

NET ZERO SCHOOL

CHALLENGE 2024 

Confronting Climate Change from the Front

24 CHALLENGES
& AWARDS
FROM JAN. 31, 2024



GREEN MENTORS

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Special Consultative Status with the
Economic and Social Council of United Nations from 2021



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Green Mentors, an esteemed organization registered in India and the United States, enjoys international recognition. Holding special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and recognized as a Greening Education partner of UNESCO, we are committed to empowering educational institutions.

Our dedication lies in equipping these institutions with the knowledge, tools, and unwavering support needed to transition toward achieving a net-zero environmental impact. Central to our mission is cultivating eco-leaders who champion sustainability, paving the way for a greener and more resilient future.

Our primary objective centers on preparing every learning environment to be climate-ready. To further this goal, we've launched the 'Net Zero School Challenge 2024,' which aims to facilitate sustainable transformations within American schools.

At Green Mentors, we pledge to provide schools with essential resources, mentorship, and acknowledgment necessary for their success.

We aim to commend and honor schools that significantly reduce their environmental footprint, serving as inspirational models of sustainable practices within their communities and nationwide.





Leadership

Virendra Rawat
Founder Director
Green Mentors

Virendra Rawat stands as a trailblazer in greening education, dedicating himself to transforming learning environments into climate-ready spaces since 2010. His relentless efforts have led to the accreditation of over 5000 schools and universities globally as green and sustainable institutions.

Driven by an unwavering vision, Mr. Rawat aims to revolutionize every learning space into a catalyst for a green economy, fostering a sustainable future for all.

His commitment to this cause extends to influential memberships, including his role as the Academic Council on the United Nations System.

Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Council of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, USA.

He contributes expertise as a UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training member.

Mr. Rawat's impactful contributions reach global platforms. He was a convener of the Science Summit at the 78th United Nations General Assembly in 2023.

His recent endeavors include hosting a pivotal session on "Green School for Every Child" at the Greening Education Hub at CoP 28 in the UAE. This session, jointly organized by UNESCO and the UAE Government, emphasized the imperative of green education for a sustainable future.





SCHOOL

CHALLENGE 2024

Confronting Climate Change from the Front

In our vision, schools are beacons of environmental responsibility, seamlessly weaving energy efficiency, waste reduction, and green initiatives into their daily fabric.

As we stand beneath the dawn's embrace, surrounded by the echoes of future generations, we unite not in competition but in harmony, committed to crafting a world where our connection with nature reigns supreme and the concept of "impossible" finds no place. With this ethos, we proudly introduce the "Green Mentors Net Zero School Challenge 2024."

Vision

We imagine a world where schools epitomize sustainability, where the bastion of education is an enduring symbol of our unyielding dedication to the environment.

The "Net Zero School Challenge 2024" aims to spark inspiration, kindle passion, and encourage our educational institutions to forge a path toward a future of net-zero emissions, where carbon footprints fade away.

Mission

At Green Mentors, our mission is to nurture a culture of environmental stewardship within schools, where every endeavor contributes to realizing a net-zero campus.

Principles

The Net Zero School Challenge 2024 adheres to these core principles:

Collaboration: Encouraging collaboration among schools, students, educators, and communities to amalgamate knowledge, expertise, and creativity to pursue sustainability.

Innovation: Fostering the creation of innovative solutions that mitigate carbon emissions, advocate for renewable energy, and elevate overall environmental stewardship.

Education: Integrating sustainability into the curriculum, cultivating environmentally conscious students who comprehend the profound nexus between education and the environment.

Accountability: Ensuring schools establish clear targets, monitor progress, and maintain transparency throughout their journey to achieve net-zero emissions.

Commitment

The Green Mentors Net Zero School Challenge 2024 underscores our commitment to the planet and future generations. By embracing this challenge, schools pledge to lead by example, showcasing the transformative potential of education and action.

Together, we ignite a brighter future where environmental stewardship becomes the cornerstone of education across the United States.

