**Program Comparison**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Common Goal</th>
<th>Support PreK-12 schools in advancing practices throughout their buildings and grounds, curriculum, and school culture that reduce environmental impact, improve health and wellness, and provide place-based education.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approach</td>
<td>Project-based</td>
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| Key Attributes | - Student-driven  
- Mentor supported  
- Implementation / Action-oriented  
- Focus on no and low-cost projects  
- Competition | - Holistic, School-wide  
- Engages multiple stakeholders (faculty, admin, facilities, students, etc)  
- Ongoing program that supports growth through a continuous loop of tracking and advancing sustainability practices, ultimately cultivating a culture of sustainability at the school | - One-time national recognition  
- Requires documented achievements in environmental impact, health/wellness, ecoliteracy  
- Engages multiple stakeholders (faculty, admin, facilities, etc) |
| Process / Timeline | - Enroll by Sept 15  
- Student team, School Lead, and Green Mentor (volunteer expert) engage in a six-month-long sustainability project Oct - mid-March  
- Teams submit a digital presentation and report sharing process and impact in mid-March  
- Winners announced in April | - Enroll anytime  
- Get Letter of Commitment signed  
- Take MGS Baseline Self-Assessment  
- Form a committee to support this work  
- Use the START tool to track your ongoing achievements and generate ideas for next steps while working towards MGS criteria  
- Submit materials annually by June 30 for review and recognition  
- Honorees announced in October | In the state of Missouri:  
- Schools must first enroll in the MGS program and achieve the Sapling or Flowering Dogwood level to be eligible for ED-GRS nomination  
- If interested in pursuing ED-GRS, reach out to info@showmegreenschools.org to communicate your interest  
- Compile documentation Oct-Dec  
- Final nomination package due in Jan for review  
- Honorees announced in April |
<p>| Recognition Levels | Elementary, Middle and High School division winners plus five Spotlight Awards | State-level recognition of achievement across five levels: Seed, Sprout, Seedling, Sapling &amp; Flowering Dogwood | One-time national recognition at the PreK-12 School or District level |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Driven within the school by</th>
<th>Student team and School Lead</th>
<th>Committee dedicated to supporting this work</th>
<th>Representatives from admin, teaching, facilities, health, communications provide necessary documentation</th>
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| Needed to Get Started | “School Lead” to register the school and organize a team of student participants | - School representative to fill out enrollment form and begin gathering a committee to support holistic efforts  
- Head of School to sign a Letter of Commitment | - Must be enrolled in MGS and notify Show-Me Green Schools staff of interest in applying  
- School representative to coordinate gathering the nomination documentation |
| Document- ation | - Final Submission Form  
- 5-minute digital presentation  
- 1-2 page written report | - START (Sustainability Tracking & Roadmap Tool) and MGS Snapshot Forms housed within START  
- Baseline Self-Assessment  
- Letter of Commitment | - Correlate with 3 Pillars  
- Reference a variety of widely accepted sustainability standards, certifications, ratings, and programs |
| Support Resources | - Green Mentor  
- Project idea lists  
- Resource guides  
- Connect on the Quest  
- SMGS Discussion Forum  
- SMGS Partner Network  
- MEEA Annual Conference  
- Sustainability Institute | - START & How To Guides  
- SMGS Discussion Forum  
- SMGS Partner Network  
- MEEA Annual Conference  
- Sustainability Institute for Educators  
- Schools with >60% students eligible for free/reduced-priced lunch eligible for 1:1 support navigating program | - Green Strides School Sustainability Resources Hub  
- MGS Resources  
- SMGS Discussion Forum  
- SMGS Partner Network  
- MEEA Annual Conference  
- Sustainability Institute |
| Examples | Links to Past GSQ Projects  
Videos:  
- Compilation from past submissions  
- 2019-2020 GSQ Project Focus & Collective Impact | Honoree’s Stories:  
- Parkway School District: Benchmarking & Goal Setting  
- Sunrise School: Creative Collaboration  
- Flance Early Learning Center: Nurturing the Young as a Catalyst for Healthy Communities | Past Nomination Packages:  
- Patrick Henry Downtown Academy  
- University City School District  
- Principia School  
- Flance ECC  
- Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District |
| Open to PreK-12 Schools within | State of Missouri and portions of Southern Illinois (MGGBBC territory in IL) | State of Missouri | Schools and Districts across the nation located within states where the state education authority (MO DESE) has confirmed participation |
| Program of | Missouri Gateway Green Building Council (MGGBBC) and Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) | Missouri Gateway Green Building Council (MGGBBC) and Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) | U.S. Department of Education; In the state of MO, nominations are administered in partnership by DESE, MGGBC and MEEA |
| More Info | showmegreenschools.org/gsq | showmegreenschools.org/mgs | showmegreenschools.org/ed-grs |

Schools can see stronger educational outcomes, reduced costs, increased student and community engagement, and opportunities for recognition as a result of participation in any of these programs. These benefits are strengthened and more deeply entwined within school culture via simultaneous and ongoing participation in multiple programs.