in bond-funded sustainability investments that improve efficiency, resilience, and student well-being. On-site solar systems now provide approximately 70% of the district's energy needs, saving an estimated $125,000 annually, while water conservation efforts, including efficient irrigation and native landscaping, have reduced water use by 68% since 2020.

The district continues to electrify campus infrastructure, upgrade indoor air quality with MERV-13 filtration, and expand its urban forest with more than 1,300 trees that provide shade and support biodiversity. At Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy, an arboretum campus serves as a living laboratory where environmental education is embedded into daily learning, making Ravenswood the only district with more than 90% unduplicated students to earn California Green Achiever recognition in at least a decade.



Photo credit: Ravenswood City School District

Conniston Middle School

West Palm Beach, Florida

Conniston Middle School conserves resources through energy-efficient lighting, water-saving practices, refill stations, and comprehensive recycling programs while promoting student health through clean-air initiatives, active transportation, hydration access, and nutrition education. Sustainability is woven throughout the curriculum through field research, community partnerships, and environmental advocacy, turning the campus into a living laboratory for hands-on learning.

The school's achievements include earning First Place Overall in the Palm Beach County Green Schools Challenge and creating "Clark the Marlin," a sculpture made from plastics collected during beach cleanups.



Photo credit: Conniston Middle School

Horizon West Middle School

Windermere, Florida

Horizon West Middle School's commitment to sustainability is evident throughout campus in features such as sustainability murals, outdoor learning spaces, energy-awareness initiatives, and classroom recycling programs that help reduce environmental impact while supporting health and wellness. These visible efforts are reinforced by comprehensive environmental and sustainability education that empowers students to become active stewards of their school and community.

Behind this success is a strong foundation of administrative support, dedicated teachers, student-led projects, and an engaged community whose shared commitment continues to drive meaningful, lasting environmental change.



Photo credit: Jacquelyn Rifenberh

Orlando Gifted Academy

Orlando, Florida

At Orlando Gifted Academy, sustainability is embedded in every aspect of school life, connecting campus operations, interdisciplinary learning, and community partnerships to prepare students as environmentally responsible leaders. The school has transformed its campus with gardens, irrigation, native landscaping, expanded recycling, and energy- and water-saving initiatives that have reduced electricity use by 25%, paper consumption by 40%, and single-occupancy commutes by 15%. Health and wellness are prioritized through improved indoor air quality, extensive outdoor learning and physical activity, school gardens, and nutrition education, contributing to a 20% decline in reported asthma incidents over two years.

Using its campus as a living laboratory, OGA engages students in hands-on sustainability projects, data-driven investigations, and civic action that foster systems thinking, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship.

