

Information Webinar: 2024-25 Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Application Process



U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

- Federal recognition award for school sustainability.
- Honors schools, districts, postsecondary institutions.
- NOT a certification, tracking, or rating.
- NOT a grant program.



Process for Illinois

- State-level partnership
 - Illinois State Board of Education
 - Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - Illinois Green Alliance
- Illinois application process
 - Applications open in fall.
 - Reviewed by pillar experts.
 - Nominees selected and submitted to U.S. Department of Education.
 - Honor and recognition.



Why?

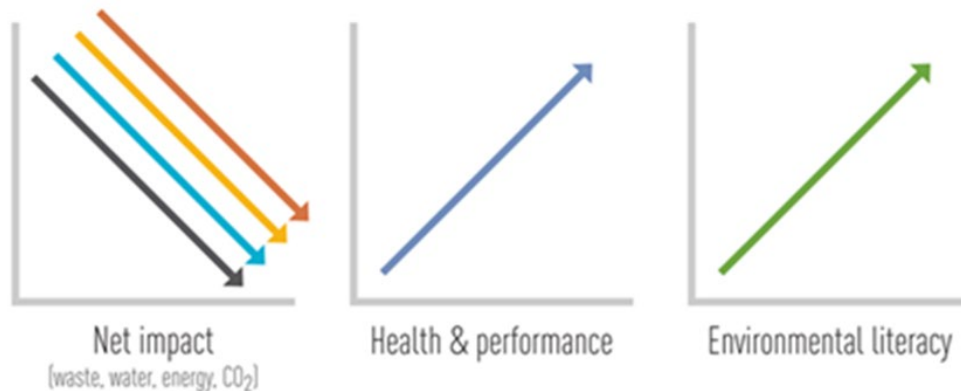
- Prepare global leaders.
- Deepen relations with faculty, students, community.
- Save dollars to direct to classroom.
- Positive PR.
- Applied learning, STEM, Problem-Based Learning, and outdoor education.
- Green career paths.
- Civic values.



Wheaton Christian Grammar School
Winfield, IL
2021 Honoree

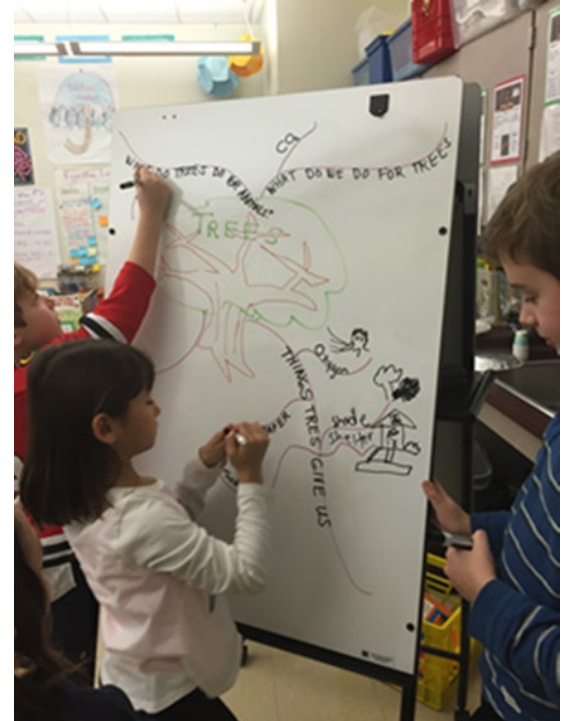
Three Pillars of School Sustainability

1. Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs
2. Improve Health and Wellness of Staff/Students
3. Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education



