

ILLINOIS GREEN SCHOOLS PROJECT

Green Schools Mentor - Volunteer Role Description

Purpose

A Green Schools Mentor at Illinois Green Alliance is a volunteer with a passion for creating sustainable learning environments and working with schools. Green Schools Mentors should have experience or interest in sustainability and green building, including architects, engineers, designers, builders, and more.

Green Schools Mentors are matched with schools to help them select, plan, and implement a no- to low-cost sustainability project.

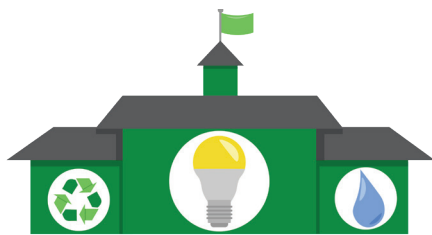
Commitments and Responsibilities

A Green Schools Mentor will participate for **one school year**, late September to early May (approximately 6 months from being accepted into the program).

A Green Schools Mentor:

1. Attends a mentor orientation, meet-ups, and the celebration.
2. Reaches out to a school **OR** is matched with a school to identify, investigate, and implement a sustainability project.
3. Provides guidance and support to your school including but not limited to:
 - Brainstorms project ideas and scope.
 - Supports development of project plan and implementation.
 - Researches, identifies, and shares resources.
 - Helps keep track of key program dates and school holidays/breaks.
 - Supports documentation and submission of project
 - Provides encouragement to your school.
4. Exposes students to sustainability and green building career pathways.
5. Optionally participates in training workshops in partnership with the Sustainable Facilities Mentor program to gain background knowledge on sustainability best practices for existing buildings to support your school's project.
6. Stays connected to Illinois Green Alliance to share updates.





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The estimated time commitment for a Green Schools Mentor is approximately **2-5 hours per month** throughout the school year. Time may be more or less depending on school needs and participation.

Location

Orientations, meet-ups, the celebration, and optional trainings will be held virtually, with opportunities to work in-person with your school. Volunteering with your school will likely be a hybrid of in-person and virtual work, depending on the agreement between you and the school.

Qualifications

A Green Schools Mentor **must be a current member of Illinois Green Alliance**, or willing to join as of the first day of volunteer training.

A Green Schools Mentor should also:

- Fulfill the Illinois Green Alliance sexual abuse policy requirements and any applicable school/district volunteer approval process.
- Be aware of and interested in sustainability topics like energy efficiency, water efficiency, or waste management and how this relates to schools.
- Be interested in talking with educators, students, and school staff about sustainability and sharing information and skills.
- Be comfortable speaking with new contacts and in front of small groups.

Support Given to Mentors

A Green Schools Mentor will be provided with the following resources and support from Illinois Green Alliance:

- Illinois Green Schools Project mentor orientation.
- Optional training workshops in partnership with the Sustainable Facilities Mentor program (over 2 months).
- Folder with program resources and materials.
- Regular check-ins with Illinois Green staff, volunteers, and school cohort.

Illinois Green staff support is available as needed.

For any questions or additional information, contact:

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