Green Mentors Net Zero School Challenge 2024 heralds a future where our schools proudly safeguard a Net-Zero world.

We invite schools nationwide to join us on this expedition, infusing sustainability into the essence of education, believing that every school has the potential to become a net-zero campus, fostering a more sustainable future for students and the world they'll inherit.





to Participate in the Net Zero School Challenge 2024?

1 Transform Your Campus

Participating in the Net Zero School Challenge empowers your school to spearhead sustainability efforts.

By joining, you commit to implementing measurable changes that significantly reducing your environmental impact.

This transformation turns your campus into a beacon of eco-responsibility, inspiring students, faculty, and the wider community.

3 Compete Nationally

Joining the challenge elevates your school's visibility on a national scale.

You become part of a thriving community of American schools committed to sustainable practices.

Recognition awaits as you compete among schools nationwide, positioning your institution at the forefront of sustainability.

Inspire Change

2

Your school's involvement in the challenge doesn't just impact its immediate surroundings; it plants the seeds of eco-consciousness in your students' hearts and minds.

Your actions nurture future generations of environmentally aware individuals, fostering lifelong eco-leaders who positively influence the planet.

Win Awards

4

Beyond celebrating your dedication, we honor your accomplishments.

The Net Zero School Challenge 2024 recognizes innovative and impactful projects from every school, teacher, and student.

These accolades amplify your school's reputation, inspiring future sustainability initiatives.



5

Enhance Educational Experience

Embracing sustainability through the challenge offers unique hands-on educational opportunities.

Students connect classroom learning with real-world challenges, deepening their understanding of environmental issues and solutions.

7

Address the Climate Crisis

The Net Zero School Challenge contributes significantly to combating climate change.

Your efforts to reduce energy consumption and waste and promote sustainability are crucial in addressing one of today's most pressing issues.

9

Lead by Example

Engaging in the Net Zero School Challenge empowers your school to set a precedent.

It demonstrates that sustainability is a foundational value ingrained in your institution, inspiring others to follow suit.

Join a Supportive Network

6

Green Mentors provide a supportive ecosystem with invaluable resources, mentorship, and expert guidance.

We're here to help surmount challenges and navigate your sustainability journey.

Connect with like-minded schools and organizations, forging meaningful partnerships.

Fulfill Environmental Responsibility

8

Participation aligns your school with a global movement towards greater environmental responsibility.

It's an opportunity to showcase your dedication to sustainability and be recognized as a responsible custodian of the environment.

Secure a Sustainable Future

10

Your school's participation shapes a sustainable, resilient future for your students and the world they inherit.

Your actions contribute to a collective effort to address pressing environmental challenges.



Participating in the Net Zero School Challenge 2024 is an opportunity for your school to proactively address environmental concerns, catalyze positive Change, earn acclaim, and leave a lasting impact. It's a chance to pave the way towards a sustainable and resilient future.

INVITATION

Net Zero School Challenge 2024


The Net Zero School Challenge 2024 invites schools nationwide to embark on a transformative journey towards a sustainable future. It's not just an event; it's a profound shift in mindset, encouraging schools to adopt sustainability as a fundamental ethos, acknowledging their power to influence the planet positively.

This challenge provides a platform for schools to unleash creativity, innovation, and a hunger for sustainability. It equips them with tools and resources to minimize their environmental impact, champion energy efficiency and waste reduction, and implement green initiatives.

The overarching aim is to instigate change within schools and beyond, nurturing the next generation of eco-leaders. It transcends mere competition, uniting efforts to enhance schools, communities, and the world.

Participants are assured mentorship, resources, and recognition for significant strides in sustainability, all contributing to a brighter, greener future for present and future students.

The call to schools is to dream big, set ambitious goals, and collaborate towards their achievement. It emphasizes the significance of leaving a sustainable legacy, step by step, backed by unwavering support from challenge organizers.



This challenge empowers schools to proactively advocate for environmental responsibility, striving to shape a more sustainable and eco-conscious world.

