

2021/22 Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives Guide



2019 Winning Louisiana Green Schools Poster

Christina Le, 8th Grade, Southeastern Louisiana University Lab School, Hammond



The U.S. Green Building Chapter of Louisiana is thrilled to launch our Green Schools Initiatives with the generous support of our long-standing sponsors and partners, Entergy and ELKAY. The Initiatives encourage K-12 schools across the state to implement projects that will make their schools and communities healthier places to live, learn, and grow through a variety of engagement opportunities.

The 2021/22 Green Schools Initiatives include

- Fall Poster Contest
- #GreenSchoolSelfie Drawing this year on Twitter
- Annual Louisiana Green Schools Challenge (GSC)

This guide contains an overview of these followed by detailed information about participating for organizers. Each of these initiatives are available to students, clubs, and instructors in K-12 schools and at no cost or commitment. We look forward to your Green Schools submissions.

Geaux Green Schools!

Jordan Stewart
Green Schools Committee Chair
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[Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives Homepage](#)

USGBC Louisiana is the local chapter of the United States Green Building Council. Our mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, constructed, and operated to help make Louisiana a healthier place to live, learn, and grow.

Our programs, activities, and initiatives are intended to Educate citizens, businesses, and policy makers of the health, economic, and environmental benefits of sustainable design, construction, and planning.

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What Are Green Schools

Green Schools are school buildings or facilities that create healthy environments that are conducive to learning while saving energy, resources, and money.

We spend 90% of our time indoors—it is important that these spaces are as healthy as they can be.

Short Term Benefits

- Cost Savings
- Maintenance and Operations Improvements
- Increased Environmental Awareness within the School Community

Long Term Benefits

- Decreased childhood ailments, for instance asthma and other breathing conditions
- Decreases in student and faculty absenteeism
- Improved life-long habits for healthier living
- Increases in student and staff performance

For more detailed information and resources, visit the Center for Green Schools online. www.centerforgreenschools.org

“In recent years, school administrators and designers have become increasingly convinced that the quality of school buildings can have an impact on student health and learning. It makes sense to them that, when classrooms are clean, healthy, and daylit, students will be more comfortable, less prone to illness, and more focused on their studies.”

*The Impact of School Buildings on Student Health and Performance,
McGraw-Hill Foundation*



Green Schools Initiatives Key Dates

For our 2021/22 Green Schools Initiatives year, we have endeavored to streamline paths to participate and to celebrate green schools, instructors, and students across the state. Details follow in this guide.

Poster Contest

The poster contest invites individual students to enter their own poster designs with the chance to have their poster selected for print and use in Green Schools program materials next year.

- Poster Entries Due 11/12/2021
- Winning Poster Announced 11/19/2021

#GreenSchoolSelfie Drawing

This spring we will hold the #GreenSchoolSelfie Drawing to win an ELKAY ezH2O water bottle-filling station for the winning school on Twitter. (Updated 2/7/2022)

- #GreenSchoolSelfie Enter on 2/14/2022

2022 Louisiana Green Schools Challenge

A class project studied and implemented by students. Submissions are due in the spring.

- Early Registration Drawing 12/3/2021
- Entries Due 3/31/2022
- Awards Announced 4/29/2022

Poster Contest

Create a poster with the theme “Where We Learn Matters” and your school could win an Elkay EzH2O Bottle Filling Station valued at \$1500 for your school. Enter by November 12, 2021.



2019 Winning Louisiana Green Schools Poster
Christina Le, 8th Grade, Southeastern Louisiana
University Lab School, Hammond

This poster contest is part of the USGBC Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives for 2021-2022. We want to see what “Where we Learn Matters” looks like to you. Design a poster that illustrates what that theme means to you.

An Elkay water bottle filling station will be awarded to the school that submitted the winning poster.

The winning poster design will be used for next year’s Green Schools Initiatives.

To enter, speak to your school contact below for contest rules and guidelines.

