

Grimm + Parker Surveys - Join the Conversation

USGBC Green School Summit

April 2015



At the USGBC Green School Summit, hosted at Waverly Elementary and Middle School in Baltimore, we surveyed attendees on attitudes to sustainability within their organizations.

Our questions focused on three areas:

- 1. Organizational style:** How are sustainability programs driven and organized? Are efforts organic or structured?
- 2. Level of commitment:** Where does an organization fall on the “green” spectrum? What are perceived as differentiating practices?
- 3. Motivators:** Why is an organization taking steps to sustainability? Are motivators internal or external?

For the first two categories, participants voted once. For the third question, participants could choose multiple categories.

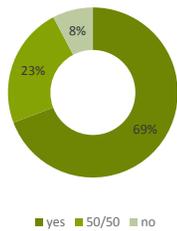
Results reflected a broad range of views – and some contradictory opinions! Perhaps by self-selection (indicated by being present at a Green Schools conference) respondents’ organizations tended towards the more sustainable end of the spectrum. Some school systems’ answers indicated a strong tendency to initiatives led by central office, while others emphasized the role of community activism.

Full results and comments are below. Thanks to all who took part.



Organizational Style

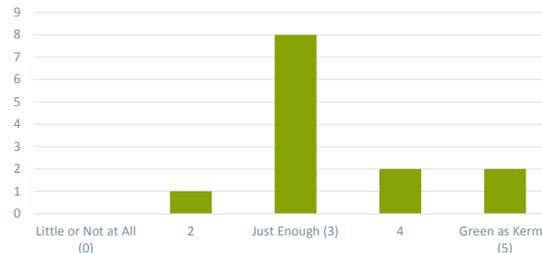
Does your school or organization have a green team or champion?



“Key role of parents as advocates”
“Community based green/clean team”
“Green team” across offices”
“Yes, at the District level. No, at the building level.”

Level of Commitment

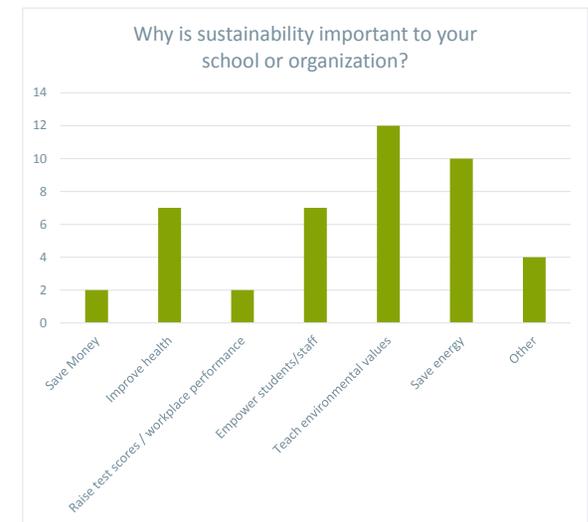
How green is your school or organization?



“Getting students involved is the next step”
“We have the LEED buildings - we don’t use them as teaching tools”
“Interdepartmental initiatives”
“Just got rated a 5 in the Star Community Rating System!”
“LEED platinum head office”
“High School career development pathways in sustainability”

Motivators

Why is sustainability important to your school or organization?



“All of them!”
“Community advocacy”
“Public relations/reputation”
“Regulatory compliance”