**PARTICIPATE
NOW**

Net Zero School Challenge 2024

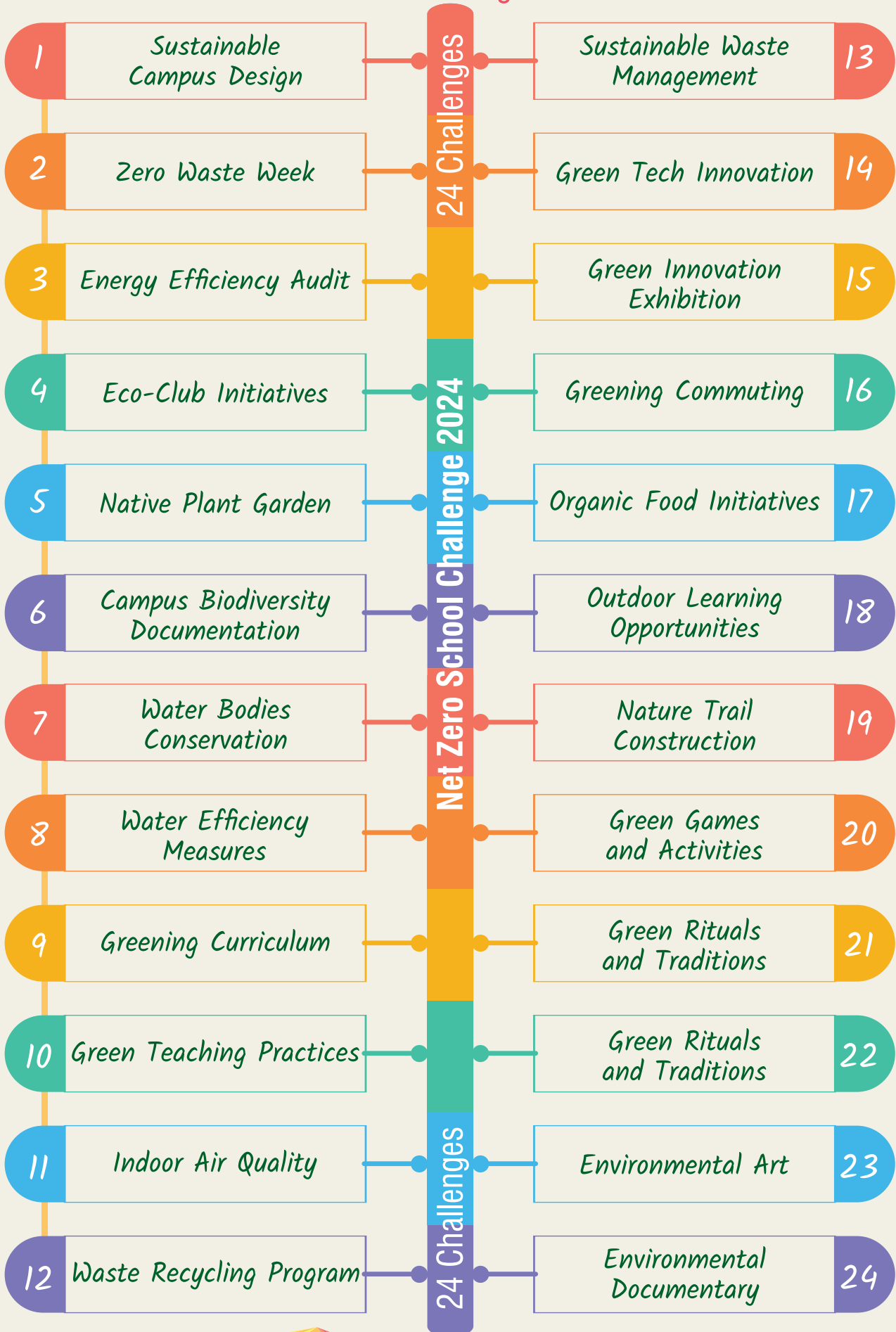
This challenge summons schools across the United States to lead the charge toward net-zero emissions. It's an opportunity to transform educational campuses into bastions of sustainability, where innovation, collaboration, and passion illuminate the path forward.

