



GATEWAY TO  
**green schools**

# Green Schools Guide

The Central Coast Green Building Council  
Green Schools Committee

# Who are we?



CENTRAL COAST

GREEN  
BUILDING  
COUNCIL

The mission of the Central Coast Green Building Council:

“To make sustainable communities available to everyone within this generation.”

Through the Gateway to Green Schools program the Central Coast Green Building Council and its partners provide a number of sustainability resources to local K-12 schools.

- Developing a sustainability plan
- Reducing environmental impact and costs
- Improving the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff
- Providing effective environmental education

# What is a Green School?

- A school or building facility that creates a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources, and money.
- A green school demonstrates excellence in the 3 pillars outlined by the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program.
  - Pillar 1: Reduce environmental impact and cost
  - Pillar 2: Health and wellness
  - Pillar 3: Environmental Education

# What can Gateway to Green Schools do for your school?

There are several levels of participation a school can enroll in

1. Establish a Green Schools Baseline
2. Receive a \$500 grant to fund a Green Schools Project
3. Develop a Green Schools Action Plan
4. Become a Green Ribbon School
5. Celebrate your project on Green Apple Day of Service!

# 1. Establish a Green Schools Baseline

- Complete a basic survey to assess your schools current standing according to a list of sustainability criteria.
- This survey captures your schools current sustainability efforts
- The survey is a simplified short form of the Green Ribbon Schools application.
- The survey acts as part of the application for the \$500 grant
- Provides a springboard to work toward the Green Ribbon Schools Application
- Identifies areas to celebrate as well as ways to improve

## 2. Receive \$500 grant to fund a Green Schools project

- Complete the baseline survey
- Submit a sustainability project interest form
- Must be used towards a sustainability related project
- Get the students involved in picking a project
- Grants are given in order of paperwork received
- Funds are limited so apply early!
- Contact us for inspiring project ideas or visit [mygreenapple.org](http://mygreenapple.org)

# 3. Develop a Green Schools Action Plan

Members of the Green Schools Committee/Gateway Coordinator can assist your school develop a sustainability plan based on the information provided by the survey.

Steps may include:

- Create a Green Team with the power to act!
- Adopt an Environmental Vision Statement
- Conduct a comprehensive School Environmental Audit (Energy, Water, Waste)
- Integrate Environmental Education into curriculum
- Identify partners, programs, and strategies for advancing sustainability
- Monitor and evaluate progress

# 4. Become a Green Ribbon School

- Gateway coordinator can assist your school through the California Green Ribbon Schools Award process.
- Schools with a score of 55% or higher will receive a State level award
- The California Department of Education nominates the 5 highest scoring schools for the national green ribbon award. These schools are called “Green Achievers”
- Schools can apply every year for the Green Ribbon Schools Award until they are awarded at the National level.
- Reasons to apply
  - National and State Recognition
  - Celebrate Achievements
  - Invite New Partnerships
  - Share Best Practices
  - Build School Culture





# 3 Pillars of the Green Ribbon Schools

## Pillar I: Resources

- Reduce environmental impacts and costs
- Conserve Energy, Save Water, and Reduce Waste
- Gateway will provide surveys to guide the collection of information
- Support school audits (ideally performed by students)
- Assist with connecting with the district facilities department (when needed)

# Pillar II: Health

- Captures the health and wellness of students and staff
- Physical activity and nutrition
- Environmental health
- Indoor environmental quality
- Assistance with curriculum, programs, and connections with local non-profits to develop:
  - School gardens
  - Promote physical activity
  - Outdoor learning and classroom space

# Pillar III: Education

- Provide multi-disciplinary environmental education
- Using STEM
- Correlation to State Standards
- Civic Skills
- Green Career pathways
- Some partners include the Cuesta Sustainability Resource Center, One Cool Earth, and the CREEC Network. Non-profits that provide free environmental and energy related curriculum.
- CSRC offers professional development to address this pillar.

# Celebration

- Monterey Road Elementary School of Atascadero received a 2015-2016 California Green Ribbon School Silver Award.
- Bishops Peak Elementary and Oceano Elementary completed the 2015-2016 Green Ribbon Applications.

# Green Apple Day of Service

- “Green Apple is a global movement to put all children in schools where they can have clean and healthy air to breathe, where energy and resources are conserved, and where they can be inspired to dream of a brighter future”
- Hold a service event to celebrate the progress and impact of your project on Green Apple Day of Service.
- Register your event at [mygreenapple.org](http://mygreenapple.org)
- The website has many links to inspire your school to choose a project
- Green Apple Day of Service is a program of the Center for Green Schools and the United States Green Building Council
- When is it? September 2016?

# Big Picture

- 20% of America goes to school every day. Too many of these students and teachers attend schools that are inefficient and miss important opportunities to reduce operational costs, foster learning and protect student health.
- By promoting the greening of all schools—new or existing- we can make a tremendous impact on student and staff health, test scores, teacher retention, school operational costs and the environment.
- Let us help guide your school through the varying levels of green schools participation.
- We will help develop short and long term plans to put your school on the path to earning the most ambitious accolades in the a national certification as a Green Ribbon School.

# Other Programs

- The Mayor's Alliance for Green Schools