

Green Schools Coalition of Westchester

Oct 1, 2009

Leadership Briefing:

Westchester Superintendents &
Headmasters

NYPA Building

123 Main St., White Plains

Welcome

- Introductions
- Thank you to New York Power Authority
- Special thanks to GSCW Founding Sponsors:
 - [CELf](#), Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation
 - [Teatown](#) Lake Reservation
 - [Westchester County](#)

Why are we here?



- **The imperative of sustainability** is driven by our recognition that the ways humans are using the earth's resources now is not sustainable: human needs are not now being met and all the earth's ecosystems are degrading. The need for sustainable solutions is made more tangible through the exploration of issues such as global warming and climate change, sustainable agriculture and food security, energy use, control and prevention of human disease, water quantity and quality, and pollution and toxins in the environment.

Why are we here?

- Important role of school leadership.
- As school leaders, you play a large role shaping policies and programs designed to prepare K-12 students for this very uncertain future.
- Together, we can make a difference!

Green Schools Coalition of Westchester

Membership in GSCW

Stakeholder Teams

- Student
- Parent
- Administrator
- Teacher
- Facilities Manager

What is our Mission?

As a coalition working together, we seek to advance education and best practices for sustainability in the schools and communities across Westchester County.

What is our Mission?

Core to our mission is to support each other – and to learn from each other – as schools implement the education sector's part of the *Westchester County Climate Change Action Plan*.

Preliminary Conference
March, 2009
Teatown Lake Reservation

Goals

Westchester County Global Warming
Task Force Action Plan for
Sustainability in
Westchester Schools

What are the GSCW Goals?

- Leverage individual schools' successes.
- Provide an organized structure to share best practices and resources.
- Facilitate implementation of the WGWTF Action Plan for K-12 districts and schools.

What is a “green” school?

- Reduces environmental impacts
- Improves learning and teaching conditions
- Lowers operating costs
- Generates community goodwill
- Educates the next generation on the value of caring for the environment
- Provides opportunity to teach the interconnections between the environment, economics, and social equity.

Perspective

North America's **buildings** contribute over 1/3 of the continent's greenhouse gas emissions

In the U.S., buildings account for:

- 40% of total energy use
- 12% of total water consumption
- 68% of total electricity consumption
- 60% of total non-industrial waste generation

Green buildings can reduce energy use by anywhere between 30% - 70%

Benefits of Green Schools

- Energy cost savings
- Water & wastewater benefits
- Health and learning benefits
- Reduced student and staff absenteeism
- Productivity gains

Healthier

More Efficient

Lower Energy
Costs

Action Plan for Westchester K-12 Schools

- 375 public and private K-12 schools
- Presented to NYSSBA to propose **statewide policy** addressing sustainability and energy in decisions that impact:

✓ **Campus (Buildings and operations)**

✓ **Curriculum**

✓ **Community relations**

Target Audience

- All school stakeholders
- Community—education, awareness, investment, enrollment
- Faculty and Staff—promote sustainability through direct instruction and transforming habits (use of paper, etc)
- Students—opportunity for relevant education in practice and in theory

Action Plan Framework

Curriculum/faculty <i>(content, skills, assessment, application, implementation structures)</i>	Campus/facilities <i>(values and ways of working)</i>	Community <i>(wider influence and partnerships)</i>
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K-12 Action Plan

- Campus

- First steps to “go green”

1. Create an Energy and Sustainability Task Force to undertake an assessment of current energy and sustainability policies
2. Conduct an energy audit, including greenhouse gas emissions analysis

K-12 Action Plan

- Curriculum

- Define and explain sustainability education and its importance to all K-12 educators
- Provide professional development to all K-12 educators in sustainability education that links to student learning
- Benchmark and evaluate
- Ensure that the curriculum helps students understand the links between the built and natural environment and climate change
- Connect with action projects to improve the sustainability of the built environment in school and in the local area

K-12 Action Plan

- **Community**

- Foster awareness and understanding of the purpose and meaning of sustainability initiatives
- Establish a well-publicized Board-directed approach to supporting sustainability activities in curriculum and district operations
- Encourage community participation
- Publicize school and/or district educational projects and activities

Environmental Audits

- Energy audit
 - NYPA; NYSERDA; students and staff
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculation
- Ecological Footprint
 - Engages students, faculty, support staff and parents

Transportation

- Reduce transportation
- Educate/Enforce no-idling
- Use ultra-low sulfur diesel or bio-diesel for diesel buses
- Replace old fleets with hybrid or electric vehicles
- Retrofit catalysts and filters

Transportation

- Adopt a unified green fleets policy
- Promote walking/biking campaigns
- Encourage carpooling

Walk!

