**Background**

Thank you for your interest in completing the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s application for nomination to Illinois Green Ribbon Schools (IGRS) Postsecondary Sustainability Award. IGRS recognizes schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions in Illinois taking a comprehensive approach to sustainability, incorporating environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts.

Illinois Green Ribbon Schools serve as a model for integrating environmental sustainability into every aspect of our schools. Schools that are selected as an Honoree will receive recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Illinois Green Alliance through a virtual celebration, press releases, and be gifted sponsored items once Honorees are announced in February 2026.

Illinois Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate progress across three pillars:

Pillar I: Reducing environmental impact and costs;

Pillar II: Improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and

Pillar III: Offering effective environmental and sustainability education.

Schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions demonstrating progress in every area will receive highest scores. It may help to assemble a team with expertise across these areas to complete the application. You may also wish to consult [Green Strides](http://www.greenstrides.org) for programs related to each Pillar.

Please reach out to [mwright@illinoisgreenalliance.org](mailto:mwright@illinoisgreenalliance.org) if you have any questions or need an accommodation to complete this application.

***Applications may not exceed 18 pages in length****.*

***Applications are due by 5:00 PM on December 19, 2025.***

**College & University Applicant Information**

1. College/University Name: Click here to enter text.

Street Address: Click here to enter text.

City: Click here to enter text.; County: Click here to enter text.

Zip: Click here to enter text.

1. Website: Click here to enter text.  
   Facebook page: Click here to enter text.

YouTube: Click here to enter text.  
Instagram: Click here to enter text.  
Twitter: Click here to enter text.

1. President/Chancellor Name: Click here to enter text.  
   President/Chancellor Email Address: Click here to enter text.  
   Phone Number: Click here to enter text.
2. Lead Applicant Name (if different): Click here to enter text.  
   Lead Applicant Email: Click here to enter text.  
   Phone Number: Click here to enter text.

**Size, Setting & Enrollment Profile**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Public 4-Year  Public 2-Year  Private Non-Profit | Graduation Rate: Click here to enter text.  Average Institutional Net Price: Click here to enter text. | Undergraduate Enrollment: Click here to enter text.  Graduate Enrollment: Click here to enter text. | % of Undergraduates receiving Pell Grants:Click here to enter text.  Minority Serving Institution (specify all that apply):Click here to enter text. |

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

Yes  No Program(s) and level(s) achieved: Click here to enter text.

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

Yes  No Award(s) and year(s): Click here to enter text.

**Overview Summary Narrative for Highlights Report (Recommended 2 Pages)**

Provide a narrative describing your institution’s efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Include unique and innovative practices and partnerships. Be sure to cover every [IGRS Pillar](https://www.illinoisgreenalliance.org/green-ribbon-schools) and underlying element in this overview of your work. See some examples in past Department of Education Green Ribbon [Highlights Reports](https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html).

Click here to enter text.

**Pillar 1: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs (Recommended 3 Pages)**

Describe how your college or university is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and encouraging use of alternative transportation. Identify your institution’s energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes.

Click here to enter text.

**Pillar 2: Improve the Health & Wellness of Students, Faculty, and Staff (Recommended 3 Pages)**

Describe how your college or university improves the health and wellness of students, faculty, and staff by integrating a campus-wide environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss integrated pest management, contaminant controls and ventilation, asthma controls, indoor air quality, moisture control, and chemical management. Address the amount and type of outdoor time that your students and staff have, as well as the types of fresh, local, and organic food that they eat. Other components you may want to include are: health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, staff health promotion and family and community involvement.

Click here to enter text.

**Pillar 3: Effective Environmental & Sustainability Education (Recommended 3 Pages)**

Describe how your college or university provides effective environmental and sustainability education. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM and civic content, knowledge, and thinking skills. *Note that STEM and civics work discussed should be described in relation to environmental and sustainability learning.*

Click here to enter text.

**Supporting Materials**

**Attach a minimum of three photos and a maximum of five photos with your application (photo size limit 5 MB).** Please save your photos using descriptive language. For example, “Students conduct water quality tests in outdoor classroom with science majors from nearby university x” would be more helpful than “Photo 1.” **Photos should be action shots, not posed.** By sending these photos, you are giving Illinois Green Alliance and the Illinois Board of Higher Education permission to use them.

**Please provide a brief description (300 characters) for each image:**

**Image 1:** Click here to enter text.

**Image 2:** Click here to enter text.

**Image 3:** Click here to enter text.

**Image 4:** Click here to enter text.

**Image 5:** Click here to enter text.

**Submit Your Application**

**Applications must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, December 19, 2025.**  Applications are being collected by the Illinois Green Alliance on behalf of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). *Applications may not exceed 18 pages.*

For an application to be considered, it must be **submitted via email** to [mwright@illinoisgreenalliance.org](mailto:mwright@illinoisgreenalliance.org). Submittals via other methods will not be accepted.

**Questions?** Contact [mwright@illinoisgreenalliance.org](mailto:mwright@illinoisgreenalliance.org).