



Sample Application

Background

Thank you for your interest in completing the South Carolina 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 the nominating authority for South Carolina, SCDHEC.

Once selected as a nominee SCDHEC, 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). ED notifies national selectees in the spring, inviting them to send representatives to attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in the fall. Upon ED's decision, SCDHEC will send out a press release congratulating selectees. 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.

Applications are due by to SCDHEC by January 10, 2020. SCDHEC will send nominations to the U.S. Department of Education by February 14, 2020. Please contact Sam Christmus at christsw@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 898-0717 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:

Top official: Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): First Name: Last Name: Position/Role
 (Principal/ Superintendent/ President): 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 <input type="checkbox"/> | Charter <input type="checkbox"/> | Community College <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> | Magnet <input type="checkbox"/> | Career and Technical <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Middle <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-Public <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban <input type="checkbox"/> |
| High <input type="checkbox"/> | Two-Year <input type="checkbox"/> | Rural <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public <input type="checkbox"/> | Four-Year <input type="checkbox"/> | Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 1-3 pages 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 1-3 pages 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 1-3 pages 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 SCDHEC and the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them in our newsletter and social media.

Please use normal fonts and margins in your narratives.