



## GSC 2021 Call for Proposals

The Green Schools Conference (GSC) is the only national event to bring together all the players involved in making green schools a reality: people who lead, operate, build, and teach in U.S. schools. Attendees engage in skill building, participate in in-depth discussions and problem solving, and get inspired by speakers at the forefront of connecting sustainability, social justice, and education.

GSC is now accepting proposals for the 2021 conference taking place virtually on June 28 – 29, 2021. The event will include two half-days of education programming, including opportunities for attendees to share ideas and successful strategies, learn about potential partnerships, hear about new research and evidence-based program models, and discover tools, services, and products to help them succeed in creating schools that teach students about global sustainability – all in an environment that is healthy for them, for their communities, and for the earth.

To design this year's event to be most responsive to the needs of the green school community, an additional Call for Speakers will be released that highlights highly specific areas of expertise that are of particular interest and asks for individuals to be nominated to address them. Beginning in early February, this Call for Speakers will run simultaneously to the Call for Proposals and can be found on the [Green Schools Conference](#) web site.

GSC 2021 Submission and Review Timeline	
January 26, 2021	Call for Proposals opens
February 9	Call for Speakers opens
March 8	All proposals and applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST
March 18	First round of review begins
March 25	First round of review ends at 11:59 pm EST
April 1	Second round of review
April 8	Second round of review ends at 11:59 pm EST
April 19	Accepted session notifications are sent
May 3	Presenter acceptance deadline and Program Announcement
May 17	Presenter conference registration deadline
June 28-29, 2021	Conference Dates: Green Schools Conference

### \*\*\* Important Process Note\*\*\*

The submitter cannot complete the proposal without the acceptance of participation of all proposed presenters/moderators. Each presenter/moderator will need to login to the submittal site to enter their personal details and confirm their participation in the proposal. You may begin the process and return to your saved proposal any time up until the deadline. Emailed, faxed or mailed proposals will not be accepted.

All complete proposals must be submitted through the [GSC 2021 Submittal Site](#) by **March 8, 2021 at 11:59pm EST.**

To submit your proposal, visit the [GSC 2021 Submittal Site](#).

For questions regarding the Call for Proposals, please email [program@greenschoolsconference.org](mailto:program@greenschoolsconference.org).

**GSC 2021 Speaker Policies:**

Session speakers will receive complimentary registration for the conference.

**GSC 2021 Presentation Topic Priorities:**

The GSC 2021 program is specifically in search of sessions that address these priority topics, which expand on the session topics of the Green School Summits being held in February 2021:

- Expanding the learning environment beyond the school walls
- Bridging justice, equity, and sustainability in K12 schools
- Social emotional learning, empathic distress, and action competence
- Design for social equity
- School and district climate commitments
- Healthyschools & COVID response
- Best practices for resilient buildings (including future pandemics)
- Innovations in renewable energy, battery storage, and electrification
- Working with a client to design for sustainability education
- Pandemic silver linings for educators
- Opening opportunities for students of color to experience the outdoors
- Best practices for teaching and learning outside

**Sessions that address one or more of these priority topics will be awarded one additional point in the review scoring process.**

**GSC 2021 Preferred Presentation Categories:**

The following descriptions are representative of how each topic could be addressed:

1. **Environmental Impact:** Proven strategies and leading-edge ideas for how schools can reduce their impact on natural systems through conserving resources and supporting local ecology.
2. **Health & Well-Being:** Proven strategies and leading-edge ideas for how schools can support the physical and emotional health and well-being of students and teachers through the physical environment and programming.
3. **Environmental and Sustainability Literacy:** Proven strategies and leading-edge ideas for how schools can support student understanding of the interconnectedness between living systems, human health, and economic prosperity through place-based education, project-based learning, and integrated approaches to curriculum.
4. **Whole School/District Sustainability:** Proven strategies and leading-edge ideas for how schools and school districts can implement sustainable thinking across all aspects of operations, utilizing organizational culture, physical place, and educational program to get measurable results across the board.

**GSC 2021 Session Types and Scoring System:**

GSC will be accepting proposals for two different session types:

1. **Green Schools in Practice** - These sessions feature a small team of presenters or facilitators who work together to share replicable and actionable content with the attendees about a defined topic. These sessions require the participation of a school or district representative.

2. **Emerging Research and Concepts** - These sessions feature a small team of researchers and/or subject matter experts describing recent research or important technical information. These sessions do NOT require the participation of a school or district representative.

All session proposals will be reviewed and scored during the first round by a team of volunteer reviewers using a 20-point scale with the ability to earn 1 additional point for addressing the 2021 priority topics. Keep in mind that each session type has different review criteria, detailed below. We encourage student presenters in cases where student leadership or student work is being featured. Those with the top scores will move on to a second round of review. These scores will be used by the reviewers to select presenters and sessions for the final program.