Schools don't vie against each other but against the status quo, collectively striving to reduce their environmental impact.



Open to schools, school leaders, teachers, students, and parents nationwide, these 24 challenges encompass various aspects of sustainability in education and everyday life. It's a call to action for a collective, impactful change.

24 Challenges



24 Challenges

1

Sustainable Campus Design

Challenge

Redesign a part of your school campus with sustainability in mind.

Participation Process

Form a team, create a sustainable campus design plan, and seek approval from school administrators.

Submission Process

Share your campus redesign plan with Green Mentors, including drawings or models.

2

Zero Waste Week

Challenge

Organize a "Zero Waste Week" at your school.

Participation Process

Plan and execute a week-long event focused on minimizing waste.

Submission Process

Share videos and photos of your Zero Waste Week activities with Green Mentors.

3

Energy Efficiency Audit

Challenge

Conduct an energy efficiency audit in your school.

Participation Process

Form an audit team, assess energy usage, and identify areas for improvement.

Submission Process

Share the audit findings and proposed improvements with Green Mentors.

4

Eco-Club Initiatives

Challenge

Green your school through Eco-Club projects.

Participation Process

Join or form an Eco-Club and initiate sustainability projects.

Submission Process

Document your club's projects and their impact, then share with Green Mentors.

5

Native Plant Garden

Challenge

Create a native plant garden on your school grounds.

Participation Process

Plan, plant, and maintain a garden using native plants.

Submission Process

Share photos and details of your garden's progress with Green Mentors.

6

Campus Biodiversity Documentation

Challenge

Document the biodiversity on your school campus.

Participation Process

Conduct surveys and gather information about local flora and fauna.

Submission Process

Share your findings, photos, and observations with Green Mentors.

7

Water Bodies Conservation

Challenge

Conserve and protect water bodies within or near your school.

Participation Process

Organize clean-up events and implement water conservation practices.

Submission Process

Share the impact of your water conservation efforts with Green Mentors.

8

Water Efficiency Measures

Challenge

Implement water-efficient practices and technologies.

Participation Process

Identify areas where water efficiency can be improved and implement

Submission Process

Share details of your water efficiency projects and their impact.

9

Greening Curriculum

Challenge

Incorporate sustainability topics into the school curriculum.

Participation Process

Collaborate with teachers & administrators to develop & implement new curriculum elements

Submission Process

Share the updated curriculum and teaching materials with Green Mentors.

10

Green Teaching Practices

Challenge

Encourage teachers to adopt green teaching methods.

Participation Process

Work with educators to infuse sustainability into their teaching approaches.

Submission Process

Share examples of green teaching practices and their impact.

11

Indoor Air Quality

Challenge

Improve indoor air quality in classrooms.

Participation Process

Implement measures to enhance air quality in school buildings.

Submission Process

Share information on the actions taken and their effects on indoor air quality.

12

Waste Recycling Program

Challenge

Enhance waste recycling and reduction on campus.

Participation Process

Implement waste reduction strategies and recycling initiatives.

Submission Process

Share your recycling initiatives and outcomes with Green Mentors.

13

Sustainable Waste Management

Challenge

Develop sustainable waste management practices.

Participation Process

Create waste management plans that prioritize sustainability.

Submission Process

Share the details of your waste management strategies and their impact.

14

Green Tech Innovation

Challenge

Develop and implement green technology solutions in your school.

Participation Process

Identify areas where green tech can be applied and implement these

Submission Process

Share the tech solutions and their impact with Green Mentors.

15

Green Innovation Exhibition

Challenge

Organize an exhibition showcasing green innovations in your school.

Participation Process

Gather innovative projects and developments related to sustainability.

Submission Process

Share photos and details of the green innovations in your school with Green Mentors.

16

Greening Commuting

Challenge

Promote sustainable commuting options for students and staff.

Participation Process

Encourage biking, walking, carpooling, or public transportation.

