Welcome

This past year Project Green Schools (PGS) celebrated 10 years of success. 10 years of development, morphing, listening and taking action. We grew from a tiny organization cooked up in my head to an organization whose students have earned an esteemed seat at the table…many tables. To some, success is solely measured in dollars. To me, I measure our successes in every graduate, every student council member, every policy change we’ve impacted, every summit we’ve developed or participated in, every award winner we have honored, every pathways user we have and so much more. Project Green Schools has reached millions of individuals with a unified vision for creating healthier bodies, schools, communities and places of work.

Last year was the first time PGS was able to provide scholarship opportunities to 2 extraordinary young people. We are grateful for support from the Boston Bruins Foundation and Current powered by GE to make our dreams and the dreams of our students a reality.

Last year, we expanded our reach across New England, the nation and the globe with a refined approach bringing depth to our programming and PGS can now better measure success. We revised content, programming, and we strategically grew our Board of Directors and Advisory Board to take on the 21st Century challenges with a big vision towards growth. We supported global and local projects and developed new partnerships to better meet the needs of our students and schools.

Project Green Schools has successfully developed a brand and reputation over 10+ years that is valued by our students, schools, sponsors, friends in government and communities. We will continue to work hard to develop the next generation of environmental leaders through innovative, awesome programs that inspire, honor, and work and we hope you will further engage with us in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Robin Organ
Project Green Schools Executive Director & Founder
BOARD

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Director of Student Engagement
Nicole Canty,
Director of School Engagement

MISSION

*Developing the next generation of environmental leaders through education, project-based learning and community service.*

BELIEFS

*Students must be engaged at the intersection of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), energy, environment and public health to develop: sustainable solutions, employability, college and career readiness knowledge and skills.*
**How has Project Green Schools (PGS) impacted your life?**

Project Green Schools has forever changed my life. Before joining PGS, I had many ideas for what I wanted to do, but no way to make these ideas a reality. PGS is an entire organization centered around its students, and therefore has some of the most creative ideas, projects, and people. PGS gave me, like all of its students, the tools to bring my ideas for the world to life. That’s where I believe the “Project” in Project Green Schools comes from: the emphasis on the action that students back their words up with.

Since joining PGS in middle school, I have taken on a project-based learning approach through which I have many key skills: communication/public speaking, working in a group, planning/executing projects, working with budgets, fundraising, and most importantly dreaming bigger.

**Why is an organization like PGS important to students?**

“Dream bigger.” As a student, it is easy to accept that there are some things that are too big or too much to undertake. PGS allows its students to widen their scope of what’s possible for them. Personally, I started doing projects in middle school on a very small scale. Then, I went on to complete a project which modeled driverless cars in order to make them as energy efficient as possible. This project went on to win First Place at the MA State Science Fair. I thought this was the largest scope that I would ever affect in my life.

Dream bigger. Next, I was invited through PGS to attend the White House Summit on Climate Change and Public Health. I had the opportunity to interact with Senators, the US Surgeon General, and the head of the EPA. I had made it to the White House, and I again thought this was my limit.

Dream bigger. Next, PGS provided the tools needed for me to complete an international sustainability project in India as a tribute to my grandparents who worked closely with the orphanage where we would install solar water heaters. Leading a project across an ocean, providing hot water for the first time at the orphanage, dedicating a project to my grandparents, and reducing the strain on the environment at the same time; Dream bigger. Now, I am working with other members within Green Schools to pass legislation in MA to set aside a week around UN World Water Day for education and awareness on how we chose to use one of our most precious resources: water.

This is the atmosphere within PGS is so important in empowering students to bring their creative and ingenious ideas to life. These empowered students along with the tools and resources that Green Schools provides allows students to come out with real life experience within their certain fields. Employers and colleges especially appreciate this action behind the story of PGS students, as I found out when I was offered admission/multiple scholarships to top schools all over the country to study technology’s application in the emerging environmental crises.

**What are your future goals/plans?**

I aspire to be the “next Elon Musk” (founder and current head of Tesla, SpaceX, and SolarCity). These three companies have one thing in common: the reduction of strain on our planet. Whether it be through electric vehicles, reusable rockets, or solar panels, Elon is applying 21st Century technology to the world’s greatest problems, and this is what I aim to achieve. My goal is to harness the power of twenty-first-century technological breakthroughs to address global environmental issues such as climate change, air pollution, and depletion of the world’s nonrenewable resources, while promoting economic development. To do this, I will need the proper tools, including degrees in Environmental Engineering, Computer Science/Engineering, and Business. Once I’ve completed my education, I hope to start a corporation aimed first at addressing a pressing global issue and second at making a profit. My company would use environmental engineering and the latest technology to develop strategies for reducing carbon emissions, removing excess carbon and other pollutants from the atmosphere, and persuading other big businesses to join the movement towards a cleaner and more sustainable way of life. I see enterprises like this as the wave of the future. They alone can bring laser focus to solving our greatest problems, while maximizing effectiveness and efficiency.

