



Green Schools Conference 2026 Call for Reviewers

Application Deadline: **Monday, June 30, 2025, at 11:59 PM EST**

The **Green Schools Conference** (GSC) seeks peer reviewers to evaluate proposals for education sessions for the GSC 2026 conference. Peer reviewers help maintain the outstanding reputation of GSC by identifying exceptional presenters and timely presentations. Engaging highly qualified reviewers with expertise and experience in specified content areas defined in the GSC [Call for Proposals](#) is essential to the ongoing success of this education program.

Basic Requirements for Reviewers

- Expertise in subject(s) covered by one or more program topic areas
- Previous experience reviewing proposals for related conferences or publications
- Be based in the United States
- Commitment to complete review of all assigned proposals (typically 10-20) by the deadline

How to Apply

All applicants must [complete this online application form](#) for the GSC Call for Reviewers by 11:59 PM EST on **Monday, June 30, 2025**.

Please note that you will be asked to indicate your availability for the first and second rounds of review. Emailed, faxed, or mailed applications will not be accepted.

GSC 2026 Proposal Review Timeline	
May 12	Call for Reviewers opens
June 30	Deadline for Reviewer Applications is 11:59 PM EST
Early July	Notifications sent for accepted reviewers
July 10 – July 24	First round of review
July 24 – Aug. 1	Second round of internal review
August 2025	Accepted session notifications sent
September 2025	Tentative Program announcement
Late February 2026	Green Schools Conference in San Diego, CA

Reviewing Policies

Each reviewer will receive electronic access to 10-20 submissions and will have two weeks to complete online evaluations. **Please note that serving as a reviewer represents a significant time commitment and responsibility for ensuring timely and thorough reviews of all assigned proposals.**

- Reviewers are eligible to present at the conferences.
- Reviewers are prohibited from reviewing session abstracts submitted by themselves or professional colleagues employed by the same organization; this is considered a conflict of interest.
- All reviewers will have an option of abstaining from reviewing on the review site.
- Those who complete their assignments for the Green Schools Conference and related tracks will receive a discount of \$50 off a Green Schools Conference registration. This discount is non-transferable and may not be combined with any other discounts.
- Additionally, all reviewers who complete their reviews will be eligible for GBCI Continuing Education (CE) hours. The program team will email details on receiving these CE hours. Individuals who have completed assignments as reviewers in previous years are encouraged to apply.

GSC Review Information

Green Schools Content Framing

The Green Schools Conference is unique in its dedicated focus on whole school sustainability. We understand that shaping healthy, equitable and sustainable schools requires a holistic approach that includes schools' educational program, physical environment, and organizational culture. While these elements of the Whole School Sustainability framework describe what a green school looks like, the three pillars of a green school (as used by the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award program) explain how to measure progress: environmental impact, health & wellbeing, and environmental & sustainability literacy.

Embracing a systems change approach, this conference emphasizes the interconnectedness of all these elements, underscoring their collective impact on creating environmentally conscious and thriving learning communities. Individuals submitting a session proposal are asked to identify specific aspects of sustainability that they will address. However, education sessions are encouraged to feature an interdisciplinary panel of speakers to showcase how various green school components—and school and district leadership's commitment to these efforts—contribute to whole district/whole school sustainability transformation in an equitable and inclusive manner.



GSC Session Categories

During the application process, you will be asked to indicate which subject area you want to review. The following descriptions are representative of how each topic could be addressed:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Whole School/District Sustainability:** Proven strategies and leading-edge ideas for how schools and school districts can implement sustainable thinking across all operations, utilizing organizational culture, physical place, and educational program to get measurable results across the board.

GSC Session Formats and Scoring

GSC will accept proposals for two distinct programming formats: 60 min interdisciplinary session and 120 min hands-on workshops.

- **Education session (60 min):** An education session should feature an interdisciplinary team showcasing best practices, research, or proven practice around a variety of green school topics. Sessions should feature replicable and real-world initiatives taking place at or with a school or district. Opportunities for attendee engagement, interactive discussion in small and large groups is strongly encouraged.
- **Workshop (120 min):** A 2-hour workshop is a hands-on, participatory learning experience. Workshops provide opportunities for attendees to explore or experience teaching methods, operational practices, or sustainability actions that can be replicated in their district, school, or classroom. Content is action oriented and focuses on giving participants practice with processes, technology, or concepts that they may not yet be familiar with. Presenter/facilitators should be experienced experts in their field.

All session proposals will be reviewed and scored by a team of volunteer reviewers using either a 20-scale for education sessions or a 21-point scale for workshops. 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 60 min Education Session Review Rubric	
Max Value	Criteria
5 points	Provide a clear picture of what to expect during the session, including a realistic plan for teaching the session material in the allotted time. Incorporate attendee engagement strategies using a variety of teaching methods
5 points	Provide an interdisciplinary perspective with at least two presenters representing 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
Max value: 20 points	(20 base points)

GSC 120 min Workshop Review Rubric	
Max Value	Criteria
7 points	Provide a clear picture of what to expect during the 120 min workshop, including a plan for delivering content in an interactive way to give participants direct practice in implementing new processes, technologies, or concepts
5 points	Propose presenters that represent diverse perspectives and have the proven experience and knowledge necessary to deliver an engaging workshop
5 points	Guide attendees to build new skills and/or develop action plans that can be applied in their own schools, districts, states or organizations
3 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
+1 Point Priority Topic	Presentation proposals will earn an extra point if the submission is related to one or more of the GSC 2026 Workshop Priority Topics .
Max value: 21 points	(20 base points +1 bonus point)

For assistance with questions regarding the GSC Call for Reviewers, please email
program@greenschoolsconference.org