

August 10, 2015



## *Can This Building Teach About Sustainability in the 21st Century?*

White Paper by Dr. Steve Marable, August 2015

There are times when local education agencies (LEAs) go to their governing bodies for funding for school designs that include construction of a green school—a school that supports sustainable practices or has environmentally friendly facilities. While this type of construction can be supported in the research for reasons that include health, safety, and planet friendly practice, there often is little said about the instructional components of such facilities. This paper will explain how the components of green schools can enhance the implementation of environmental education curricula that help support 21st century skills. Currently, there is no set standard for the implementation of environmental education in green schools or for schools that utilize the building as a teaching tool for students. A recent study (Marable, 2015) was conducted in Virginia to help establish pedagogical best practices for environmental education, while describing how educators currently use LEED buildings as a teaching tool to support sustainable practices. The findings from the study indicated teachers employ practices that are consistent with current emphases on environmental education. Data also supported that educators take pride in their buildings and incorporate the facility as a teaching tool in a variety of instructional practices throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[View White Paper](#)

## *Environmental Hazards for Children in the Aftermath of Wildfires*

Seltzer, Miller, and Seltzer, 2007

Children are especially vulnerable to environmental hazards. They eat more food, drink more liquids, and breathe more air than adults on a pound for pound basis. Children are in a critical period of development when toxic exposures can have profound negative



effects, and their exploratory behavior often places them in direct contact with materials that adults would avoid.

[View Report](#)



## *Green Clean Schools Summit Moves the Movement*

*EFC attended the recent Green Clean Schools Leadership Summit.*

Healthy Schools Campaign hosted 90 green cleaning leaders at the first-ever Green Clean

Schools Leadership Summit. The two-day meeting, which took place on the University of Washington's picturesque Seattle campus, marked a pivotal moment for green cleaning in schools. Not only was the summit the culmination of a decade of hard work advocating for healthier cleaning in schools, it was an opportunity to galvanize leaders from across the school community and the cleaning industry.

[Read More About the Movement](#)

[View Green School Resources on the EFC Website](#)

## Contact

**Education Facilities Clearinghouse**  
1 Old Oyster Point Road, Suite 220  
Newport News, VA 23602  
757.269.2210

---

## Stay Connected



 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works."

- Steve Jobs