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# GREEN CLASSROOM PROFESSIONAL GCP CERTIFICATE REFRESHER

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WORLD'S TOP SPECIALISTS

ONLINE TRAINING BY KRISHNAJI PAWAR

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MODULE

2

# Getting Started with Green School Buildings

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# **GREEN CLASSROOM PROFESSIONAL GCP CERTIFICATE REFRESHER**

Sustainable building, or green building, minimizes environmental impact and promotes health and well-being through design, construction, operation, and demolition, focusing on indoor air quality, natural lighting, and non-toxic materials.

# Learning Objectives

- Introduction
- **Getting Started with Green School Buildings**
- What Does a Successful Green School Look Like?
- The DNA of Whole School Sustainability
- Teaching projects and problem-based learning
- Green School Management, Aesthetics, and Efficiency
- Design Principles for Whole School Sustainability
- Policy, Safety, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Green Schools
- Green Building Basics and Cost Benefits
- Healthy Ecosystems for Learning



## INTRODUCTION

- Green schools promote sustainability through hands-on experiential learning and a healthy environment, enhancing student outcomes and saving funds.
- The development of a green school requires significant commitment of time, effort, and resources.
- Green schools have numerous advantages, including improved student academic achievement, health and well-being of teachers and students, decreased absenteeism, and increased teacher retention.
- Green schools are more energy efficient, saving schools' money, increasing community engagement, and promoting positive environmental behaviors.
- Being a disadvantaged school is not a barrier to becoming a green school.
- Sustainability initiatives in green schools emphasize student-centered projects, interdisciplinary work, and hands-on inquiry.
- The transformation of poorly used areas into usable green space can improve the health and well-being of teachers and students.
- The development of a green school typically starts with one person with the enthusiasm and drive to create a successful program.

# GETTING STARTED WITH SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

## Introduction to Sustainable Building

- Sustainable building, or green building, aims to minimize environmental impact while creating healthy, efficient, and durable structures.
- The approach focuses on the entire lifecycle of a building, from design and construction to operation and demolition.

## Why Sustainable Building Matters

- Traditional building practices can lead to significant waste, pollution, and depletion of natural resources.
- Sustainable buildings use eco-friendly materials and methods, such as recycled materials, to reduce waste.
- Sustainable buildings use less energy, including energy-efficient appliances, proper insulation, and renewable energy sources like solar panels.
- Sustainable buildings prioritize the health and well-being of their occupants, focusing on better indoor air quality, natural lighting, and the use of non-toxic materials.



# KEY PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING



- Site Selection and Design: Choose a location that minimizes environmental disruption.
- Resource Efficiency: Use sustainable materials and implement water-saving fixtures.
- Energy Conservation: Install energy-efficient windows and consider renewable energy sources.
- Indoor Environmental Quality: Use low-VOC paints and materials to improve air quality.
- Incorporate plants into the design for natural air purification.

# STEPS TO GET STARTED WITH SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

- Research and Planning: Research sustainable building practices, materials, and technologies.
- Engage Professionals: Collaborate with architects, builders, and contractors who specialize in sustainable building.
- Select Sustainable Materials: Choose durable, recyclable, and responsibly sourced materials.
- Design for Efficiency: Optimize the building layout to take advantage of natural light and ventilation.
- Monitor and Adjust: Monitor the building's performance and track energy and water usage to meet sustainability goals.



# CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREEN SCHOOL



- Sustainable Infrastructure: Utilizes renewable energy sources like solar panels, lighting, and high-performance insulation.
- Water Conservation: Implements rainwater harvesting systems and water-efficient fixtures to reduce water usage.
- Indoor Air Quality: Focuses on using non-toxic building materials, adequate ventilation, and maintaining humidity levels.
- Curriculum Integration: Prioritizes environmental education, integrating sustainability into the curriculum across disciplines.
- Community Engagement: Engages with local communities to promote sustainability initiatives.

# ROLE OF A GREEN CLASSROOM PROFESSIONAL

- Curriculum Development: Designs and implements curricula that emphasize sustainability, conservation, and ecological principles.
- Resource Management: Teaches students about resource conservation, including responsible management of classroom supplies and implementing recycling and composting programs.
- Environmental Stewardship: Models sustainable behaviors for students, demonstrating energy-saving practices.
- Assessment and Improvement: Continuously evaluates classroom practices and makes necessary adjustments.





## KEY INFORMATION GREEN CLASSROOM PROFESSIONALS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THEIR CLASSROOMS

- Classroom Environment Assessment: Understands the existing environmental conditions of the classroom.
- Sustainable Materials and Resources: Familiarity with eco-friendly materials and supplies.
- Student Engagement Strategies: Develops effective methods to engage students in sustainability practices.
- Community Resources and Partnerships: Knowledge of local environmental organizations and resources.
- Regulatory Standards and Certifications: Familiarity with local, state, and national standards for sustainability in education.



# GREEN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

## Understanding the Sustainability Movement

- The sustainability movement aims to improve the well-being of our planet's ecological and social systems.
- School leaders are tasked with stewardship of the planet and global community.

## Understanding Sustainability

- Sustainability captures the interface between human civilization and the natural world.
- It examines planetary, social, and economic issues holistically.
- Sustainability science examines how humans might live on planet Earth in ways that are more ecologically healthy, socially just, and economically viable.





# THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY

- Sustainability questions how we can endure on Earth, take care of our planet, each other, and the resources we depend upon for our survival.
- School leaders have a critical role in developing more sustainable school practices.



## Green School Practices Embedded within School Leadership Concepts and Ideals

- School leadership presents powerful opportunities and immense responsibilities.
- The nature of this fast-paced world demands continuous revisiting of the standards directing educational leadership practice in the 21st century.

# GREEN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP BENEFITS

- School leaders face unprecedented demands due to accountability systems and the need to collect, record, interpret, and present evidence of student achievement.
- The complexity of the global environment necessitates a rethinking of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Green leadership provides a clear logic for this work, recognizing that human organizations, including schools, impact local and global socio-ecological communities.
- Green school management practices, such as high-performance designs, increased energy and water efficiency, improved indoor air quality, and greener purchasing practices, motivate students and engage them in the world outside the classroom.



# GREEN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP BENEFITS +

- Formal K–12 education plays a critical role in the evolution of social systems by introducing content knowledge and modeling social habits.
- Greener schools advance a relevant and integrated curriculum and model sustainable building design and management practices.
- Green school leadership represents fiscally responsible practice, saving tax dollars and saving the environment through reductions in energy use, water use, and waste production.



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