Submission Process

Share data on the number of participants and reduced emissions with Green Mentors.

17

Organic Food Initiatives

Challenge

Promote the use of organic food in school cafeterias.

Participation Process

Work with cafeteria staff to source and serve organic food.

Submission Process

Share your organic food initiatives and their impact.

18

Outdoor Learning Opportunities

Challenge

Create opportunities for outdoor learning and environmental education.

Participation Process

Develop outdoor learning spaces and activities for students.

Submission Process

Share information about your outdoor learning initiatives and their

19

Nature Trail Construction

Challenge

Build a nature trail on your school grounds.

Participation Process

Plan and construct a nature trail for students and the community.

Submission Process

Share photos of the trail and its benefits with Green Mentors.

20

Green Games and Activities

Challenge

Organize eco-friendly games and activities for students.

Participation Process

Plan and host green games and activities that promote sustainability.

Submission Process

Share details of the games and activities, including photos and videos, with Green Mentors.

21

Green Rituals and Traditions

Challenge

Develop green rituals and traditions within your school.

Participation Process

Create and incorporate eco-friendly practices into your school's culture.

Submission Process

Share descriptions and insights about your green rituals and traditions with Green Mentors.

22

Environmental Art

Challenge

Encourage students to create an environmental art exhibition.

Participation Process

Organize an art competition with a focus on sustainability themes.

Submission Process

Share the selected artwork from the competition with Green Mentors.

23

Environmental Documentary

Challenge

Create a documentary about your school's sustainability efforts.

Participation Process

Form a documentary team and film the school's eco-friendly initiatives.

Submission Process

Share the documentary video with Green Mentors.

24

Green Parenting

Challenge

Encourage parents to adopt eco-friendly habits and foster environmentally conscious practices.

Participation Process

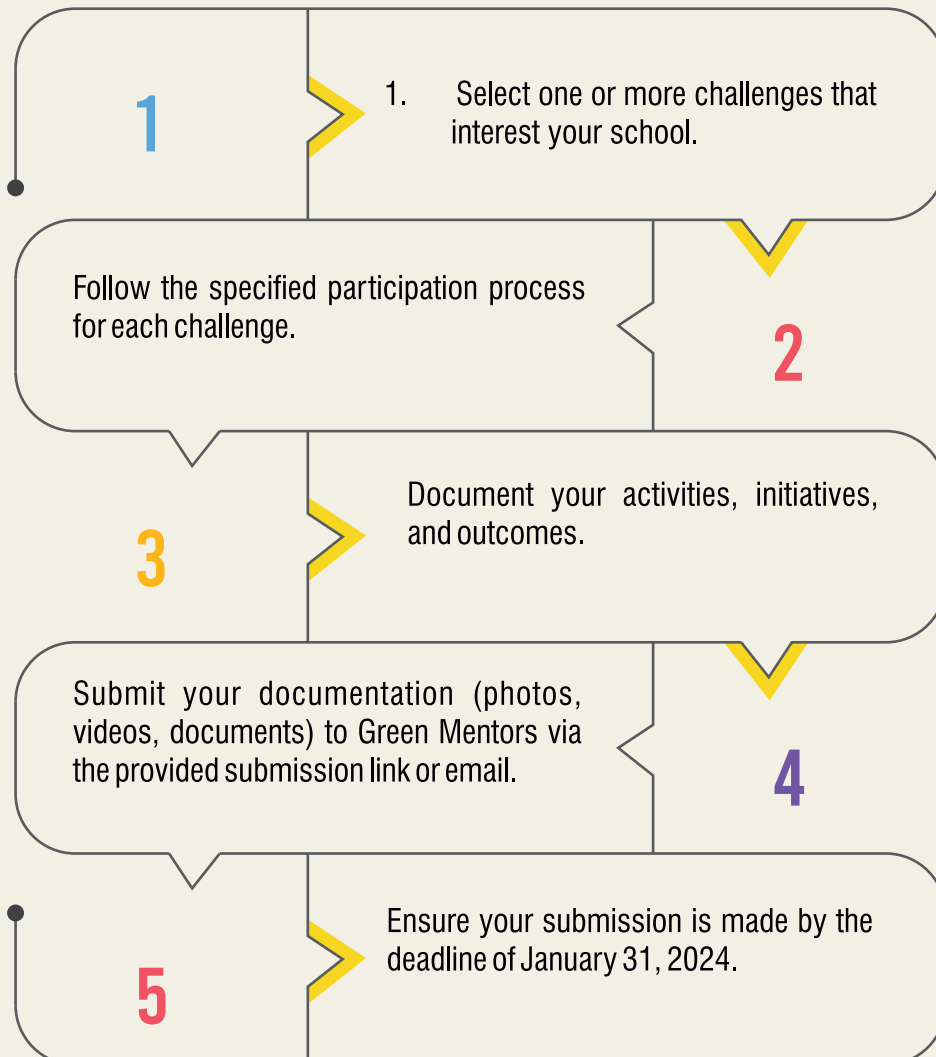
Evaluate and appreciate the effectiveness of Green parenting initiatives.