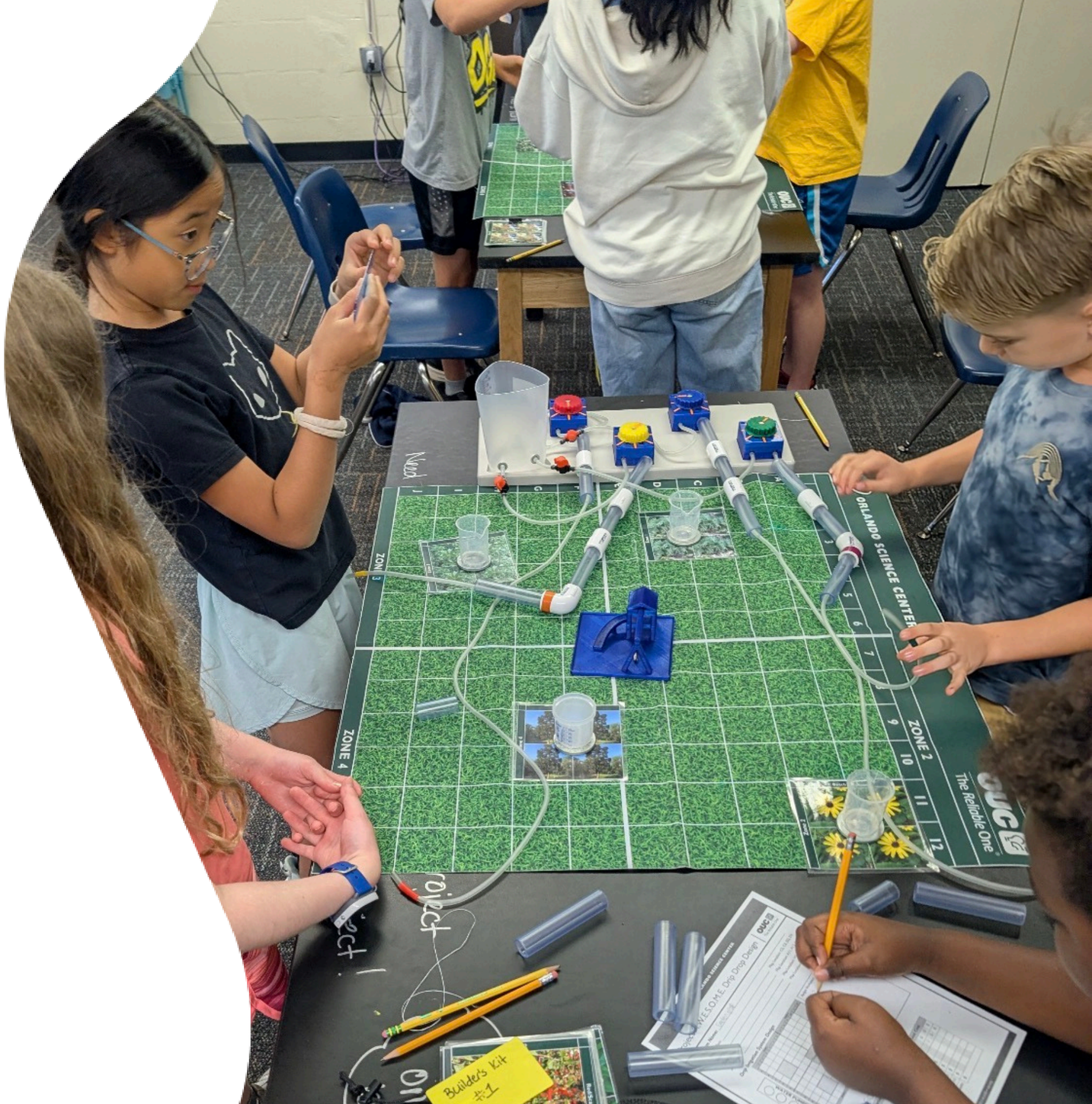


Photo credit: 5th Grade Science Gina Ortiz

Sandpiper Shores Elementary School

Boca Raton, Florida

Sustainability is woven into every aspect of life at Sandpiper Shores Elementary School, where students, staff, and families lead initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, healthy living, and hands-on learning. Student-led Green Club and Garden Club members maintain organic gardens, a food forest, and native landscapes while championing recycling, energy conservation, water refill stations, and campus-wide sustainability efforts that have earned the school recognition as a Florida Green Apple School, Gold-level Everglades Champion School, and a nominee for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award.

Through grant-funded outdoor learning spaces, environmental partnerships, and award-winning programs—including first-place finishes in the Unwrap the Waves initiative and the Green Rising Star Award—students apply sustainability concepts through service, conservation projects, and annual events such as Earth Day celebrations and community cleanups, creating a lasting culture of environmental leadership.



Photo credit: Kerry Maione

Glenbrook High School District 225

Glenview, Illinois

Glenbrook High School District 225 advances sustainability through initiatives that reduce resource use, improve student well-being, and strengthen sustainability literacy across its schools. The district's solar and battery storage system, energy-efficient facilities, upgraded building automation system, and waste reduction efforts lower environmental impact while providing students with hands-on learning opportunities in environmental science, engineering, and economics.

Student health is supported through on-site health centers that expand access to preventive care, mental health services, and health education, alongside healthy, sustainable cafeteria practices. Sustainability is further embedded through horticulture programs, native plant installations, and outdoor classrooms, where students gain firsthand experience with biodiversity, ecological systems, and environmental stewardship.



Photo credit: Glenbrook High School District 225

Bedford Public Schools

Bedford, Massachussetts

Bedford Public Schools has reduced its environmental impact through district-wide waste diversion programs, including reuse and cafeteria composting, energy efficiency upgrades, participation in 100% renewable electricity, building decarbonization efforts, and expanded clean transportation initiatives.

The district also prioritizes student and staff well-being through strong indoor air quality practices, green cleaning, social-emotional learning, outdoor access, farm-to-school programming, coordinated mental health supports, and by diverting 250 pounds of food each week to community share fridges. By embedding sustainability throughout its curriculum and school culture, Bedford Public Schools is preparing students to become responsible environmental stewards while driving lasting, system-wide change through partnership, innovation, and student leadership.



Photo credit: Kim Marino

Warwick Community School

Warwick, Massachussetts

Since opening in 2023, Warwick Community School has centered its educational mission around learning in and about nature through a nature-centered, place- and project-based curriculum that engages students in exploring the birds, trees, and amphibians across its 25-acre woodland campus. Students learn in both indoor and outdoor classrooms built by teachers and students, creating projects such as local frog guides and regional bird podcasts that showcase their connection to place.

Through collaboration with the town of Warwick, a recognized “green community” since 2014, the school has advanced sustainability goals including purchasing a fully electric mini bus and transitioning to electricity powered by off-site solar. The school further supports student growth through locally sourced homemade meals, personalized learning plans, and annual traditions like Mountain Day and Earth Day celebrations that connect students with the natural world and their community.



Photo credit: Carole Learned-Miller

New Buffalo High School/ Middle School

New Buffalo, Michigan

New Buffalo High and Middle School empowers students and staff to lead ideas, policies, and projects that reduce the school's environmental impact while improving the health and well-being of the school and broader community.

Environmental classes and student teams drive these sustainability initiatives through hands-on learning and leadership. Current projects include an apiary for pollination, schoolwide recycling, share bins for excess food, an apple orchard, hydroponics for fresh school lunches, a walnut grove riparian buffer, a solar charging station, solar heat collectors on maintenance buildings, a community garden, a monarch waystation, and edible mushroom-inoculated hay bales for mycoremediation of parking lot runoff.