Contact the USGBC Louisiana Green Schools Coordinator at geauxgreenschools@gmail.com to learn more.

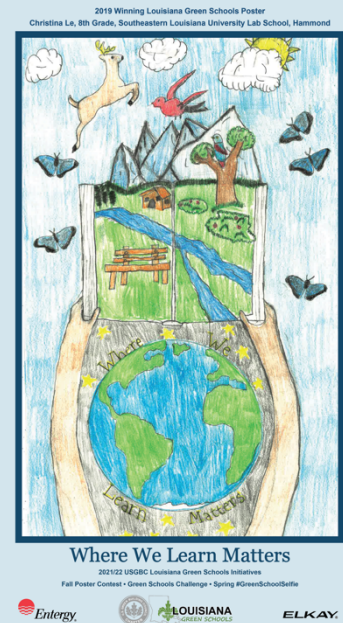
Poster Contest Information

Create a poster with the theme “Where We Learn Matters” and your school could win an Elkay Bottle Filling Station valued at \$1500 for your school.

We want to see what “Where we Learn Matters” looks like to you. Design a poster that illustrates what that theme means to you.

Complete the entry form on the next page and send it along with your poster to enter the contest. Contest rules and guidelines below provide more detail.

Contact geauxgreenschools@gmail.com with questions.



RULES AND GUIDELINES

- 1) The contest is open to all students currently enrolled in grades 1-12 in Louisiana.
- 2) Entries will be judged on the following criteria:
 - “Where We Learn Matters” theme expression
 - Originality and creativity
- 3) Artwork must be original 2D art, media, or photography. The theme must appear on the poster.
- 4) All entries become property of USGBC Louisiana and can be used for promotional purposes without further permission or compensation to the artist.
- 5) The winning poster will become the official poster of the next annual series Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives and may be used in series promotional materials. The winning poster will be displayed at USGBC Louisiana events and on the chapter website.
- 6) By entering the contest, the entrant agrees to each of the above rules.
- 7) Decisions by the judges are final.
- 8) All entrants must complete a participation form which includes a parent/guardian’s signature.
- 9) Entries must be sent electronically by email to geauxgreenschools@gmail.com by midnight central time on November 12, 2021. If the artwork has been created by hand, please scan the artwork and send a digital copy to the chapter. The winner will be contacted for an original copy or higher resolution scan for printing purposes if needed.

POSTER CONTEST PARTICIPATION FORM

Where We Learn Matters

Artist / Student's Name _____

Age _____ Grade _____

School Contact _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name, Email or Phone Number

By signing this consent form, you agree to all Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives Poster Contest.

Student Signature

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date _____

Please print this form, sign, scan and email with the poster artwork to
geauxgreenschools@gmail.com



#GreenSchoolSelfie Valentine's Day Drawing

This light-hearted drawing is intended to share the joy of green projects across friends, neighbors, schools, and colleagues. These projects are rejuvenating for their students and leaders as they are for the environment. Let's get the word out!

Send a #GreenSchoolSelfie this Valentine's Day. Show your love for going green. Snap some photos of your school, your classmates with school projects, school gardens, and enjoying nature and enter for a chance to win an Elkay Bottle Filling Station for your school.

Details for the drawing to be held on Twitter. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for current updates. (Updated 2/7/2022)

Twitter @USGBC_Lou

Facebook @USGBCLouisianaGreenSchools



Green School Challenge

The USGBC Louisiana Green Schools Challenge is an annual competition in which schools undertake a green project to make their school and/or communities a healthier place to live, learn, and grow. The challenge positions students to lead green projects among their peers to improve their own schools and communities. Our program rewards environmental impact, community engagement, and student leadership.

The Challenge is structured as a team-based activity with three entry divisions: elementary, middle, and high school. A teacher or parent becomes the Project Coordinator (Green Team leader), builds a **Green Team** of students, faculty, and staff to design and implement a green project to be submitted to the Challenge.

