



# KANSAS GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

2011 Kansas Environmental Education Conference



# THE GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS PROCESS IN KANSAS

# CALL FOR OUTSTANDING GREEN SCHOOLS



- ◎ KSDE in partnership with KACEE creating a call for nominations by **November 15, 2011**
- ◎ Application will be integrated with the Kansas Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Nominations
- ◎ Send out a call for nominations through KSDE networks and the KS Green Schools Network
- ◎ Applications due **January 15, 2012**

# WHAT'S IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD?



Note: These goals are the ideal. Schools who are partially meeting these goals are encouraged to apply!

Built on the Three Pillars of Green Ribbon Schools:

- ⦿ **Net Zero Environmental Impact**
  - Element 1A: Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
  - Element 1B: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation
  - Element 1C: Reduced waste production
  - Element 1D: Use of alternative transportation to, during, and from school

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## Pillar 2: Net Positive Impact on the Health and Performance of Students and Staff

- Element 2A: An integrated school environmental health
- Element 2B: High standards of nutrition, fitness, and quantity of quality outdoor time

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## **Pillar 3: 100% of the school's graduates are environmentally and sustainability literate**

- ⦿ Element 3A: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy and human system
- ⦿ Element 3B: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills
- ⦿ Element 3C: Development and application of civic engagement knowledge and skills

# KANSAS REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Activity	Date
Call for Applications	Nov. 15, 2011
Applications from Schools	Due Jan. 15, 2012
Kansas Review Team Assembled to Review Applications (KSDE, KACEE/KS Green Schools Advisors, educators, natural resource/sustainability professionals, environmental or sustainability business and industry)	Jan. 15 – Feb. 10, 2012
Recommendations sent to US Department of Education	Approx. Feb. 15, 2012
Announcement of Green Ribbon School Awards	Slated: Earth Day 2012

# OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE KS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- © Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) lead state
- © [www.ksde.org/science](http://www.ksde.org/science)
- © STEM: Teaching and Learning

# CONNECTING GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AND KANSAS GREEN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

- ◎ Engage students in “greening” the school and curriculum
- ◎ Hands on, relevant explorations of environmental and sustainability topics
- ◎ Development of an action plan
- ◎ Celebrate
- ◎ Get Recognized!





# 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.

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

- ⊙ Schools **declare their intent**
- ⊙ 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 a **strategy 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, GOLD AND GREEN GLOBE



- ① Green Team established and meets to plan and engage the school
- ① Professional Development of Educators
- ① Environmental Education is integrated into curriculum
- ① Investigations Completed with development and implementation of an action plan for one or more environmental improvement area as identified by investigations.
- ① Documented progress and outcomes, celebrate accomplishments and share with school community.
- ① KGS Pledge for your school.

# KANSAS SCHOOL GARDENS

- ① Tools and Resources located at [www.kansasgreenschools.org](http://www.kansasgreenschools.org) (click on the Garden Gate)
- ① How To's of School Gardening
- ① Hands on curriculum in conjunction with school gardening
- ① Interviews with schools



# HAVE IDEAS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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