

USGBC Southwest Virginia Green Schools Challenge Finale Press Release

Where: The Hotel Roanoke

When: Sunday May 1, 2011

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

- School Displays
- Final Judging

5:30pm to 7:00pm:

- Light hors d' oeuvres
- Presentation by the Green Schools Committee Chair
- Sponsors recognition
- Awards presentation
- Closing remarks



Why: To show off and reward the amazing work happening in our local schools for the past five months

Who: Members of the press, you are invited to attend. Contact Steve Sunderman at Sunderman.steve@gmail.com (540) 982-0335 or Bill White at (276) 685-9565

Details: On Sunday May 1st twenty SW Virginia schools will be competing for recognition of their commitment to no and low cost sustainable practices as implemented by students, faculty and staff with assistance from volunteer Green Mentors and Green shadows. The **Green Schools Challenge** is a community advocacy program developed by the four Virginia chapters of the **US Green Building Council**. The USGBC Southwest Virginia Chapter, a non-profit charitable organization, will conclude its first annual event during the **Virginia Association of School Superintendents** conference at the Hotel Roanoke. Entries in the Challenge will be on display Sunday afternoon and will conclude that evening with special recognition for outstanding achievement in selected green categories.

The goal is to promote sustainable principals such as low carbon, zero waste, local food and energy & resources conservation amongst the 20% of Americans attending Virginia schools. In Southwest Virginia the challenge began in October 2010 and Schools submitted their entries April 1st, 2011.

Chapters in **James River, Hampton Roads** and the **National Capital Region** are also participating, with the James River Finale occurring on June 7, and the Connect the Dots for Schools Challenge will also be featured at the Virginia **Sustainable Buildings Network** at their May 24 'The State of High Performance Schools in Virginia' Conference.

Entries are judged on criteria such as measured sustainable performance, community involvement, and creativity. The judging panel includes: Jeff Bain, Virginia School Board Association President; Chuck Saylor, National PTA President; Victoria Waters, Green Education Foundation President; Emily Knupp, USGBC Center for Green Schools Director; and Michele Cleverdon, Radford University Graduating Senior.

Website: showcasing ongoing efforts around the state: www.greenschoolsvirginia.org **Videos:** See an introductory video of the Southwest Virginia Chapter's Green Schools Finale, and videos produced by kids participating in the challenge: <http://greenvirginiashools.org/component/content/article/1/96-we-want-your-videos>