

Green schools for all in this generation



THE CENTER FOR GREEN SCHOOLS

Across America, students are learning about sustainability on a daily basis. According to the Center for Green Schools (CFGS) at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), currently 9,434 education projects in the U.S. for grades K–12 and higher have either certified to LEED green building standards or are seeking certification. During last month's Green Schools Conference & Expo 2017 in Atlanta, GA, three main components of a green school were highlighted: reduce environmental impacts & costs, improve occupants' health & performance and increases environmental & sustainability literacy. "Every day in the U.S., more than 50 million students and 3 million teachers attend class in nearly 100,000 buildings — many of which are out-of-date and in need of repair" CFGS. Educators and volunteers passionate about sustainability and the built environment can participate on USGBC's globally recognized initiatives as [Green Apple Day of Service](#) for school volunteers, [LEED Lab](#) for university students and [LEARNING Lab](#) an online platform providing hands-on curriculum and resources to help K-12 teachers bring classroom projects to life.



Brazil's Green Apple Day. Credit: LCP Brazil



"LEED Lab is providing university students with highly marketable experience on green buildings"

The Center for Green Schools



UF LEED Lab course's students. Credit: Bahar Armaghani

"LEED Lab (Green Building Strategies) course was established in the fall of 2014 at College of Design, Construction and Planning at **University of Florida (UF)**. It is an interactive multidisciplinary course designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to be effective communicators, critical thinkers, problem solvers, and team players. Students learn the principles of LEED and assess the performance of existing facilities on campus. They facilitate LEED Operation and Maintenance (O+M) process with the goal of certifying the facility. At the end of the semester, students are prepared to sit for the LEED AP O+M professional credential exam. Since spring 2016, 26 LEED Lab students earned their LEED GA credential and one student earned LEED AP credentials before graduating, that has opened doors for employment. These students hit the ground running right out of college with the experience and credentials they gained in LEED Lab" said Bahar Armaghani, LEED Fellow, USGBC Florida Board of Director.

On the Gulf Coast of Florida, the **University of South Florida (USF)** and the **University of Tampa (UT)** are committed to conserving energy and resources throughout campus, including construction management best practice and LEED green building certification program.



USF's Interdisciplinary Science Building I, LEED Gold certified Building in 2012. Credit: HOK design



UT's Maureen A. Innovation and Collaboration, LEED Silver certified Building in 2016. Credit: UT

Green Apple Day September 30, 2017

Since 2012 more than 750,000 volunteers of Green Apple Day of Service, have impacted the learning environments of 7 million students in all 50 U.S. states and 73 countries. "Green Apple Day of Service brings together volunteers from local businesses, universities, and the community to provide K-12 schools with assistance in "greening" their campuses through installing vegetable gardens, rain barrels, outdoor learning spaces, landscaping, and other beautification efforts desired by partner schools. Volunteers graciously donate their time and resources to help provide a means of connecting students to nature on their campuses and more broadly expose the community to the green building industry through community service." said Travis Barnes, Member of USGBC Florida Gulf Coast Region, Tampa Bay Branch.

USGBC Florida chapter

"Getting involved with the USGBC is a great way to network, meet people in the same industry and learn about sustainability and the built environment. Becoming an Emerging Professional (EP) member of the USGBC Florida has many great benefits. We offer various events throughout the year, from monthly webinars, building tours, educational panels, networking events to community service projects we have something for everyone." said Sarah Mason, Chair of the USGBC Florida Gulf Coast Region, Tampa Bay Branch. Visit <https://usgbcflorida.org/>



Cristina Shoji, a LEED AP & PMP professional, who has earned her Master of Architecture from Middlesex London University and Bachelor from

Mackenzie Brazil University. She serves as an active member of U.S. Green Building Council LEED FACULTY Program and instructor for "LEED Certification and Green Sustainability" course at Everglades University Tampa campus.