The Challenge is flexible, allowing individual Green Teams to develop projects that draw on their own vision and the resources available. The Challenge pairs well with STEM and STEAM curricular activities. Projects aligned with other organizations and challenges that are aligned with these goals are welcome entries.

The Chapter will pair any team with a Green Mentor, a volunteer from our membership to support the team project by request. Teams can also work with volunteers from their communities, organizations, educators, and businesses to bring their projects to fruition.

Green Teams compete for prizes in their entry division as well as among all entrants. Projects are reviewed against others according to the challenge project score sheet at the end of this guide. The Chapter works with schools to present awards to teams in person before summer break.

The **Vision** of The Green Schools Challenge is to engage Louisiana's students in the benefits of environmental stewardship through participation in hands-on projects in which the students document their project's environmental impact. The project names below speak to the enthusiasm with which past teams led their projects.

Save the Sporks ★ We Went on a Growing Spree! ★ Ramcycling ★ The Green Goes on at STM ★ Rethink Our Future ★ Living with Water for the Next 300 Years ★ Climate Kids Project & Summit ★ Saving Louisiana



Award Categories



Student Outcomes

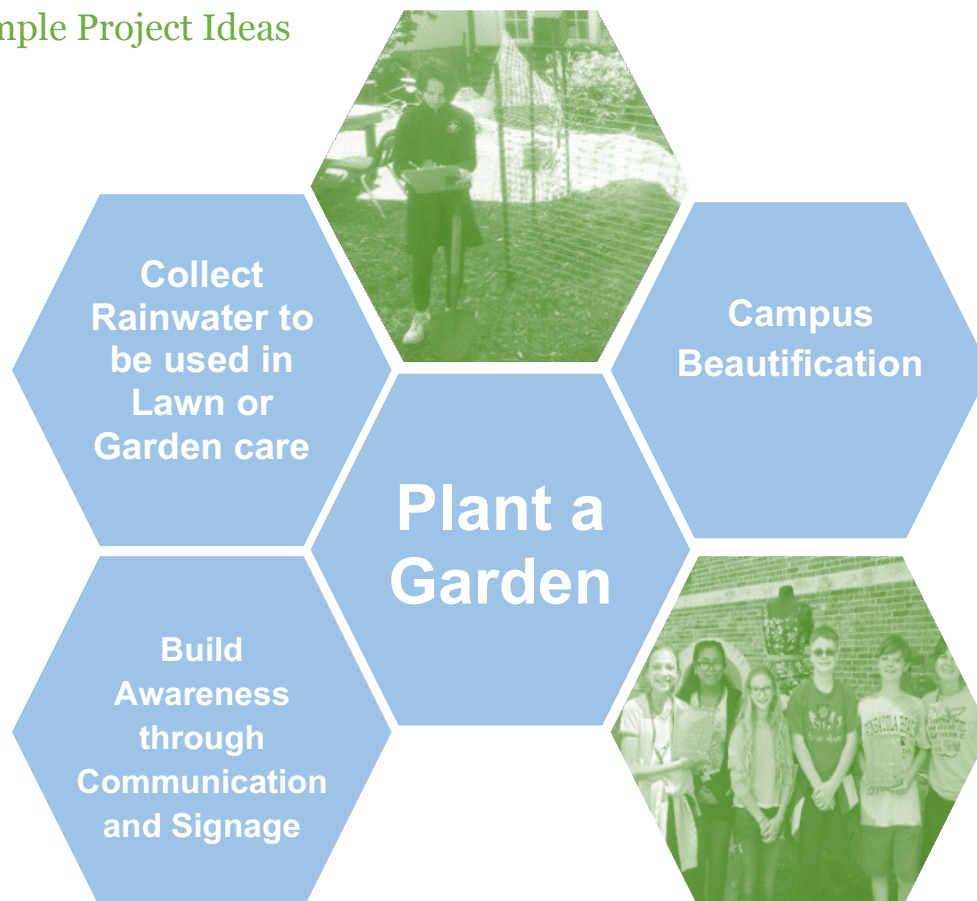
Green Team Leaders report that Challenge projects contribute to student interest in **environmental stewardship, problem-solving skills, and increased capability to focus**. Some illustrative examples of capabilities and associated activities reported by previous Challenge teams include Environmental Literacy, increased collaboration skills, data collection, tool use and communication skills.

