



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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Welcome Green Schools National Conference Attendees!

The City of Minneapolis is honored to host the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Green Schools National Conference.

Minneapolis wholeheartedly supports the national movement towards healthier, more energy-efficient schools while also instilling sustainable and eco-friendly practices to students in the classroom. As one of the first mayors in America to sign on to the U.S. Green Building Council's Mayors' Alliance for Green Schools, I am especially pleased that you have chosen to bring your conference to our city.

Minneapolis is proud to be recognized as one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the country. Since Minneapolis' Sustainability Initiative was launched in 2003, City leaders have developed a series of 25 indicators, including things like air quality, bike paths, green jobs, and tree cover. Each indicator includes specific numeric targets, which serve as goals for Minneapolis to reach in the coming years. (To learn more about Minneapolis' sustainability efforts, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability).)

Minneapolis City Hall is also home to a green roof — as is the City-owned Target Center, the first arena in North America to install a green roof. The recently-installed 2.5-acre roof is not only the largest green roof in Minnesota but, at the time of design, the fifth-largest green roof in the United States.

We are excited that Minneapolis is serving as the central meeting point in this ongoing national dialogue on green schools. In 2007, the U.S. Conference of Mayors signed a resolution calling for green schools for all children within a generation. The fact that school leaders, teachers, parents and students, as well as corporate and local business leaders, are all coming together at an event whose theme is **“Growing Green Schools Across America”** is evidence that we are making great strides to reach the goals of that resolution.

This conference also plays an important role in helping adults set the right example as we prepare students for their future of participating in the green workforce and serving as environmental stewards and conscientious citizens in their own communities across the country.

To the green-school leaders who are leading the way and sharing your experiences at this groundbreaking event, we thank you. To those of you who will be attending in order to learn how to initiate green practices in your schools, we commend you.

Best wishes for a successful conference in the green city of Minneapolis.

Mayor R. T. Rybak  
City of Minneapolis