WHY GREEN SCHOOLS?

www.buildgreenschools.org

GREEN ROOF
Green roofs are cooler, save energy and provide a filter for stormwater run-off. The natural habitat that green roofs afford for birds and butterflies creates an interactive learning environment for students.

SOLAR PANELS
Roof-mounted solar panels turn sunlight into an alternative energy source for the school and provide excellent opportunities for hands-on learning.

DAYLIGHTING
Skylights and large windows allow daylight to stream in, reducing energy costs and improving student concentration and performance. Adjustable blinds and shades help reduce glare. Lightshelves bounce sunlight deep into the room and provide even light distribution.

ACOUSTICS
Improved acoustics can be achieved with acoustical ceiling tiles, lined ductwork and quiet HVAC systems with appropriately placed vents. Classrooms with improved acoustics create a more productive learning environment for children and allow teachers to be heard without straining their voices.

LEED® CERTIFICATION
LEED certification confirms that the school has been built to the highest performance standards.

THERMAL COMFORT
Comfortable indoor temperatures enhance productivity and keep students more alert. Fresher, cleaner air can be achieved with windows that open or ventilation systems that provide a constant supply of air.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING
Adequate levels of the right kind of light can save energy and enhance learning conditions. Adding remote sensors, individual controls and task lighting can greatly reduce electricity costs.

WATER EFFICIENCY
Low-flow sinks, waterless urinals and dual-flush toilets reduce total water use by as much as 50%. Toilets that use harvested rainwater instead of potable water help ease the strain on municipal water systems. Students get a first-hand lesson in how to use water more conservatively.

LOW-EMITTING MATERIALS
Using paint and carpet adhesives that don't emit toxic gases and using ceiling tiles, wall systems and furniture made with non-toxic materials improve air quality in the classroom and throughout the school. High indoor air quality keeps students and faculty healthier and reduces absences related to respiratory conditions and other environmental illnesses.

VOTE

MOLD PREVENTION
Providing adequate ventilation and keeping relative humidity below 60% inhibits mold growth. The presence of mold can lead to serious health concerns, especially in children.

JOINT USE OF FACILITIES
By making school spaces available for use by the larger community, the need for additional facilities decreases, saving costs community-wide and decreasing the environmental impact of the community as a whole.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
Alternative-fuel buses reduce CO_2 emissions and reduce smog and ground-level ozone. Bike racks and safe bike paths and sidewalks encourage an active lifestyle and decrease emissions.

RECYCLING
Engaging students in recycling programs teaches them responsible environmental habits that they can apply at home. Diverting solid waste from landfills reduces impacts on municipal services.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL USGBC

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