Sincerely,
Mark Thekkethala, Project Green Schools Student President
Dear colleagues and friends of Project Green Schools,

The most exciting thing in this world, to me, is change... Large-scale changes in companies, industries, communities, and countries... The changes that fundamentally shift the way things operate, what people believe, what is needed to succeed, the culture. Change is hard, but the results of evolution are rewarding.

This past year I have had the pleasure of serving Project Green Schools, an organization with a measurable impact on developing the next generation to lead in the face of environmental challenges and our changing world. 2017 was a year of evolution for Project Green Schools. We celebrated our 10 Year Anniversary and looked back on our journey.

**Our programs...** started as a project to make schools healthier for children and teachers. Today we develop youth into change-makers who can lead the world into a green and sustainable future.

**Our operations...** started with a few schools in Massachusetts. Today we work with more than 6,300 schools in 43 U.S. states and 13 countries.

**Our reach...** started with educators and students. Today our audience includes education, government and industry, in addition to students. Our social media posts receive 20,000–50,000 hits each week.

I am proud of what Project Green Schools has accomplished in its first 10 years. These accomplishments laid the groundwork to do even more. And we made the bold decision to make it happen.

To evolve our model we took a critical look and decided on many changes, most importantly, **focus and funding**. First, above all, recognition and leadership programs deliver the highest value to our students. Going forward we will center our work around the National Green Schools Society and our State and National Leadership Councils. Focusing on these areas aligns with our primary goals: motivating environmental learning and stewardship, developing the skills of students, and creating leaders. Second, we have made the strategic shift from a school and student-paid membership to a donor and grant funded model. Industry, government and community organizations have a keen interest in developing students into both environmentally knowledgeable citizens and an environmentally proficient workforce.

The fundamentals of these changes have already been instituted. Over the next few years, we will build upon this evolution aiming for tremendous growth and increased impact, reaching exponentially more students and schools around the globe each year.

I am honored and excited to be a part of developing the environmental leaders of the next generation with Project Green Schools.

Sincerely,

Stacy Goodman
Board Chair
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PATHWAYS

1. Atmosphere and Climate
2. Ecosystems and Biodiversity
3. Energy
4. Food and Agriculture
5. Future of Sustainability
6. Green and Healthy Schools
7. Green Living
8. Land, Air and the Natural World
9. Transportation
10. Waste Management
11. Water
12. Outdoor Learning & Exploration
MEMBERSHIP

[K-12] schools and communities. Membership provides access to Green Schools Handbook, Tool Kits, our monthly Newsletter, Partner resources, grant opportunities, and much more!

Green Schools Members learn how to implement top down and bottom up programming and policies bound to make The Green Difference!

There are multiple ways to implement Green Schools 12 Environmental Pathways into your school’s classrooms, curriculum, culture, and community. Green Schools Members have access to award-winning projects, resources, personnel, and training from across the country through our Membership program.

Green Schools provides free Membership to educators, students, schools, administrators, facilities directors, wellness coordinators, STEM coordinators, and those looking to take action when it comes to greening.
A Student Recognition Program for environmentally focused students who achieve extraordinary impact in schools and communities.

K-12 students are awarded pins and certificates in recognition of their environmental service. Graduating seniors can achieve a stole following implementation of a capstone project.
Green Up New England Challenge

This past spring, the Boston Bruins Foundation partnered with Walmart and Project Green Schools to launch the inaugural Green Up New England Challenge to highlight their commitment to the environment and to growing green students and citizens.

Grand Prize Winner, Epiphany School

Schools across New England were invited into the challenge where they were asked to compete in the areas of: Energy Reduction, Waste Reduction, Water Reduction, Innovative Green Schools Practices. The winner of the competition was the Epiphany School in Dorchester, MA.

Part of their winning project includes the building of a new greenhouse on their expanded Dorchester campus. The new greenhouse will be used for educational purposes for Epiphany students and the community at large.
Project Green Schools honors and recognizes Outstanding National and International Environmental Education & STEM Education efforts led in our Schools & Communities through our Annual Green Difference Awards Program. This annual event will take place at the MA State House where we honor Green Difference Makers made up of Principals, Teachers, Advisors, Citizens, Schools, Students, School Groups/Clubs, and our Sponsors.
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Staff

PGS Friends, Family, Legislators and News Anchor

Keynote Speaker Leilani Muenter
Thank you for making The Green Difference with us in 2017. We’re looking forward to Green-o-vating with you in 2018!