

2021-22 GREEN SCHOOLS QUEST SUBMISSIONS

31 school participated in the 2021-22 Green Schools Quest.

At each school, student teams worked hard to devise and implement – with the help of a USGBC-MGC Green Mentor – creative, effective and no or low cost sustainable practices for their school.

According to the numbers in their final reports, 1,788 students and 118 faculty and staff were directly involved, and an additional 10,672 students, staff, and community members were impacted through the projects this year!

For 2021-22, a hybrid program format was offered and schools could choose to engage in either the **Traditional Format** which focused on one comprehensive six-month-long project (projects evaluated by a panel of judges, winners determined in elementary, middle and high school divisions, five Spotlight Awards presented across age groups) or the **Adapted Format** which took place as themed, monthly sustainability challenges (winners drawn at random.)

Please join us in celebrating ALL participants of the 2021-22 challenge!



ELEMENTARY PARTICIPANTS

DIVISION WINNER & FOCUS OF THE YEAR

SURVIVING, NOT THRIVING: A QUEST FOR JUSTICE

BRYAN HILL ELEMENTARY AND COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY (SLPS)

School Team Sponsor: Britt Tate | **Mentors:** Zach Greene, Quarter Coast & Maggie McCoy, Missouri Botanical Garden | **Track:** Traditional

The pandemic exposed the health and wealth inequities many students are living with. Bryan Hill & Columbia focused on the immediate needs of their students, improvements to support health and wellbeing of their communities such as repairing and repainting walls to cover lead paint and revamping their outdoor learning spaces, as well as the need for systems-level sustainability solutions.



DIVISION WINNER

REDUCING LANDFILL WASTE

CARMAN TRAILS ELEMENTARY (Parkway)

School Team Sponsor: Emily Gold | **Mentor:** April Anderson, Naturally Good Interpretation | **Track:** Traditional

Two 3rd grade students wanted to reduce waste sent to the landfill, so they created a video and games to teach how to correctly sort waste. They measured the results and saw a substantial reduction.



RECYCLING WARRIORS

CRESTWOOD ELEMENTARY (Lindbergh)

School Team Sponsor: Karen Luning | **Mentor:** Jaclyn Jezik | **Track:** Adapted

Students engaged in a recycling/waste sorting relay and hosted an electronics recycling drive. Students learned about climate change, global citizenship and the power of youth activism. They also made bird feeders with pinecones, had in-depth discussions on food chains, and organized a creek clean up.



ENERGY, ENERGY, ENERGY!

FLANCE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

School Team Sponsor: Erin McFarland | **Mentor:** Angelina O’Donnell, EarthWays Center of the Missouri Botanical Gardens | **Track:** Adapted

Flance collaborated with multiple community partners. They joined the EarthWays Sustainability Network and received help performing an energy and waste audit. Students learned how heat and energy are connected and what a circuit is through fun experiments and then tested the classroom for energy efficiency. Flance also enrolled in Missouri Green Schools (MGS) and constructed a cobb bench at a community day supported by an MGS+ grant.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

MANN ELEMENTARY (SLPS)

School Team Sponsor: Lori Gardner | **Mentor:** Jess Watson, Earthday365

Track: Adapted

Students learned about food justice, resource use, and connection with nature through books and activities, such as a playground trash cleanup, reflective writing, and teaching family and friends. Students enjoyed exploring watersheds through videos and use of a hands-on Enviroscope.



BENCHMARKING SACRED HEART

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

School Team Sponsor: Jessica Ponder | **Mentor:** Natalie Meyer, Siemens | **Track:** Traditional

Sacred Heart started an environmental club this fall for K-3. Next school year, students will work with their mentor to begin benchmarking energy and water usage, and perform a waste audit.

ENERGY CONVERSIONS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

School Team Sponsor: Mike Herries | **Mentor:** Chris Ruth, Integrated Facility Services | **Track:** Traditional
Linking lessons from their Energy Conversion unit, students learned about tracking and examining their school's energy usage. As dual participants in GSQ and Missouri Green Schools, they leveraged their project to support goals in both programs.

CATERPILLARS COMPOST!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN ECC

School Team Sponsor: Peggy Knock | **Mentor:** Benjamin Winkler, St. Louis County Department of Public Health | **Track:** Traditional

Pre-K students researched, raised money and bought a compost tumbler, then designed compost buckets for other classrooms. Students retrieved the buckets and composted the material inside. They also started a worm bin.



DIVISION WINNER & SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

OINK!

SUNRISE R-9 SCHOOL (Desoto)

School Team Sponsor: Danielle Peppers | **Mentor:** Joseph Panhorst, W’yman Center | **Track:** Traditional

Sunrise’s new “Feed The Pigs” program takes waste diversion to a whole new level! Food waste from lunch is collected in the “Feed The Pigs” bin, then hauled to a local farm and fed to pigs. Students named three of the pigs and watched them grow over the year. These pigs were then auctioned off to school families for their consumption. The program emphasizes multiple sustainability principles and has reduced lunch waste by nearly 31%.



MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

URBAN INNOVATION

LADUE MIDDLE SCHOOL

School Team Sponsor: Christine Earnhart | **Mentor:** Elizabeth Fischer, WE **Track:** Adapted

Ladue Middle School students created informational flyers on pollination, and participated in lessons and activities to learn about social justice, carbon footprints, and healthy food. They examined benefits of urban gardens and each designed a garden that would benefit their school.