Bike!

Carpool!

Waste reduction and recycling

Sample Recommendations:

- Create and develop improved contracts with haulers and other vendors.
- Increase purchase of supplies and equipment with greater percentage of recycled content.
- Utilize existing training programs that promote proper recycling behavior and compliance with the County's source separation law.

Waste reduction and recycling

- Add link to County recycling web site to school websites.
- Conduct annual waste composition compliance study.
- Use the curriculum to cultivate the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes students need to incorporate recycling, waste reduction and green purchasing wisely.

Green Purchasing

- Procurement considerations:
 - raw materials
 - recycled content
 - pollution and waste created in the raw material mining and manufacturing processes
 - distance the product was transported, packaging, air and water pollution resulting from construction, installation and/or maintenance of the product
 - ability of the product to be reused, repaired, recycled or composted at the end of its useful life.
 - Organic grounds maintenance programs

Land Use

- Expand 'green' areas near roofs and parking lots.
- Identify all opportunities to establish school gardens and tree planting to demonstrate native landscape practices, contribute to carbon sequestration and green building curriculum.
- Review current landscaping practices and amend to incorporate more environmentally sound practices.

Local community as a context for learning

- *How does community design affect our health?*
- *How has the community changed in terms of population, demographics, and land use?*
- *What are the environmental and social impacts of 'sprawl'-type development?*
- *How do economic policies such as subsidies affect how communities develop?*
- *How can we create communities that promote well-being for all?*

Curriculum

- Sustainability Education (SE) reflects the recognition that healthy ecosystems, healthy communities and healthy economies are inextricably linked. SE is about respecting and preserving our histories, valuing culture and community, caring for others and the environment, and taking action to create a fair, healthy, and safe world for all beings.
- Pursuing SE can lead to a strengthened sense of community, which ultimately equals a stronger institution. That translates into better education for our students, and better education for the future.

Curriculum

- Thread sustainability content through inquiry-based, systems thinking interdisciplinary curriculum.
- Create learning opportunities connected to new construction or renovation.
- Dedicate a portion of professional development time to expand faculty's knowledge base and create a common language around sustainability.

Next Steps

- Implementation
- Monitor, Track, and Measure Progress
- Share Results and Promote Success

Green Schools Coalition Survey

A Sustainability Snapshot
of Westchester Schools
October 1, 2009

Survey was emailed on June 18, 2009 to 335 Westchester education leaders

- 40 Public School Superintendents
- 230 Public School Principals
- 65 Independent School Principals or Administrators
- Follow-up continued over summer months

The Results Tell A Story

Lots of “green” activity
and
almost all expressed interest in
being part of a new

Green Schools Coalition of Westchester

The Results Came In

**63 Districts/Schools completed the survey,
including:**

- 29 Public School Districts
- 20 Individual Public Schools
- 14 Independent Schools

Public School Districts Came from all over Westchester

North:

- North Salem Central School District
- Somers Central School District
- Katonah-Lewisboro Union Free School District
- Bedford Central School District
- Byram Hills Central School District
- Chappaqua Central School District

Public School Districts

River Towns:

- Tarrytown Union Free School District
- Irvington Union Free School District
- Ossining Union Free School District
- Peekskill City School District
- Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District
- Hendrick Hudson Central School District
- Yonkers City School District

Public School Districts

Central:

- Mt. Pleasant Central School District
- Briarcliff Manor Union Free School District
- Pleasantville Union Free School District
- Elmsford Union Free School District

Public School Districts

Shore:

- Rye City School District
- New Rochelle City School District
- Mamaroneck Union Free School District
- Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District

Public School Districts

Southern:

- Eastchester Union Free School District
- Edgemont Union Free School District
- Mount Vernon City School District
- Scarsdale Public Schools
- Pelham Union Free School District
- Tuckahoe Union Free School District
- Bronxville Union Free School District
- White Plains City School District

Independent Schools ...