Reviewers will score proposals using the point values articulated in the following descriptions:

<b>GSC Sessions: Green Schools in Practice</b>	
These sessions feature a small team of presenters or facilitators who work together to share replicable and actionable content with the attendees about a defined topic. <u>These sessions require the participation of a school or district representative.</u>	
Max Value	Criteria
5 points	Provide a clear picture of what to expect during the virtual session, including a plan for teaching the session material and how presenters will elicit attendee engagement using a variety of teaching methods
5 points	Define clear action steps and guide attendees on replication in other schools, districts, states or by other public-private partnerships
4 points	Highlight a school or school district that has demonstrated measurable results related to ecological impact, health and well-being, or student learning; and articulate how results are measured or evaluated
4 points	Propose presenters that represent diverse perspectives and have the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material
2 points	Include at least one school or district representative to talk candidly about the success and challenges of transforming their school
+1 Point Priority Topic	Presentation submittals will earn an extra point if the submission is related to one or more of the <b>GSC 2021 Presentation Topic Priorities</b> listed above.
<b>Max value: 21 points</b>	<b>(20 base points +1 bonus point)</b>

<b>GSC Sessions: Emerging Research and Concepts</b>	
These sessions feature a small team of researchers and/or subject matter experts describing recent research or important technical information. <u>These sessions do NOT require the participation of a school or district representative.</u>	
Max Value	Criteria
5 points	Provide a clear picture of what to expect during the virtual session, including a plan for teaching the session material and how presenters will elicit attendee engagement using a variety of teaching methods
4 points	Define clear action steps that can be replicated in other schools, districts, states or by other public-private partnerships
4 points	Describe original research that is in progress or recently completed that can inform how schools and districts approach their efforts on ecological impact, health and well-being, student learning, and/or social justice

4 points	Propose presenters that represent diverse perspectives and have the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material
3 points	Articulate the source of the research and any peer review process it has undergone
+1 Point Priority Topic	Presentation submittals will earn an extra point if the submission is related to one or more of the <b>GSC 2021 Education Priorities</b> listed in the section above.
<b>Max value: 21 points</b>	<b>(20 base points +1 bonus point)</b>

## GSC Program Policies

The review process for education session proposals is managed by the GSC Steering Committee, the volunteer review group, and USGBC staff. The reviewer group's responsibility is to produce the strongest possible educational program for conference attendees by including new, important content and learning experiences. All sessions and speakers will be selected based upon the below guidelines:

### Session and Presenter Regulations

- An individual presenter may only participate in one education session during the conference.
- A firm/institution/organization may have a maximum of three total presenters/moderators participating in the education program.
- In an effort to promote new and diverse groups of presenters, strong preference will be given to presenters who did not present at the previous year's conference.
- In appreciation of their contribution to the success of the conference, presenters will receive a complimentary pass for the full GSC 2021 Conference.
- No sessions that are based upon an advertisement, product or service will be accepted into the program.
- Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

### Applicant Responsibilities

- Session submitters may not propose speakers without the knowledge and permission of the proposed speakers. All proposed speakers must be able and willing to present at the conference at the time and date assigned. Proposals that are submitted without the knowledge of proposed speakers are subject to immediate rejection; if the proposal is selected and it is found that all speakers did not know about the proposal or did not agree to present, the session is subject to immediate cancellation.
- Accepted presenters who are not able to attend must notify conference staff immediately. Replacement presenters must be suggested and approved by USGBC Staff. USGBC reserves the right to modify or cancel any session based on a change in presenter.
- If a presenter's employment changes, conference staff must be notified. USGBC reserves the right to retain or remove presenters based on the best interest of the program. Previous employer must sign letter indicating willingness to let presenter speak (letter could include that presenter will acknowledge who employer was at the time of work).
- All accepted speakers must register for the conference using their complimentary one-day pass by the communicated deadline, or the entire session may be cancelled without notice and a new session will be selected from the waitlist, at the discretion of USGBC.
- All presentations must be uploaded to the Speaker Resource Center in advance of the conference by the specified deadlines. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the session.

### GSC Program Process

- The volunteer review group reserves the right to develop submitted sessions using a combination of proposals and/or invited presenters.
- Speaker and Reviewer discounts may not be combined or transferred.
- The volunteer review group may modify any submitted session by adding or removing speakers or requesting content changes or additions.
- Submissions not selected for the conference may be considered for other USGBC events.
- Final decisions regarding these policies may be made at the discretion of the review group and USGBC.

To submit your proposal, visit the [GSC 2021 Submittal Site](#).

For questions regarding the Call for Proposals, please email [program@greenschoolsconference.org](mailto:program@greenschoolsconference.org).