Challenge Phases

Phase 1 – Form Your Team & Your Project

- Teacher & students who are interested in environmental stewardship gather to form a Green Team. They might be a student club, a new club, a single classroom, an entire grade level, or the entire school. The team should discuss interests and project resources. You may also visit our GSC Resources and Ideas PDF available on the [Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives Homepage](#).
- Register your team with the Green Schools Challenge. Use our [Google Form](#) or email us at geauxgreenschols@gmail.com to let us know your plans and whether you would like us to pair you with a Green Mentor.
- Pair up with a Green Mentor (optional). Green Mentors are knowledgeable adults who work with your team to plan, implement, document, and/or enter your project into the Challenge. The USGBC can pair your team with professionals from our community often architects, engineers, or construction industry professionals, located in your school community. You may also work with a Green Mentor you already know. Please ask your mentor to complete the Green Mentor Registration form at the end of this manual and send to geauxgreenschols@gmail.com.

Example Project Ideas



Phase 2 – Implement & Document

- Work on your project during the school year documenting your process and your impact.
- The Green Team should establish the purpose and goals of their project. Then, the team should set up metrics for comparing the success of the project's output to those goals. Remember to take baseline data at the beginning of your project so that you can best measure the impact your project makes later in the process.
- In addition to environmental impact data, the team's progress should be documented with pictures and other indicators of your process and student leadership.
- There is a copy of the judging criteria in this document's appendix. Knowing these criteria, might influence your project selection and will certainly better prepare your team to make a competition submission.
- The mentor & teacher should work together to ensure that the team makes progress throughout the project.

Phase 3 – Enter Your Project

Entering your project into the Green Schools Challenge competition for consideration for awards and prizes is simple and free to all schools. Project documentation required for consideration in the awards and prizes. Competition entry consists of three parts described below. To enter, complete and submit the following materials to geauxgreenschools@gmail.com. All forms can be found at the end of this manual.

- **Part A – Cover Sheet** General information about the school, the green team, and the challenge project.
- **Part B – Project Portfolio** Present your project to reviewers within the three portfolio sections below. Presentations will be submitted digitally. Formats frequently selected by competitors included PowerPoint, Google Slides, YouTube video, and PDF. If you are considering a different format, we recommend contacting us in advance to verify compatibility. Use the score card to guide your presentation content.
 - **PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD PROFILE.** We hold the People's Choice Award on Facebook for online voting. Please provide basic project information, one 4x4" image or image collage, and a brief synopsis (30-90 words) of the project. If a school enters Challenge projects into more than one entry division, these projects will be combined into a single contender for the People's Choice Award. The PCA materials are often submitted as a 1-page document including both the image and summary.
 - **PROJECT SUMMARY.** Provide a short, roughly one-page, written description of your project. This is an opportunity to provide the reviewers with a clear overview of the project you have undertaken and to include data and details that may not make it into the presentation.

