



SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Green Schools Challenge Awards Press Release

May 11, 2011

USGBC-SWVA Vision, Mission, Aims & Motto (adopted April 2009)

Vision: Southwest Virginia is a sustainable environment where people are prosperous, healthy, socially responsible, and harmonious with nature thus assuring the same for future generations.

Mission: USGBC-SWVA positively contributes to a sustainable environment in Southwest Virginia by advancing sustainable practices for design, construction and operations of our buildings and communities.

2010 – 2011 GREEN SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

The USGBC Southwest Virginia Chapter's first annual Green Schools Challenge concluded at a judging and awards program on May 1, 2011 at the Hotel Roanoke in conjunction with the annual Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) conference.

The program was launched October 20, 2010 with 33 schools across Southwest Virginia indicating interest in participating. Green Mentors and Green Shadows were assigned to each school to assist with implementing the program.

Twenty schools submitted project documentation and videos April 1, 2011 for evaluation by a national and state recruited panel of judges.

Fifteen schools erected project displays at the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center May 1 for public display and for final judging. Following are the six awards categories and selected schools that demonstrated outstanding achievement in each of the categories.

It was noted by at least one school principal that the awards were nice, but they had already been rewarded by just participating and being involved in such a fun and rewarding effort. So with that in mind, we believe that all of the schools that embarked on this effort, whether completing and submitting a project or not, will have benefited.

All schools that signed up for the challenge will receive certificates of participation.

All four Virginia USGBC chapters are engaging in similar green schools challenges for their regions of the state, so look for other similar programs being implemented statewide.

- Leadership Award - High School Division: **Hidden Valley High School, Roanoke County Schools**
 - High public engagement and involvement of the community.
 - Engaged local news media and conducted TV interview.
 - Appears that this project is a permanent ongoing program
- Leadership Award - Middle School Division: **Glenvar Middle School, Roanoke County Schools**
 - Engaged special program math class to perform green house construction calculations, thus providing "real world" application and enhancing the curriculum
 - Planned for project sustainability and long term application by procuring replacement materials and identifying future budget requirements.

Motto: "Implementing a strategy of change for our built environment"

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- Good teamwork in planning, construction and future sustainability of the project
- **Leadership Award - Elementary School Division: **Central Elementary School, Rockbridge County Schools****
 - Many projects were implemented for the challenge in a very short timeframe
 - Its “sheer scope” was comprehensive and wide ranging
 - The project was student-driven and student-implemented
- **Outstanding Student Leadership: **Bell Heth Elementary School, Radford City Schools****
 - School-wide engagement
 - Led almost entirely by the students
 - Implemented green operations in a new high performance building
- **Outstanding Sustainability Curriculum: **Fishburn Park Elementary School, Roanoke City Schools****
 - Fully integrated project activities and principals into the curriculum
 - Evidence of integrated green practices in daily activities
 - Project display was inventive and impressive
- **Outstanding Community Outreach: Callaway Elementary School**
 - Engaged Ferrum College for additional guidance, resources and mentoring
 - Demonstrated collaborative effort amongst a variety of stakeholders
 - Extensive community engagement and involvement.

Award plaques will be custom fabricated and distributed to each of the schools that were selected for outstanding achievement. See below sample award. Plaque layout, colors, borders, images and text may vary.

We thank our sponsors who greatly helped make this effort possible because without their financial and personnel support such projects would not be possible and our children would miss a great opportunity to engage in their schools, communities and improve their environments.

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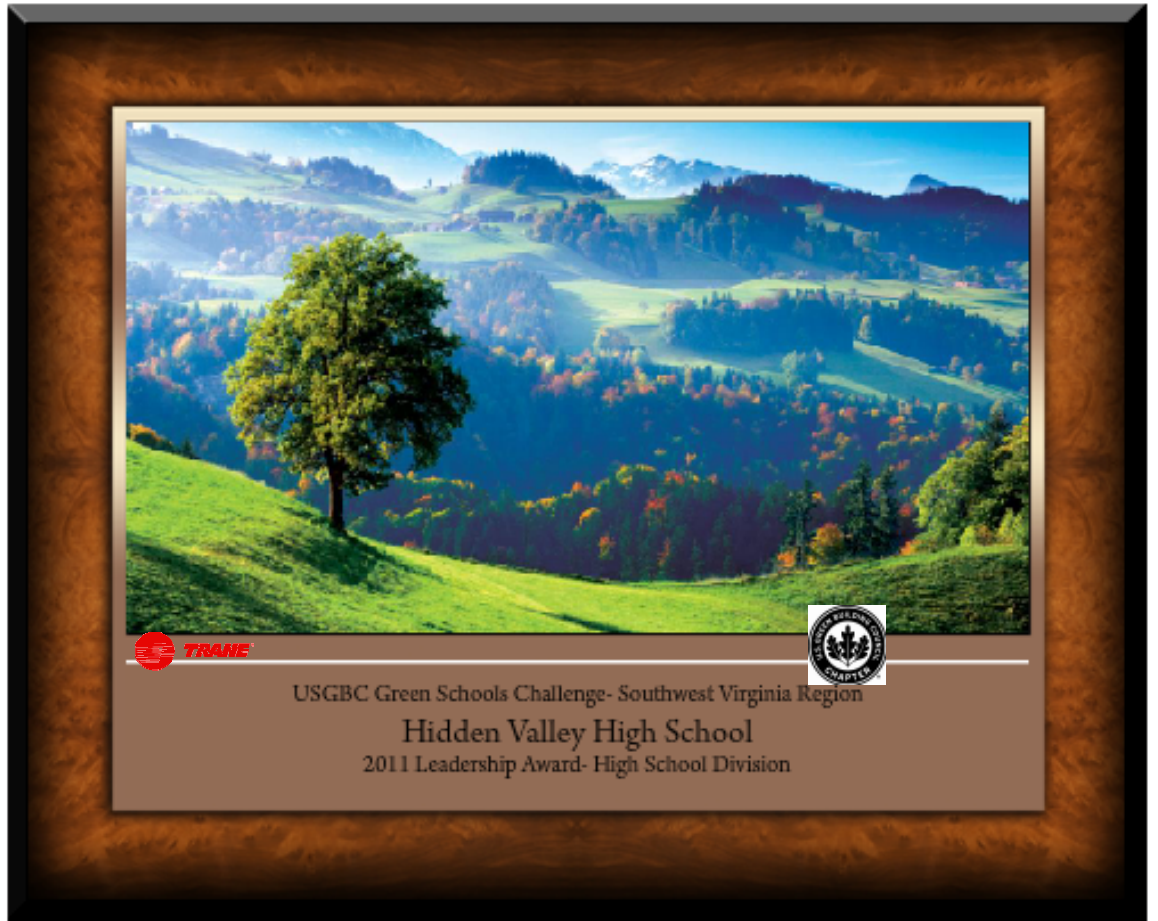
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Motto: *“Implementing a strategy of change for our built environment”*



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Motto: *"Implementing a strategy of change for our built environment"*