



## Green Schools Conference 2022 Call for Proposals

Each year, green school leaders and advocates worldwide come together to learn, network, and support our shared mission of advancing green schools at the Green Schools Conference (GSC). This event is the only national convening 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, in-depth discussions, and problem-solving and get inspired by speakers at the forefront of connecting sustainability, social justice, and education.

The 2022 conference is structured to provide attendees the opportunity to both dive deeply into topics with peers, as well as come together as a whole community for inspiring general sessions and interdisciplinary education. The first two days of the conference will feature specialized programming for different professional cohorts (school leaders and educators, school facilities and operations, design and construction, green school community partners), which will be designed by the Center for Green Schools and the Green Schools National Network. During the third day of the event, attendees will explore **interdisciplinary content** on a variety of green school topics sourced from this Call for Proposals.

We strive to build a program that is innovative and inspiring. We invite you to be part of this unique event by submitting an education proposal to share your successful green school strategies, partnerships, research, and lessons learned with others. This Call for Proposals document gives detailed information about the type of sessions we are seeking to help you prepare a successful proposal. For more information, please visit the [Green Schools Conference](#) website.

**All proposals must be submitted through the [GSC 2022 Submittal Site](#) by **May 3, 2022, at 11:59 pm EST.****

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

**The submitter cannot complete the proposal without the acceptance of participation of all proposed presenters/moderators before the deadline. Each presenter/moderator will need to log in to the submittal site to enter their 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. Please see the Proposal Submittal Guide that is provided in the GSC Submittal Site for a complete list of the questions and what is needed to complete a proposal.**

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

GSC 2022 Submission and Review Timeline	
April 12	Call for Proposals opens
May 3	All proposals must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST
May 12	Program review begins
May 19	Program review ends
Late May	Accepted session notifications are sent
Early June	Presenter acceptance deadline and Program Announcement
September	Green Schools Conference (exact dates forthcoming)

### GSC 2022 Speaker Policies:

Session speakers are expected to attend in person. In exchange for presenting, speakers will receive complimentary registration for the day on which they are presenting.

### GSC 2022 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 students and teachers' physical and emotional health and well-being 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 programming to get measurable results.

### GSC 2022 Priority Audiences:

Each session should feature an **interdisciplinary team** of presenters or facilitators (2-4 ppl) who work together to share replicable and actionable content with the attendees about a defined topic. The scoring rubric for session proposals rewards more points to sessions that include a wide diversity of perspectives, either as part of the speaker panel or as part of the session storytelling. Student presenters are encouraged in cases where student leadership and/or work is being featured.

The 2022 GSC program created from this Call for Proposals will have an **interdisciplinary focus**, and so each session should address green school topics through multiple lenses and stakeholder perspectives. When designing your session, consider the primary audiences that the conference serves:

- School leaders (superintendent, principal, etc.)
- Educators
- School design and construction professionals
- School district administrative and facilities staff
- Green school partners (non-profit, government, for-profit, etc.)

**GSC 2022 Priority Topics:**

The GSC 2022 program is specifically in search of sessions that address these priority topics:

- Bridging justice, equity, and sustainability in K12 schools
- Finding outlets and education to deal with eco-anxiety, particularly in young people
- Climate leadership through building design, student engagement, and policy
- Healthy and resilient schools
- Green workforce and leadership training/education
- Successful green school programs in historically excluded communities

**In the review scoring process, sessions that address one or more of these priority topics will be awarded one bonus point.**

All session proposals will be reviewed and scored by a team of volunteer reviewers using a 20-point scale with the ability to earn one bonus point for addressing the 2022 priority topics. Keep in mind that each session should be **interdisciplinary**. Those with the top scores will move on to the second round of review. The reviewers will use these scores to select presenters and sessions for the final program.

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

GSC Session Review Rubric	
Max Value	Criteria
5 points	Provide a clear picture of what to expect during the session, including a plan for teaching the session material and how presenters will elicit attendee engagement using a variety of teaching methods
5 points	Provide an interdisciplinary perspective with at least two presenters from different stakeholder groups
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
3 points	Propose presenters that have the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material
3 points	Define clear action steps and guide attendees on replication in other schools, districts, states or by other public-private partnerships
+1 Point Priority Topic	Presentation submittals will earn an extra point if the submission is related to one or more of the <b>GSC 2022 Presentation Topic Priorities</b> listed 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 a volunteer review group and USGBC staff. The reviewer group's responsibility is to produce the most robust possible educational program for conference attendees by including new, meaningful 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 **two** total presenters/moderators participating in the education program.
- 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 conference's success, presenters will receive a complimentary pass for the day on which they are presenting.
- No sessions 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 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 the presenter.
- If a presenter's employment changes, conference staff must be notified. USGBC reserves the right to retain or remove presenters based on the program's best interest. Suppose the session content is related to the speaker's previous employment. In that case, the previous employer must sign a letter indicating a willingness to let the presenter speak (the letter could include that the presenter will acknowledge who the employer was at work).
- All accepted speakers must register for the conference using their complimentary pass by the communicated deadline. The entire session may be canceled 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 before the conference by the specified deadlines. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the session.

### GSC Program Process

- The 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 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 2022 Submittal Site](#).

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