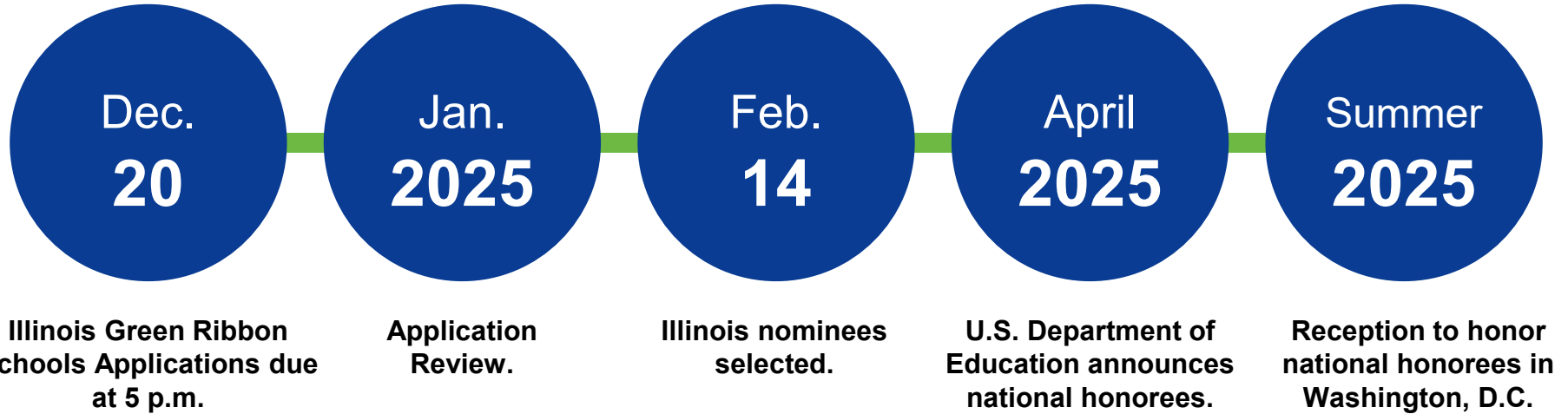
Factors for Nomination

- Progress and results
- Planning and efforts
- Change in culture, awareness, and habits
- Documents and details
- Spread to a wider audience
- Student leadership and civic engagement



Monroe Elementary School
Hinsdale, IL
2018 Honoree

Timeline



Illinois Green Ribbon Schools applications are officially open for the 2024/25 school year.

Download this year's application form below!
Applications this year are due *December 20*.

School & District Application
(PreK - 12th)



Postsecondary/
Higher Education Application



Access the application and instructions on the [Illinois Green Alliance website](#) or on the [ISBE website](#).

Illinois Honorees

2024

- Clarendon Hills Middle School, Clarendon Hills
- Lake Zurich Community Unit School District, Lake Zurich

2023

- Prairie Trails School, Mount Prospect
- Huntley Community School District 158, Algonquin

2022

- Urban Prairie Waldorf School, Chicago
- Community High School District 99, Downers Grove
- Northwestern University, Evanston

2021

- Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Winfield

2020

- Joseph Sears School, Kenilworth
- College of Lake County, Grayslake

2019

- Meadowview Elementary School, Grayslake
- Bloomington Public School District 87
- Loyola University Chicago

2018

- Monroe Elementary School, Hinsdale
- Southside Occupational Academy, Chicago
- Wolcott College Prep, Chicago
- University of Illinois Chicago

2017

- Maercker Intermediate School, Westmont
- Chiaravalle Montessori School, Evanston

2015

- River Trails Middle School, Mount Prospect

2014

- Woodland Primary School, Gages Lake

2012

- Academy for Global Citizenship, Chicago
- Thomas J. Waters Elementary School, Chicago
- Prairie Crossing Charter School, Grayslake

2024 Green Ribbon Honorees from Illinois



Clarendon Hills Middle School

2024 Green Ribbon Honorees from Illinois



Lake Zurich Community Unit School District

Application Overview

School Applicant Information

- 1. School Name:** Click here to enter text.
District Name: Click here to enter text.
Street Address: Click here to enter text.
City: Click here to enter text.; **County:** Click here to enter text.
Zip: Click here to enter text.
- 2. Website:** Click here to enter text.
Facebook page: Click here to enter text.
YouTube: Click here to enter text.
Instagram: Click here to enter text.
Twitter: Click here to enter text.
- 3. Principal Name:** Click here to enter text.
Principal Email Address: Click here to enter text.
Phone Number: Click here to enter text.
- 4. Lead Applicant Name (if different):** Click here to enter text.
Lead Applicant Email: Click here to enter text.
Phone Number: Click here to enter text.

Level <input type="checkbox"/> Early Learning Center <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (PK - 5 or 6) <input type="checkbox"/> K - 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Middle (6 - 8 or 9) <input type="checkbox"/> High (9 or 10 - 12)	School Type <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private/Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Magnet	How would you describe your school? <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural	Is your school in one of the largest 50 districts in the nation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			Total Enrolled: Click here to enter text.