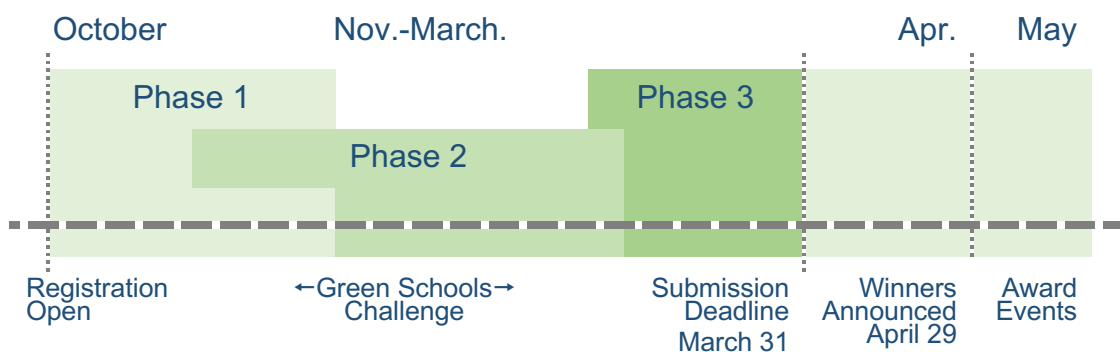
- PROJECT PRESENTATION. Green Teams should explain the project’s purpose, goals, progress, any issues encountered, outcomes, and future plans through a visual format—video or digital slide presentation of approximately 5 minutes in length. See our template PowerPoint project presentation as a place to get started. That file is available on our [Louisiana Green Schools Initiatives Homepage](#).
- **Part C – Image Release Forms** Completed Image Release Forms are required for each student featured in materials entered to the Green Schools Challenge.

These materials will be shared with reviewers and assessed based on the challenge project score sheet which can be found in the next section. Green Team Leaders are responsible submitting the final materials by the challenge deadline.

We are happy to receive submission materials early and will be glad to work with you in advance of the deadline to test formats, file sizes, and presentation features you are considering using for your challenge presentation.

Challenge Schedule

Each project takes its own course based on the size, complexity, and length of the project undertaken. This diagram provides a general timeline along which Green Schools Projects might proceed. Registration remains open September through the submission deadline in April. While registration is not required, we encourage early registration so that we can support your team with mentors and advise as the project moves along.



School Responsibilities

The Green Schools Challenge is first and foremost a program designed to serve schools. Our goal is to provide access and resources to increase environmental stewardship, and then to reward teachers and students who have implemented their knowledge and improved their schools and communities. The relationship between USGBC Louisiana, the school, and the mentor is critical to the success of the projects.

The school is the foundation for a thriving Green Team, and will be expected to:

- Provide access to classroom / space to conduct Green Team meetings.
- Support a teacher (called the “Project Coordinator”) to act as a liaison & primary contact between the school, the mentor, and USGBC Louisiana.
- Establish a relationship with your mentor and advise them on how they can best assist with the green project, meet the needs of the students, and engage the school and your community.
- Maintain communication with USGBC Louisiana so we can assist as much or as little as you need.

Schools that require background checks or additional security screenings for mentors should inform USGBC Louisiana prior to the start of the program.

Green Mentor Responsibilities

Mentors lend their real-world expertise to Green Teams in order to help the schools implement successful green projects. The mentor is expected to be fully engaged, helping to select and document the project. In addition, mentors should try to show students how sustainability has impacted their careers and what role environmental stewardship has played in their professions.

The Mentor is the catalyst for a successful Green Team, and will be expected to:

- Engage regularly with your Green Team, approximately 2-3 hours per month or as requested by Team lead.
- Provide ideas & guidance for selecting a green project.
- Help obtain resources or materials needed to complete the project, by working with USGBC Louisiana or other community contacts.
- Assist in collecting the documentation of the green project, throughout the school year; assist with data collection; and provide expertise in what metrics to use.
- Respond to requests for updates and information from USGBC Louisiana.

GREEN MENTOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Mentors should **never** be alone with students. Ensure that the teacher is always present. Mentors should **never** offer to give students rides in personal vehicles. Background checks may be conducted, based on the requirements of each school district.

Frequently Asked Questions

HOW DO I ENTER OUR SCHOOL?

To register your team for the Challenge, use the online form via this [link](#), or email us at geauxgreenschools@gmail.com.

CAN A SCHOOL HAVE MULTIPLE TEAMS?

Yes. If the participating school has Elementary, Middle & High School levels, then the school may have a Green Team for each corresponding entry division. However, no school can submit the same project for more than one team.