Photo credit: Richard Eberly

Boone County Nature School

Columbia, Missouri

Boone County Nature School serves as an innovative outdoor education center, providing immersive, place-based environmental learning experiences for all fifth-grade students across 21 elementary schools in Columbia Public Schools and surrounding communities.

Spanning 111 acres, the school uses its diverse natural landscape as a living classroom where students explore ecology, conservation, and sustainability through hands-on experiences. Each year, approximately 1,300 to 1,500 fifth graders participate in seven-day programs offered across three seasons, building meaningful connections with the environment and developing lifelong stewardship skills.



Photo courtesy of Boone County Nature School

Ladue Horton Watkins High School

St. Louis, Missouri

Ladue Horton Watkins High School has built a strong culture of sustainability through student leadership, cross-disciplinary learning, and district support that reduces waste, conserves resources, restores habitats, and promotes healthier school environments. Student organizations, including SAGE (Student Action for a Greener Earth), lead initiatives such as no-idling campaigns, pollinator habitat restoration, recycling and e-waste drives, watershed stewardship, and community service projects in partnership with local governments, universities, nonprofits, and businesses.

Sustainability is integrated across academics, from science and social studies to economics, the arts, and world languages, helping students connect environmental issues with public health, equity, and global citizenship. Supported by dedicated sustainability staff and strong community partnerships, students build on the work of previous classes, making sustainability an enduring part of the school's culture rather than a series of isolated projects.



Photo courtesy of Laude School District

Shirlee Green Preschool

St. Louis, Missouri

The Shirlee Green Preschool fosters environmental stewardship through thriving butterfly and bird gardens, expanding wildlife habitats, and student-led conservation projects that protect local ecosystems. Sustainable campus practices—including 100% food scrap composting, reusable dining materials, filtered water bottle filling stations, healthier cleaning products, and repurposed school supplies—reduce waste, improve indoor air quality, and diverted more than 5,100 pounds of food waste from landfills in 2025.

Through year-long, hands-on projects and community partnerships, students develop problem-solving and civic leadership skills by addressing real environmental challenges, from preventing bird-window collisions to creating habitats that support local wildlife.



Photo credit: Brandi Kanoya

Katonah Lewisboro School District

Cross River, New York

Katonah-Lewisboro School District empowers students to lead sustainability efforts through Green Teams in all five schools, where they plant trees, create native pollinator gardens, champion initiatives like Meatless Mondays and Waste Free Wednesdays, and work alongside a strong network of community partners to drive meaningful environmental change.

The district has made significant progress toward its ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2040 through renewable energy, solar power, energy efficiency upgrades, building electrification, and the transition to an all-electric school bus fleet, while promoting health and wellness through clean indoor environments, hydration access, nutritious food programs, and social-emotional learning. Sustainability is deeply embedded across the curriculum, giving students hands-on opportunities to tackle real-world environmental challenges through research, interdisciplinary learning, and leadership that prepares them to become informed, engaged global citizens.



Photo credit: Lenore Person, KLSD Communications

Williamsville Central School District

East Amherst, New York

Williamsville Central Schools has built a strong foundation in sustainability by integrating environmental concepts throughout a carefully aligned K–4 STEAM curriculum, ensuring students deepen their understanding of environmental science each year. The school promotes health, wellness, and environmental stewardship through a student-maintained children's arboretum, outdoor classroom, and sensory space that provide meaningful hands-on learning experiences.

A standout initiative is the cross-age partnership in which high school science students research environmental topics they are passionate about and teach interactive lessons to elementary students, strengthening leadership skills while inspiring younger learners. Together, these efforts have fostered a district-wide culture of conservation that demonstrates how students of all ages can work together to build a more sustainable future.



Photo credit: WCSD

Maple Grove Charter School

Athens, Wisconsin

Maple Grove Charter School infuses a strong culture of sustainability into everyday student experiences. Through projects like solar energy generation, a rainwater capture system, and local food production—including maple syrup, garden vegetables, and eggs—students witness sustainability in action. Outdoor learning is a core part of the school's culture, with students actively contributing to the school by composting, gardening, recycling, and maintaining campus trails, providing them with both environmental awareness and a sense of stewardship.



Photo courtesy of Maple Grove Charter School

Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

Middleton, Wisconsin

Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District has made sustainability a cornerstone of its operations and educational mission, committing to meet 100% of its operational energy needs with renewable energy by 2035. Investments in solar power, geothermal systems, decarbonization, and energy-efficient building design have avoided more than $6.3 million in utility costs since 1990, while solar installations at six schools can provide up to 95% of each school's electricity needs.

Student leadership drives sustainability through Green Teams, award-winning environmental programs, school gardens, greenhouses, and food recovery initiatives that support local food pantries, while districtwide wellness efforts promote healthy learning environments for students and staff. Recognized with the 2023 Sustainable Middleton Award and the 2026 Wisconsin DPI Stewardship and Sustainability Award, MCPASD demonstrates how long-term planning, innovation, and community engagement can create lasting environmental and educational impact.



Photo credit: Jerrud Rossing/MCPAS