



Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering
healthy, green schools for all.



Winter 2021-22

To CT Green LEAF Schools –

We are excited to share this information provided by the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School initiative. CT Green LEAF Schools is the designated state education authority for Green Ribbon School nominations. As such, and in order to be nominated for national Green Ribbon recognition, all CT Green LEAF Schools are required to submit their applications to us for review and nomination.

This year, the first draft of your application is due by **January 10, 2022**. Please send a copy of your application as an attachment to Abby Peklo at ctgreenleaf@coeea.org. At this time, please also arrange for Green LEAF Advisory Council members to visit your school or schedule a Zoom meeting in **January**. During this one hour meeting, we would like to meet with representatives of your school's Green LEAF Team to review your application, share the steps towards improvement that your school has made (using your completed self-assessment as a guiding tool), and identify areas that you may still need to work on. Your final application is due to Abby Peklo at ctgreenleaf@coeea.org by **February 1, 2022**. We will notify you in early March if your school has been nominated for national Green Ribbon recognition. Connecticut's nominees to Green Ribbon Schools program will be recognized at the Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Education Conference, typically held in March.

Green Ribbon applications are scored based on demonstration of schoolwide/ school culture impact within each of the three pillars: (1) Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs; (2) Improving Health and Wellness; and (3) Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education. Please see the [Sample Pillar and Element Checklist](#) and [Green Ribbon Schools \(GRS\) Pillars and Elements](#) for a thorough explanation of this.

We look forward to working with you during this Green Ribbon nomination process. Please feel free to contact us as you continue to complete your application.

Abby Peklo
Project Director, CT Green LEAF Schools
860.567.0863 ext. 1166 or ctgreenleaf@coeea.org

Congratulations to CT's 2020 Green Ribbon Awardee: Middlebrook School. To feel inspired and to see how Middlebrook School completed a successful application, see:

[Middlebrook School Green Ribbon Application](#)

[Press Release: 2020 CT Green Ribbon Awardee](#)

From the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School initiative:

Background



Thank you for your interest in completing the CT Green LEAF Schools application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS), District Sustainability Award, or Postsecondary Sustainability Award. ED-GRS recognizes schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions taking a comprehensive approach to sustainability, incorporating environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts.

Becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, District Sustainability Awardee, or Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee is a multi-step process. **The first step is to complete and submit this form to be selected as a nominee by your state education agency or equivalent.**

Once selected as a nominee by your state education authorities, the second step of the process requires signatures certifying compliance with all applicable civil rights, Federal Student Aid, health, safety, and environmental statutory and regulatory requirements. You may view the certifications that you will be asked to make in the Nominee Presentation Forms [here](#).

Finally, your nomination materials, including the signed Nominee Presentation Form, documentation of progress in all areas of the award, and several photographs, will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education (ED). CT recognizes its honorees through EdAdvance and [CT Outdoor and Environmental Education Association \(COEEA\)](#) publicity and website, as well as through state agencies, such as CT DEEP and CT Department of Education. US ED notifies national selectees in the spring, inviting them to send representatives to attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in the fall. Selection is based on documentation of the nominee's progress in the three ED-GRS Pillars:

Pillar I: Reducing environmental impact and costs;

Pillar II: Improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and

Pillar III: Offering effective environmental and sustainability education.

Schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions demonstrating progress in every area will receive highest scores. It may help to assemble a team with expertise across these areas to complete the application. You may also wish to consult [Green Strides](#) for programs related to each Pillar.

Final applications are due to CT Green LEAF Schools by February 1, 2022. *(Draft applications are due to CT Green LEAF Schools by January 10, 2022.)* CT Green LEAF Schools will send nominations to the U.S. Department of Education by **February 1, 2022.** Please contact Abby Peklo at ctgreenleaf@coeea.org or 860.567.0863 if you have questions during the application process.

Nominee Information

School, District, or Postsecondary Institution Name:

Category of Nomination (School, District, or Postsecondary):



Address: City: State: Zip: Twitter: Facebook:

Principal/ Superintendent/ President: Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): First Name: Last Name:
Position/Role Email: Phone:

Lead Applicant (if different) Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): First Name: Last Name:
Position/Role (Teacher/ Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director): Email: Phone:

Check all that apply:

Early Learning ☐	Charter ☐	Community College ☐
Elementary ☐	Magnet ☐	Career and Technical ☐
Middle ☐	Non-Public ☐	Urban ☐
High ☐	Two-Year ☐	Rural ☐
Public ☐	Four-Year ☐	Suburban ☐

Provide percentages, if any are relevant to your school, district, or institution:

Pell Recipients:	Special Education:
Free and Reduced Price Lunch:	Graduation Rate:
Minority:	Attendance Rate:
Limited English Proficient:	

Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: Number of Schools: Buildings: Campuses:

Documentation of Sustainability Achievement

Summary Narrative: An Overview of Your Work Encompassing All Three Pillars

Use 2-3 pages to provide a summary narrative describing your school, district, or postsecondary institution's efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health and wellness; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. This overarching summary should highlight the best of your work in every ED-GRS Pillar and Element. You can see the areas that you should address [here](#) and view examples of summary narratives in past [Highlights Reports](#). The summary that you submit should be what you would like to see appear in a future Highlights Report, if your institution is selected. Be sure to include relevant sustainability achievements, supporting data, unique partnerships, program participation, awards, and certifications.

Narrative for Pillar I: Your Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Use 1 page to describe how your school, district, or postsecondary institution is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency,



and conservation; reducing waste production; and using alternative transportation. Identify your energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes. Use supporting data to demonstrate progress when possible.

Narrative for Pillar 2: Your Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Use 1 page to describe how your school, district, or postsecondary institution improves the health and wellness of students and staff by integrating an environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss contaminant, moisture, and asthma control, air quality, thermal comfort, pest management, water quality, and procurement, as well as nutrition and outdoors physical activity. Other components you may include are: health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, sun safety, staff health promotion, and family and community involvement. Incorporate metrics when possible.

Narrative for Pillar 3: Your Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Use 1 page to describe how your school, district, or postsecondary institution ensures effective environmental and sustainability education throughout the curriculum. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills, and teach all subjects in context. You should discuss how your school, district, or postsecondary institution develops and applies civic knowledge and skills to environmental and sustainability education. All STEM and civics work should be described as it relates to environmental and sustainability learning. Detail any environmental or sustainability literacy standards, show how these concepts are integrated into assessments, and describe environmental and sustainability literacy professional development. Include co-curricular opportunities such as field trips, study abroad, clubs, and service learning. This section should describe hands-on, place-based, project-based, authentic learning across the curriculum, not limited to one subject, such as science courses.

Photos: Please submit 5-10 photographs with descriptions including who, what, when, and where. Photos should be action shots, not posed. By sending these photos, you are giving your state nominating authority and the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them in our newsletter and social media.

Please use 12-point Times Roman font and 1-inch margins in your narratives.