ARE CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PROJECT PLAN ALLOWED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Yes. You may make any changes you need to better accomplish your team goals. Remember that the projects are assessed based on accomplishing goals over time. No permission is needed to make changes.

WHAT IF WE JOIN THE CHALLENGE BUT DON'T MAKE A FINAL SUBMISSION?

A school may participate in the Challenge and not make a final submission for the award competition. Only schools making a submission will be eligible for prizes.

ARE THERE FUNDS OR MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO GREEN TEAMS?

Schools are encouraged to pursue low or no-cost projects. Consult the *GSC Resources and Project Ideas Guide* for a list of organizations that offer funds for these kinds of projects. This guide can be found on our [website](#). Mentors may assist in obtaining materials. USGBC Louisiana does not have funds available for projects.

ARE THERE ANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?

No. There is no formal check in but we encourage your team to stay in touch with your Green Mentor and USGBC Louisiana on a regular basis so we can assist in any way we can.

Though we don't request progress reports, we do encourage you to document your process and your environmental impact throughout the project to assist your final submission.

WHAT WILL GREEN TEAMS NEED TO SUBMIT AS PROJECT DOCUMENTATION?

See the section titled Phase 3 – Enter Your Project above.

WHAT MAKES A WINNING PROJECT?

The best projects are narrow in focus, age appropriate, and student-driven. Start with a clearly defined idea, create a baseline of current conditions and document positive changes. Measuring success is important and making a plan for long term continuation of new behaviors is a bonus! See also the project score sheet at the end of this manual.

HOW ARE PROJECTS JUDGED?

An impartial panel will be looking for projects that have made significant impacts to their schools and communities. See also the project score sheet at the end of this manual.

WHAT CAN MY SCHOOL WIN?

See the section titled *Award Categories* above.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS?

All participating Teachers are eligible for a scholarship to earn a Green Classroom Professional Certificate, from the National USGBC Center for Green Schools.

Schools, teachers, Green Team Leaders and Green Mentors are acknowledged within the community, on the USGBC Louisiana website and in selected press and media coverage.

IS THERE A BENEFIT TO BEING A GREEN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE SCHOOL?

1. Provide a healthier environment for your cohort and community.
2. Once a Challenge School, *Always* a Challenge School—We will keep you in the loop about new grants, donation offerings and other opportunities available to your school.
3. First pick to receive volunteers to help in any project around your school as part of our Green Apple Day of Service happening in the Spring and Fall every year.
4. Students interested in environmental science may become Ambassadors both locally and nationally. Some of these opportunities also offer scholarships.

Project Score Sheet

This score sheet shows the judges criteria. Use it to inform you project and presentation.

1. GREEN TEAM CHALLENGE PROJECT – PERFORMANCE & IMPACT		
A. Clear goals were set for the challenge project	10	
B. Baseline measurements of resources or awareness associated with the project goals were documented at the beginning of the project.	10	
C. Post-project measurements associated with the project goals were taken.	10	
D. Environmental impacts resulting from this project were discussed	10	
E. Additional outcomes resulting from this project were documented and discussed, for instance student engagement, field trips, skills building, cost savings, environmental awareness...	10	
2. GREEN TEAM STUDENT LEADERSHIP & CREATIVITY		
A. The project was student driven, as appropriate for the age of the student leaders.	10	
B. The projects sparked imagination of the participants and resulted in unique and original ideas.	10	
3. GREEN TEAM PROJECT COMMUNICATION		
A. There is an on-going effort by the green team to communicate the project's objectives to communities within the school (other classes, staff, faculty...) or beyond the school (families, other organizations...)	10	
4. PROJECT PERPETUATION		
A. The team devised a plan to perpetuate the project after the Challenge ends.	10	
B. Project goals have been incorporated into the curriculum or culture of the school.	5	
5. ADDITIONAL POINTS		
A. Additional points for innovation & substantial impact.	5	
6. TOTAL POINTS	100	

Green Mentor Registration Form

I Accept the Challenge to be a Green Mentor!

