



**CONNECTICUT  
GREEN LEAF  
SCHOOLS**

*Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering  
healthy, green schools for all.*

## **Schools that:**

- ***Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education***
- ***Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff, and***
- ***Reduce Environmental Impact and Cost***



# www.CTGreenSchools.org



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## Welcome!

CT Green Schools is a resource for educators, administrators, building officials, and students in K-12 schools, colleges, and universities around Connecticut.

CT Green Schools is an ongoing project to research, identify and promote an effective approach to sustainability on school grounds and college and university campuses state-wide. It provides resources to Connecticut schools interested in taking a comprehensive sustainability approach aimed at lowering energy use and cost, reducing greenhouse gases from building systems and transportation, water and waste water management, improving recycling, hazardous waste reduction and disposal, and materials procurement. This approach targets ten areas in building a green school, and twelve

Is your K-12 School a **GREEN LEAF?**



Click here to learn about becoming one!



- Building a Green School
- Greening Your K-12 School
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# Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

**Goal 1: Schools will focus on interdisciplinary learning featuring relationships between the environment, energy and human systems, civic engagement with the local community, and connections to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) content and practice.**

- Support overall academic achievement and higher performance on standardized testing by Integrating environmental education into the curriculum.
- Utilize real world , experiential-based content combined with traditional textbook-based approaches.
- Utilize the school as a learning laboratory and connect the classroom environmental activities with the student's home life
- Utilize environmental education to support community engagement.
- Activities and Resources: Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, Project WILD, Food, Land and People, and STEM Partnerships.



# Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

## **Goal 2: Schools strive to integrate school environmental health programs, nutritional and fitness standards, and quality outdoor time.**

- Improve the nutritional of food eaten at school and encourage healthy eating
- Ensure that students get regular physical fitness activities
- Create and maintain a healthy indoor and outdoor environment
- Programs and Resources: Indoor-Air-Quality (IAQ) Tools-for-Schools, Integrated Pest Management, Green Cleaning Program, daily exercise and health classes, yoga, and dance, Farm-to-School Partnerships, Community, Rain and Butterfly gardens, outdoor classrooms.



# Reduce Environmental Impact and Cost

**Goal 3: Green LEAF School will ensure that their environmental footprint is small by helping school buildings to maximize energy and water efficiency, focus on waste reduction and recycling, and promote alternative transportation use.**

- Monitor energy and water use through Energy Star Portfolio Manager
- Reduce energy use through conservation activities
- Reduce emissions and lower energy cost by implementing energy efficiency strategies
- Reduce water and waste water through water efficiency initiatives
- Focused effort on waste reduction and recycling initiatives
- Promote the use of renewable energy sources
- Promote alternative transportation strategies, including; walking, bicycles, carpools and use of buses
- Programs and Resources: ISE, eeSmart, Energy Star, CT Energy Efficiency Fund programs, Center for Green Schools, Recycling and Composting



# How to become a Green LEAF School

Select one of two levels:

## **Planting Seeds (level 1):**

- For schools assessing their baselines and developing green plans.
- This level lays the foundation for a more sustainable school community in the future.

## **Growing Green (level 2):**

- For schools that have made significant progress in all seven steps.
- Exemplary schools would be eligible for federal Green Ribbon recognition.



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# THE PROCESS

School

1

A school is interested in joining the CT Green LEAF Program and the principal signs on with the Principal's Commitment.

2

The school notifies CT Green LEAF of their commitment and initiates their green team.

3

Within a month or so, the school green team completes and submits the Self-Assessment Tool.

4

The school commits to completing the CT Green LEAF Application. Contact [ctgreenleaf@ctgreenschools.org](mailto:ctgreenleaf@ctgreenschools.org) to connect with a mentor.

5

The CT Green LEAF team will make selections for awardees for the CT Green Leaf Awards and nominees to the Green Ribbon Schools Award Program.

6

CT Green LEAF Awardees and Nominees to Green Ribbon Schools Award are recognized at the Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Conference in March.

7

Green Ribbon Awards will be announced by the US Department of Education on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. Awardees are invited to attend the ceremony in Washington DC on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

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