



Call for Proposals

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

GSCE is now accepting proposals for the 2018 conference in Denver, CO on May 3-4.

Two days of programming offers the opportunity for attendees to share ideas and successful strategies, learn about potential partnerships, and discover tools, services, and products to help them succeed in creating schools that teach students about global sustainability – all in an environment that’s healthy for them, for their communities, and for the earth.

All complete proposals must be submitted [online](#) by ~~August 11 at 5:00pm EST~~ **Deadline Extended: Monday, August 14, 2017 at 5:00 pm EST**. 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.

Preferred Presentation Topics

- **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. Topic may include energy efficiency, water efficiency and quality, waste diversion, and protection of ecological systems.
- **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. Topics may include food and nutrition, physical activity, and environmental health.
- **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. Topics may include curriculum and instruction, evaluation and assessment, and professional development.
- **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. Topics may include whole-school or whole-district campaigns, change management techniques, community partnerships, and visionary school and/or district leadership.

Session Types

We will be accepting four different types of proposals:

- **Breakout Sessions:** These sessions are 60 minutes in length and feature a small team of presenters or facilitators who work together to teach the attendees about a defined topic.

Breakout Session proposals should:

1. Provide a clear plan for teaching the session material, keeping attendees actively engaged and using a variety of teaching methods (5 points)
 2. 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)
 3. Include at least one school or district representative to talk candidly about the success and challenges of transforming their school (3 points)
 4. Articulate clear action steps that can be replicated in other schools, districts, states or by other public-private partnerships (4 points)
 5. Propose presenters that have the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material (4 points)
- **Speed Greening Sessions:** Proposals for speed greening are for energetic, timed, 5-minute presentations by one presenter about a single topic or story. A group of 3-4 presenters will be matched by the Program Committee based on topic similarity. A conference facilitator will lead a discussion after the group of 5-minute presentations is complete, for a total session length of 60 minutes. It's a great way to share a concise idea or concept, get a quick read on a topic, and meet other participants.

Speed Greening Session proposals should:

1. Provide a clear and well-defined story that can be presented in the time limit (6 points)
 2. Highlight a strategy or tool that has been used in schools to achieve measurable results related to ecological impact, health and well-being, and/or student learning; and articulate how results are measured or evaluated (4 points)
 3. Articulate clear action steps that can be replicated in other schools, districts, states or by other public-private partnerships (5 points)
 4. Identify a presenter that has the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material (5 points)
- **Skill Building Workshops:** These sessions are 120 minutes in length. They are fully hands-on, with an instructor or group of instructors guiding attendees through teaching methods, operational practices, or sustainability actions that they may replicate in their district, school, or

classroom. Content should focus on giving participants practice with processes, technology, or concepts that they may not yet be familiar with.

Skill Building Workshop proposals should:

1. Provide a clear plan for the session that includes hands-on activities that give participants direct practice in implementing a new processes, technology, or concepts. (8 points)
 2. 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)
 3. Include at least one school or district representative to talk candidly about the success and challenges of using the processes, technology, or concepts (4 points)
 4. Propose presenters that have the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material (4 points)
- **Expert Panel:** These sessions are 60 minutes in length and feature a small team of researchers and/or subject matter experts describing recent research or important technical information. These sessions are similar to Breakout Sessions but do not require the participation of a school or district representative. Information can be from any field and must be focused on intersections between sustainability, social justice, and/or education.

Expert Panel proposals should:

1. Provide a clear plan for presenting the session material, keeping attendees actively engaged and using a variety of teaching methods (4 points)
2. 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 (6 points)
3. Articulate the source of the research and any peer review process it has undergone (4 points)
4. Propose presenters that have the experience and knowledge necessary to deliver the material (6 points)

Scoring System

All session proposals will be reviewed and scored during the first round by a team of volunteer reviewers using a 20-point scale. Those with the top scores will move on to a second review by experts in the related topic categories, who make up the Program Committee. These rankings will be used by the full Committee to select presenters and sessions for the final program. Reviewers will score proposals using the point values articulated in the above descriptions.

Review Timeline

- Proposal Submission Deadline: ~~August 11, 2017, 5pm EST~~ **Deadline Extended: August 14, 2017, 5pm EST**

- Notification of Acceptance/Decline: October 9, 2017
- Confirm Your Acceptance to Present: October 20, 2017
- Presenter Registration Deadline: December 13, 2017
- Green Schools Conference & Expo Dates: May 3-4, 2018

Program Policies

The review process for education session proposals is managed by the Program Committee and U.S. Green Building Council staff. The Program Committee'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 may only speak once in the 2018 GSCE program. Any pre- or post-conference sessions which occur outside of the central two days of conference content are not included in this count.
- Preference is given to individuals who did not speak at the 2017 conference (maximum of 25% of all speakers can be repeats from the previous year).
- A school district or organization can participate in no more than two sessions.
- A school district or organization may have a maximum of three speakers at GSCE.
- GSCE presenters are offered a special reduced registration rate of \$250 in appreciation of their contribution to the success of the conference.
- No sessions that are based upon an advertisement or product promotion will be accepted into the program.
- Preference is given to proposals that contain original content.
- 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 the Program Committee Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs reserve 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. The Program Committee 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 GSCE by December 13, 2017**, or the entire session may be cancelled without notice to the submitter and a new session will be selected from the waitlist, at the discretion of the Program Committee Co-Chairs.

Program Process

- The Program Committee reserves the right to combine submitted sessions and presenters when strong overlap is identified and the content of the conference program will be enhanced.
- The presenter discount may not be combined or transferred.
- The Program Committee may modify any submitted session by adding or removing presenters or requesting content changes or additions.

Final decisions regarding these policies may be made at the discretion of the Program Committee.

For questions regarding the Call for Proposals, please email program@greenschoolsconference.org.