Pillar 1

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

A. Energy

1. **Do you track energy use in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager®, or another way in your district?**
 Yes No
2. **If so, how have you tracked your resource usage, for how long, and how has your usage dropped over that time?** *(Data or graphs can be submitted as a separate supportive document if desired.)*
Click here to enter text.
3. **Please describe the strategies you have implemented or planned to reduce your energy consumption.**
Click here to enter text.
4. **What percentage of your school's energy is obtained from:**
 - a. **On-site renewable energy generation:** Click here to enter text.
Type: Click here to enter text.
 - b. **Purchased renewable energy:** Click here to enter text.
Type: Click here to enter text.
 - c. **Participation in an energy cooperative, DOE Wind for Schools or other school energy program:** Click here to enter text.
5. **In what year was your school originally built?** Click here to enter text.
6. **What is the total building area of your school?** Click here to enter text.
7. **Please describe any new construction or major renovations at your school in the past ten years, including the date, and the percentage of area renovated. Describe how you achieved green building**

Pillar 2

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

A. Environmental Health

1. **Describe your school's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, including any certifications earned, routine inspections, pest identification, monitoring, record-keeping, and pest prevention activities.**
Click here to enter text.
2. **Describe the efforts or practices you have in place to minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides, both indoors and outdoors.**
Click here to enter text.
3. **Describe the actions taken or the practices your school employs to minimize or eliminate exposure to the following specific hazardous contaminants (if applicable):**
 - a. **Elemental Mercury**
 - b. **Carbon Monoxide from fuel burning equipment or appliances**

Pillar 3

A. School Culture of Sustainability

1. **Describe what *sustainability* means to your school or district in particular. How is sustainability included in your mission to educate students?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

2. **What role has the administration played in the culture of sustainability at your school?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

3. **What practices, working groups, or committees does your school employ to help ensure effective environmental and sustainability education? Provide specific examples of actions taken.**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

4. **Does your school have a green team, garden club, or a community green committee on sustainability? Who participates? What kinds of project or activities do they undertake? What roles do they play in the school?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5. **Describe other ways your school integrates sustainability into daily habits and culture of the school's staff, volunteers, students and community (e.g., recycling days, no bottled water, murals, themed events, virtual backpacks, etc):**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

6. **Any other school practices, visions, projects, plans or information you want to include to showcase the environmental work your school has achieved?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

B. Curriculum and Pedagogy

7. **Does your school have a written definition and requirement for environmental literacy? Is there an assessment required?**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Application Tips

- Become familiar with the 3 pillars.
 - Narrative shows progress in all 3 pillars.
- [Read past applications.](#)
- Work with a team to complete the application.
- Start early to collect information to complete the application.
 - Google Doc
 - 3-5 photos (not posed)



Northwestern University
2022 Honoree

A decorative graphic in the top-left corner consisting of a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles of various shades, creating a low-poly, crystalline effect.

Green Schools Resources

Illinois Green Alliance Green Schools Project

- The Illinois Green Schools Project is a year-long sustainability initiative designed for K-12 schools in Illinois. Participants can form a green team, identify their school's sustainability needs and goals, and reduce their school's impact by designing and implementing a personalized no-to low-cost sustainability project.
- Registration opens in August 2025.
- Visit [Illinois Green Alliance webpage](#).



Whittier Elementary School
Downers Grove
Lunchroom Waste Audit

Additional Resources

- Green Ribbon Application Resources
 - [Illinois Green Alliance: Illinois Green Ribbon Schools](#)
 - [Illinois State Board of Education: Illinois Green Ribbon Schools](#)
 - [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#)
 - [Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub](#)
- Illinois State Agency Educational Tools & Resources
 - [ENTICE Program from Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#)
 - [IDNR's Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program](#)
 - [Office for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education – 5th&6th](#)
 - [Illinois EPA Environmental Educational Materials](#)

Additional Green School Resources

- [Whole School Sustainability Framework](#)
- [Center for Green Schools](#)
- [Learning Lab Curriculum Subscription](#)
- [Green Classroom Professional Certificate](#)
- [Green Schools Alliance](#)
- [START \(Sustainability Tracking & Roadmap Tool\)](#)
- [Green Schools National Network](#)

Thank You!

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