UCITY SCHOOLS POLLINATOR SQUAD!

BRITTANY WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL (University City)

School Team Sponsor: Anne Cummings | **Mentor:** Stacey Parker, Missouri Green Schools AmeriCorps VISTA | **Track:** Traditional

The Brittany Woods Pollinator Protection Squad knows humans need to value and protect pollinators. Through problem-based learning, students identified one of their first steps needed to be removing the stigma associated with stinging insects. Squad members educated fellow middle schoolers and PK-1 students on the benefits of pollinators using an old van they rehabbed called the Pollinator 3000 as a backdrop to build their Squad’s visibility.



DIVISION WINNER

CLEAN WATER PROJECT

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

School Team Sponsor: Laura Kent | **Mentor:** Michelle Abounader, Dandelion Yoga | **Track:** Traditional

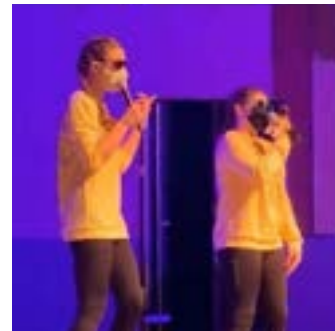
Students learned about the local watershed and actions to keep our rivers and oceans clean. They presented recommendations to their principal and pastor to decrease the school's water pollution.



MRH POLLINATOR PROBLEMS (AND SOLUTIONS)**MAPLEWOOD RICHMOND HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

School Team Sponsor: Bill Henske | **Mentor:** Susan Armstrong, Safe.Green.Sustainable.Engineering.PC | **Track:** Traditional

Using data they collected, MRH students identified the decline in native pollinators as a problem and set out to make habitat improvements on their campus. They created several products from beeswax to raise money for the improvements. They also developed a series of lessons for elementary school classes and performed pollinator raps in the STEAMaster rap battle.

**YEAR OF GROWTH: SUSTAINABILITY IN HOMEROOM****NIPHER MIDDLE SCHOOL (Kirkwood)**

School Team Sponsor: Courtney Karr | **Mentor:** Jennifer Mareschal, Volunteer
Track: Traditional

Nipher students set out to improve existing outdoor spaces that are part of their sustainability initiatives. Four Homeroom classes collaborated to raise funds and implement their plans, improving areas with chickens, vegetable gardens, native plants, and beehives.

**NEICO-NORTH ECOLOGY INNOVATIVE****NORTH KIRKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

School Team Sponsor: Chris Hooker | **Mentor:** Genevieve Bourgeois, Integrated Facilities Services | **Track:** Traditional

Students worked in groups to reduce air pollution at dismissal time by reducing idling, reduce lunch waste, restore their educational rain garden, and educate students and staff on water conservation.

**TIKKUN OLEM: REPAIRING THE SPACE****SAUL MIROWITZ JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

School Team Sponsor: Richard Schmidt | **Mentor:** April Anderson, Naturally Good Interpretation | **Track:** Traditional

Students worked to revitalize a garden, centering Tikkun Olem, or healing the world. Garlic and rye are being grown now, and students of all ages are now using the garden and other outdoor spaces year round.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & AIR QUALITY

NERINX HALL

School Team Sponsor: Beth Buchek | **Mentor:** Beth Gutzler, Metropolitan Congregations United

Track: Adapted

Nerinx Hall hosted a talk on environmental racism in the St. Louis area. Students also explored air quality and created seed pods.

DIVISION WINNER

STUDENT ACTION FOR A GREENER EARTH

LADUE HORTON WATKINS HIGH SCHOOL

School Team Sponsor: Kelly Krejnik | **Mentor:** Chris Ruth, Integrated Facility Services | **Track:** Traditional

Ladue's existing environmental club focused on long-term sustainability, devoting significant energy towards underclassman recruitment in addition to larger projects which included looking at the school building itself to find ways to reduce energy, stream cleanups, and honeysuckle hacks.



SPARK SCIENCE!

PARKWAY SPARK! BIOSCIENCE

School Team Sponsor: Meredith Jacques | **Mentor:** Karin O'Brien, ACI Missouri | **Track:** Adapted

Students started a variety of research projects to learn about issues ranging from native crops to healthcare inequality, and participated in Zooniverse's citizen science challenges.

SUSTAINABILITY AT PRINCIPA

PRINCIPIA UPPER SCHOOL

School Team Sponsor: Lynne Scott | **Mentor:** Eric Schneider, Straight Up Solar

Track: Traditional

Principia students collaborated with the St. Louis Climate Reality Project and the City of St. Louis on the city's sustainability efforts. They also built knowledge of permaculture practices and hosted their annual Impact Challenge. School faculty, admin and facilities poured efforts into a successful nomination for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition.



ST. JOE ON THE GO

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

School Team Sponsor: Katie Lodes | **Mentor:** Shelby Barker, Mackey Mitchell Architects | **Track:** Traditional

The "Earth Angels" club started a "St. Joe on the Go" project to engage the whole school in taking steps to live more sustainably. The students fundraised for milkweed, and started plastic film recycling and composting at the school. Students also baked cookies and wrote thank you cards for their facilities staff!

