

The Mayors' ALLIANCE for Green Schools

FOUNDING MAYORS

Mayor Manuel A. Diaz
Miami, FL

Mayor Greg Nickels
Seattle, WA

Mayors' Alliance for Green Schools Executive Summary

The Mayors' Alliance for Green Schools is a coalition of mayors from large cities and small towns seeking to harness local-level leadership and creativity to promote the benefits of green schools in their communities.

Initiated in October, 2008, by Mayor Manuel A. Diaz of Miami and Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, the Alliance is united in a belief that sustainability in schools must come from grassroots-level efforts. Members of the Alliance recognize that in order to provide a high quality education for children, the school environment must be safe, clean, and supportive of excellence. The Alliance is working in conjunction with the U.S. Green Building Council and its national network of chapters to accelerate programs supporting the resolution adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2007, and reconfirmed in 2009, that "in a generation every child in America will attend a green school."

Staff members of the Alliance are invited to regular conference calls to learn how other communities are successfully promoting green schools through innovative legislation and successful public-private partnerships. Mayors also receive recurrent member updates about federal initiatives and local-level opportunities that encourage green schools. Participating mayors are champions of legislation that helps implement features in schools such as green roofs and solar panels in new school construction, safe biking and walking routes to school, the development and use of green curriculum, and the greening of existing schools' operations and maintenance. Many mayors participate in the Alliance simply because they want to learn from these successful local efforts and help make green, healthy schools a national priority.

By their very nature, schools are an investment in the future, preparing the next generation of leaders and paving the way for tomorrow's innovations. As the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement has demonstrated, mayors can have an enormous impact on our nation's goals and priorities when they unite around a common goal. This Alliance is connecting mayors with the many opportunities that exist to make our nation's schools greener, our students and teachers healthier, and our communities stronger.

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