All Types and Sizes

- Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel HS
- Cardinal McCloskey School
- Carol and Frank Biondi/Leake and Watts
- The Garden Road School
- Hackley School
- The Hallen School
- Iona Prep

Independent Schools ... All Types and Sizes

- Karafin School
- Our Montessori School
- Rye Country Day School
- The Seed Day Care Center
- Solomon Schechter School of Westchester
- The Ursuline School
- Yonkers Christian Academy

Diversified Approach to Sustainability

Survey indicates a level of seriousness
about sustainability

already exists

at different
stages of development

Addressing Sustainability

Of the total 63 schools/districts responding:

- 31 schools/districts have a “standing committee addressing sustainability”
- 5 have a person dedicated to sustainability
- 43 schools/districts have policies promoting sustainability
- 8 have integrated sustainability into mission statement

Sustainable Strategies in Place

- 3 districts have adopted Climate Action Sustainability Plans, and
2 are similar to the County's Plan
- 5 have set specific carbon reduction goals
- 15 developed a strategic plan for sustainability across its facilities, operations, curriculum and programs

Other Sustainability Examples

- 22 schools/districts have Energy Efficiency Policies in place
- 31 purchase/use Energy Star office & telecommunications equipment
- 31 have policies to restrict paper use
- 34 have addressed sustainability in their food service

Gardening is Important

41 schools/districts
or 66% of responders
have
school gardens
and
27 involve whole grades

Sustainability in Curriculum

- 32 schools/districts or 52% currently offer courses related to sustainability
- 35 have a plan promoting integration of sustainability into curriculum
- 21 schools/districts have obtained or applied for funds developing sustainability curriculum

Student Environmental Clubs Are Widespread

- 56 schools/districts or 90% have student environmental clubs

and that's a lot of students in ...

- 48 high school clubs
- 50 middle school organizations

Partnering with Community is High Priority

49 schools/districts or 79%
participate in
community events
or programs that address
issues of sustainability

Interest in a Green Schools Coalition?

The Interest is Strong!!!

58 schools/districts or 93%
want to be kept informed

58 schools/districts provided the name
and contact information for a

Green Schools Coalition

Point Person

The Benefits of a Green Coalition?

- **# 1 benefit**

Sharing Information/Best Practices

- **# 2nd top benefit**

Funding Resources/Energy Efficiencies

Policy-Making for Sustainability

Green Leadership Training

Strength in Numbers/Partnering

Development of Sustainability Curriculum

and more ...

The Time Is Now

- Green Schools Coalition Survey results
match up with
- Findings of Teatown Lake Reservation March
28, 2009 Conference

***“It would be wonderful to be part
of an organized effort.”***

Scarsdale Schools Sustainability Initiative
Dr. McGill, Superintendent

Briarcliff Schools Sustainability Initiative
Dr. Frances Wills, Superintendent

Katonah Lewisboro Sustainability Initiative
Dr. Karen Benedict, Deputy Superintendent

Hackley Sustainability Initiative
Mr. Peter McAndrew, Finance Officer

Green Schools Coalition of Westchester

Superintendent/Headmaster Pledge:

I wish to formally register my District/School as members of the Green Schools Coalition of Westchester. I pledge my support for the ideals of sustainability and recognize its importance for our students. I will do whatever I can to support my colleagues in Westchester to “green” our campuses, curricula and communities.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I register the following people as members of our District/School team:

Name	Position	Email
	Administrator	
	Student	
	Teacher	
	Parent	
	Facilities Mgr	

How can GSCW support you?

Resources, resources, resources

1. Campus: facilities, plant, transportation, GHG emissions, Environmental Footprint
2. Knowledge, learning outcomes, skills, best practices, pedagogy, professional development
3. Community

Support

Connections

1. Each other
2. Local Experts
3. Regional, State, National and International K-12 organizations, groups

Grant and Financial Opportunities

Support

- Communication
- Leadership
- Meetings/Conferences
- Student Collaboration
- Stakeholder Groups: Students, teachers, parents, administrators and facilities managers

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

Green Schools Coalition of Westchester

Upcoming Events

October 16, Safe Routes to School Conference
(Walking School Bus), County Center: 8:30am

October 24, International Rally Day

December 7-18, United Nations Climate Change
Conference, Copenhagen

Final thought...

In Princeton Review's Annual Ranking of Entrepreneurship Programs, it was cited that the winning college edged out the competition with its emphasis on environmentalism and sustainability. "The most successful entrepreneurs identify trends as they emerge," said Ben Zelevansky, Princeton Review's VP of data collection. "Most companies of all sizes are coming to realize that being environmentally conscious is no longer a luxury, but a necessity."