



Minnesota

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MISSION: Place Every Child in Minnesota in a Green School within One Generation

Education and Environment Leaders Convene, Form Minnesota Green Schools Coalition

MINNEAPOLIS — Today the Minnesota Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC-Minnesota) announced the formation of the Minnesota Green Schools Coalition. The Coalition brings together that state's strongest advocates to create an infrastructure of healthy, high-performance schools that are conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money. The alliance adopted the mission, developed the USGBC-Minnesota, to provide every child in Minnesota with a green school within a generation.

The Coalition plans to shape the classroom of the future and fundamentally change the way Minnesota students learn about the world around them. Discussions at the Coalitions quarterly meetings will include the topics of new school construction, critical retrofits of existing facilities, green cleaning, metrics-based programs to track energy consumption and experiential learning opportunities for teachers and students.

Organizations attending the launch include:

- Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA)
- Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)
- Minnesota Educational Facility Management Supervisors (MASMS)
- Minnesota Schools Boards Association (MSBA)
- Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA)
- Minnesota Parent Teacher Association
- Minnesota Department of Education
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Education Minnesota
- Minnesota Green Schools Network
- Minnesota Association of Environmental Education
- Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon Program

"In order for each child to experience the benefits of green schools, all of our organizations must work together," said Sheri Brezinka, Executive Director for USGBC-Minnesota. "It is wonderful to see so many organizations committed to working toward our mission."

Green schools provide children a safe, clean, energy efficient place for teachers to prepare the next generation of leaders and citizens. Green schools increase student productivity, learning and test scores while helping to reduce absenteeism up to 15%. There are 12 LEED certified educational facilities in Minnesota, five of which are K-12 institutions.

For more information on the Green Schools Coalition contact Sheri Brezinka at sbrezinka@usgbcmn.org or call 952.564.3049. For more information on green schools please visit The Center for Green Schools at www.centerforgreenschools.org.

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About the Minnesota Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council

As the built environment fundamentally impacts peoples' lives and our planet's health, the mission of the Minnesota Chapter is to positively transform the building processes, building industry and communities of Minnesota, by drawing upon the experience of stakeholders in the built environment. The Chapter promotes the design, construction and operation of buildings and communities that are healthy places to live and work, environmentally responsible and economically viable on a lifecycle basis. The Chapter serves its members and communities by promoting best practices in design and technology usage, advocating green building policies and facilitating information exchange and education. The Chapter encourages the widespread acceptance and use of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ and other complementary tools and standards. For more information, visit www.usgbcmn.org.

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