Submission Process

Share the comprehensive reports, including strategies & impact with Green Mentors



How to Participate?





Recognizing Winners

Green Mentors will recognize the winners of the Net Zero School Challenge 2024 with the most comprehensive and impactful sustainability initiatives at the National and State level with the following Award categories.



Net Zero School Challenge 2024

National Winner

State Winner

Sustainable Campus Design

Sustainability Campus
Visionary Award

1

State Sustainable Campus
Design Innovator Award

Zero Waste Week

Zero Waste Week
Champion Award

2

State Zero Waste Week
Trailblazer Award

Energy Efficiency Audit

Energy Efficiency Audit
Pioneer Award

3

State Energy Efficiency Audit
Leadership Award



Net Zero School Challenge 2024

National Winner

State Winner

Eco-Club Initiatives

Eco-Club Sustainability
Champion Award

4

State Eco-Club Initiatives for
Green Leadership Award

Native Plant Garden

National Native Plant Garden
Stewardship Award

5

State Native Plant Garden
Conservation Leadership Award

Campus Biodiversity Documentation

National Biodiversity
Documentation Expert Award

6

State Campus Biodiversity
Documentation Pioneer Award

Water Bodies Conservation

Water Bodies Conservation
Leadership Award

7

State Water Bodies
Conservation Pioneer Award

Water Efficiency Measures

Water Efficiency Measures
Innovator Award

8

State Water Efficiency
Measures Achiever Award

Greening Curriculum

Green Curriculum
Visionary Award

9

State Greening Curriculum
Leadership Award



Net Zero School Challenge 2024

National Winner

State Winner

Green Teaching Practices

National Green Teaching Practices Champion Award

10

State Green Teaching Practices Innovator Award

Indoor Air Quality

Indoor Air Quality Excellence Award

11

State Indoor Air Quality Pioneer Award

Waste Recycling Program

National Waste Recycling Program Master Award

12

State Waste Recycling Program Leadership Award

Sustainable Waste Management

National Sustainable Waste Management Champion Award

13

State Sustainable Waste Management Innovator Award

Green Tech Innovation

National Green Tech Innovation Pioneer Award

14

State Green Tech Innovation Achiever Award

Green Innovation Exhibition

National Green Innovation Exhibition Champion Award

15

State Green Innovation Exhibition Visionary Award



Net Zero School Challenge 2024

National Winner

State Winner

Greening Commuting

National Greening Commuting Leadership Award

16

State Greening Commuting Trailblazer Award

Organic Food Initiatives

National Organic Food Initiatives Pioneer Award

17

State Organic Food Initiatives Champion Award

Outdoor Learning Opportunities

National Outdoor Learning Opportunities Innovator Award

18

State Outdoor Learning Opportunities Leadership Award

Nature Trail Construction

National Nature Trail Construction Pioneer Award

19

State Nature Trail Construction Visionary Award

Green Games and Activities

National Green Games and Activities Championship Award

20

State Green Games and Activities Leadership Award

Green Rituals and Traditions

National Green Rituals and Traditions Conservation Award

21

State Green Rituals and Traditions Stewardship Award



Net Zero School Challenge 2024

National Winner

State Winner

Green Rituals and Traditions

National Green Rituals and Traditions Conservation Award

22

State Green Rituals and Traditions Stewardship Award

Environmental Art

National Environmental Art Excellence Award

23

State Environmental Art Innovator Award

Environmental Documentary

National Environmental Documentary Pioneer Award

24

State Environmental Documentary Championship Award



