



KANSAS GREEN SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Kansas Green Schools Conference, July 29, 2011

A WORK IN PROGRESS...

WE NEED YOUR
FEEDBACK AND
INPUT TO MAKE
THIS
OUTSTANDING!

PROGRAM GOALS:



- ① Provide resources and ideas for engaging students in Green Schools activities
- ① Encourage schools to take their green school efforts to the next level
- ① Create a mechanism for measuring and reporting impact of Kansas Green Schools
- ① Most importantly, to recognize and celebrate all the great things Kansas Green Schools are doing!

STEPS TOWARD BECOMING A KANSAS GREEN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

1. Join the Kansas Green Schools Network
2. Establish a KGS Green Team at Your School
3. Investigate your school and community with students
4. Formulate an action plan
5. Communicate
6. Celebrate
7. Apply for Recognition



GREEN TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



- ◎ To ensure that all students and the entire school community have an opportunity to be involved in the investigation and decision-making process
- ◎ To inform and engage the rest of the school and the local community
- ◎ To take the lead in determining how best to carry out the KGS Investigations
- ◎ To take the lead in creating the Action Plan

LEADERSHIP

WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR GREEN TEAM?

IDEALLY...

- ① Students from every grade in your school
- ① Administrative staff
- ① Teachers
- ① Non-teaching staff such as janitors, office administrators, facilities managers, and lunch room staff
- ① Parents or grandparents
- ① Representatives from the local community
- ① Resource professionals from local environmental or conservation organizations



May use existing groups like student councils, afterschool clubs, etc...

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR GREEN TEAMS...

- ① How many people should be on your green team?
- ① How often should the green team meet?
- ① Succession plan?
- ① Record keeping?





GREEN SCHOOL INVESTIGATIONS

Energy &
Waste
Investigations
Drafted

- ◎ **Energy:** Lighting, appliances, HVAC, etc.
- ◎ **Water:** Water use, conservation, outdoor water use, rain gardens, storm drains (water quality)
- ◎ **Waste:** Waste, recycling, composting, reuse
- ◎ **Healthy School Environment:** Indoor air quality, transportation, chemical use on school grounds, green labs, etc. (nutrition and fitness?)
- ◎ **The Learning Community:** outdoor learning, schoolyard habitat, natural areas, nature play areas, outdoor classrooms, schools gardens and community and global connections (service learning, community learning, engaging community, community as a classroom (zoos, nature centers, etc.) and community partnerships) including opportunities to explore the previous 4 investigations at the community level.

INVESTIGATION COMPONENTS AND RESOURCES

WHAT IS
MISSING?

- ⊙ Table of Contents
- ⊙ Introduction to Investigation with Overview of Investigations and Potential Implications
- ⊙ Investigation Objectives/Curricular Connections
- ⊙ Background Information for Teachers and Students
- ⊙ Actual Investigation (Elementary and Middle/HS, classrooms and whole school)
- ⊙ Pictures/illustrations included when useful
- ⊙ Action Plan Template
- ⊙ Resources: Fact Sheets, Web Resources, Literature Connections, Home Connections

STEPS FOR BECOMING A KGS OF EXCELLENCE...MORE DETAIL

- ⊙ Schools **declare their intent** (password/login)
- ⊙ A KGS **Green Team is established** to provide leadership for the school's efforts
- ⊙ The school Green Team **decides which investigations** they will explore and devise a **strategy for completing** both the classroom and school wide investigations
- ⊙ Students and teachers **conduct investigations** on a classroom and school wide basis, **recording data**
- ⊙ The school Green Team **collects and analyzes the data, communicating investigation findings** to school, administrators, parents, community and/or other audiences

STEPS FOR BECOMING A KGS OF EXCELLENCE, CONT.

- ③ The school Green Team devises **strategies for the school to take action** that to make improvements based on investigation data while engaging students in education around the investigation topic(s).
- ③ The **education and project efforts are communicated** to students, teachers, administrators, school personnel, parents, community, etc. and **accomplishments are celebrated**.
- ③ The school Green Team **documents their efforts and completes an online application to be considered for recognition**.
- ③ **Applications reviewed** using rubric, assess for attainment of recognition. Schools meeting criteria outlined in the rubric are awarded the appropriate designation. **School is honored with recognition** on KGS website and a flag to hang at their school.
- ③ Schools maintain their recognition by providing **annual reports** that outline ongoing efforts and accomplishment.



3 LEVELS OF RECOGNITION: SILVER GLOBE



- ◎ Green Team Established (4 meetings/year with recorded minutes and school communication plan)
- ◎ Professional Development In Environmental Education (minimum 1 educator)
- ◎ Environmental Education is integrated into some of grade levels and/or content areas of instruction
- ◎ Two (or more) Investigations Completed with development and implementation of an action plan for one or more environmental improvement area as identified by investigations.
- ◎ Documented progress and outcomes, celebrate accomplishments and share with school community.
- ◎ Develop a KGS Pledge for your school.



GOLD GLOBE



- ◎ Green Team Established (6 meetings/year with recorded minutes and school communication plan)
- ◎ Professional Development In Environmental Education (minimum 2 educators)
- ◎ Environmental Education is integrated into all grade levels and/or content areas of instruction
- ◎ Five Investigations Completed and action plan developed that includes a timeframe for two or more environmental improvement areas as identified by investigations.
- ◎ Documented progress and outcomes, celebrate accomplishments and share with school community.
- ◎ Adopt a KGS Pledge for your school.



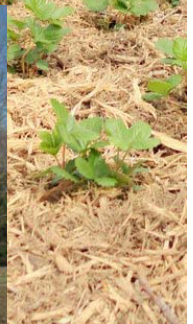
GREEN GLOBE

- ◎ Green Team Established (8 meetings/year, with recorded minutes and school communication plan)
- ◎ Professional Development In Environmental Education (more than 2 educators)
- ◎ Environmental Education is integrated into all grade levels and/or content areas of instruction
- ◎ Five Investigations Completed and action plan developed that includes a timeframe, cost/benefit analysis for three or more environmental improvement areas as identified by investigations.
- ◎ Documented progress and outcomes, celebrate accomplishments and share with school community. School conducts a day of action to engage community or writes a newspaper article. Site visit by KGS representative.
- ◎ Adopt a KGS Pledge for your school and posted in prominent location in school.



GREEN SCHOOLS IN ACTION

Central Plains School District



HAVE IDEAS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- ◎ Laura Downey
- ◎ 785-532-3322
- ◎ ldowney@kacee.org



- ◎ Steve Woolf
- ◎ Central Plains School District
Superintendent
- ◎ swoolf@usd112.org