The USGBC Louisiana Green Schools Challenge is empowering Louisiana's schools and students to make positive changes in their learning environments, school buildings and communities. I want to help.

YOUR INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone contact: Cell _____

Email _____

Company/Employer _____ Title _____

Job Description and qualifications to be a Green Mentor _____

Are you a LEED AP or GA? No ___ Yes ___ If so, what is your specialty? _____

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Do you have a school in mind? Name _____

Relation to school? _____

I, _____, hereby accept the Louisiana Green Schools Challenge and commit to participate as a Green Schools mentor in a school as assigned by the USGBC Louisiana Green Schools Challenge Committee.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please direct questions and return this form to USGBC Louisiana at geauxgreenschools@gmail.com

Green Schools Challenge Project Entry Form

PART A – COVER SHEET

To enter, complete and submit the following materials to geauxgreenschools@gmail.com

Part A—Cover Sheet (This Sheet) Part B—Project Portfolio Part C—Image Release Forms

Please provide information about your school, your team, and your project in this Cover Sheet. We use this information for Challenge administration, assessment, and development.

School Name and District _____

School Address _____

School Type Public ___ Private ___ Other, please explain: _____

Head of School: _____

GREEN TEAM DESCRIPTION

No. of Students _____ of Faculty _____ of Staff _____ Community Members _____

Green Team Leader _____ Title _____

Contact # _____

Green Mentor Name _____ Contact # _____

Collaborating Organizations, Partners, Field Trips...

IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

Environmental Impact _____

Dollars saved, if applicable: _____

Beyond the Green Team, using your collected data and best approximation, how many people were impacted by your project?

No. of Students _____ of Faculty _____ of Staff _____ Community Members _____

Skills Building _____

Environmental Literacy—Fields & Topics Students Explored _____

PART B – PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Project Portfolio provides three ways through which to share your project with reviewers and People’s Choice Award voters. Any information you want reviewers to know ought to be included within these entries.

***We will send registered teams an editable format of this form as the Submission date approaches.**

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD PROFILE

School Name _____

Project Entry Division (Elementary, Middle, or High School)_____

Project Title _____

Project Summary (60-90 word description _____

Image: Please provide a 4x4 inch image or image montage to represent your team’s entry. Insert the image here or attach the image to the email message when you submit this form.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Green Schools Challenge Project & Student Involvement Summary (600-word limit)

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Project presentation formats may include slide presentations (PowerPoint, for example), videos, or other formats that are easily accessed via email and Google drive. Insert a link to the presentation file here or send the file to us via email. Approximately 5-minute viewing time.

PART C – IMAGE RELEASE FORM

Please submit one completed and signed Image Release Form for each student featured in project presentation materials submitted to the Green Schools Challenge Project Entry Part B—Project Portfolio via email to geauxgreenschools@gmail.com with your challenge entry.

I, _____, parent/legal guardian

of _____ consent that the above named child may be photographed (by still camera, movie camera or video camera) by my child’s school and/or USGBC Louisiana (a Louisiana non-profit corporation, www.usgbclouisiana.org) and/or their authorized media representatives.

I further give permission to the USGBC and/or authorized representatives to use my child’s name, voice and/or likeness (including photographs and video images, collectively, the “Images”) in any and all promotional material that benefits USBBC Louisiana, which may include displaying the Images on USGBC affiliated websites, social media networks (such as Facebook) and in press releases (which may be reprinted by press organizations).

USGBC Louisiana may also provide the Images to the national U. S. Green Building Council that USGBC Louisiana is affiliated with for similar purposes, and the USBBC National is authorized to use in the same manner consistent with this release.

I understand my child will NOT receive a publicity fee.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Mailing Address

Phone

Email _____

Please direct questions and return this form to USGBC Louisiana at geauxgreenschools@gmail.com

Geaux Green Schools!