Certificates and Awards

Green Mentors is set to honor the Net Zero School Challenge 2024 champions with certificates of achievement and trophies, recognizing their exceptional accomplishments across specific challenge categories. These tangible accolades will symbolize the winners' unwavering commitment to sustainability.

Public Acknowledgment

Winners will receive widespread public recognition through press releases, social media platforms, and the prominent Green Mentors' website. This acclaim will spotlight schools and students, granting them visibility for their outstanding achievements and inspiring others.

Recognition Ceremonies

At the prestigious 8th NYC Green School Conference 2024, held at ILR, Cornell University New York, in September 2024, Green Mentors will bestow Awards upon the victorious Net Zero School Challenge participants. This event will offer winners a platform to share their experiences, connect with like-minded individuals and organizations, and expand their networks.

Media Showcasing

Green Mentors aims to showcase the winning schools and their projects in pertinent publications, documentaries, and media outlets focused on environmental topics. This exposure will spotlight their remarkable achievements to a broader audience, amplifying their impact and inspiring others towards sustainable actions.

Key Dates

Registration Deadline: **January 31, 2024**

Online Mentoring by Green Mentors for Registered Schools
Starting **February 01, 2024**

Submission Deadline for Evidence and Supporting Documents of
Net Zero School Challenge 2024: **March 29, 2024**

Announcement of Awardees or National and State Winners
May 15, 2024

Net Zero School Challenge 2024 Awards Ceremony
September 24, 2024

Venue: Cornell University, ILR School,
570 Lexington Ave., 12th floor, New York, NY 10022



**\$50
ONLY**

Registration Fee

Last Date of Registration
January 31, 2024

The Registration Fee for Net Zero School Challenge 2024 is

\$ 50.00 for any One Challenge

\$400.00 for participating in 10 Challenges

\$ 1000.00 for participating in 24 Challenges

Fee Includes

Access to Resources: Participants will receive educational materials, guides, toolkits, or online resources focused on the challenges selected by the participating school.

Mentorship and Guidance: Registration fees also cover mentorship sessions or workshops conducted by experts in the field to guide schools through the challenge and offer insights into sustainable practices.

Evaluation and Feedback: The fee encompasses the evaluation cost by judges or experts who review the challenges accepted by participating schools, providing constructive feedback and recommendations.

Recognition and Awards: Part of the fee also contributes to creating awards or certificates for winners and participants, recognizing their efforts and achievements in Net Zero School.

Networking Opportunities: Fee support events or forums where participants can network, share experiences, and collaborate with like-minded individuals or institutions invested in sustainability.

Administrative Costs: The fee also covers administrative expenses related to managing the challenge, such as organizing events, marketing, and logistical arrangements.

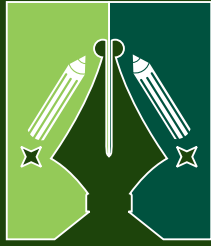
Support for Sustainable Initiatives: Some portions of the fee support ongoing sustainability projects or initiatives initiated by the organizing body.

Green Mentors will issue invoices to the participating schools registered for the Net Zero School Challenge 2024 before February 15, 2024.



NATURE RITUALS

GREEN



TEACHERS TRAINING



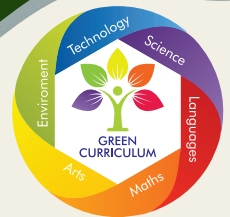
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