**Instructions**: Replace all text highlighted in RED.

 [Add your School or District letterhead or logo here]

**Green Schools Alliance**

**Sustainability Leadership Commitment Signatory Letter**

[Date]

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[School/District Name]

[City, State]

As an authorized representative of my school or district, the [insert name of your school or district] hereby makes the Green Schools Alliance Sustainability Leadership Commitment at the following level:

**\_\_\_\_ LEVEL I: Sustainability Steward**

Our school or district will set goals, take action, and monitor and share progress as we reduce our climate & ecological impact and educate & engage the school community in sustainability.

\_\_\_ **LEVEL II: Climate Steward**

In addition to Level I, our school or district will calculate its carbon footprint to establish an energy and carbon emissions baseline, and will take steps to reduce emissions over time.

**\_\_\_ LEVEL III:    Green Schools Champion**

In addition to Levels I & 2, our school or district will develop and implement a comprehensive climate action plan to reduce our carbon footprint by at least 50% within 5 years and achieve carbon neutrality within 10 years.

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Signature

**Sustainability Leadership Commitment**

Green Schools Alliance envisions a world where every person is aware of and accountable for the impact they have in creating an environmentally, economically, and equitably sustainable future.

We recognize:

* That human and planetary life are interdependent.
* The Earth cannot sustain our current levels of consumption and environmental exploitation.
* That schools play a significant role in impacting knowledge, attitudes and behaviors, and need to practice, model and inspire sustainable solutions.

We need to inspire everyone, including the youngest members of our community, that small, conscious efforts relentlessly pursued will protect all life on our planet. As hubs of communities, schools can ­­­help to transform markets, policy, education and behavior, increase community resilience, mitigate climate change, and prepare citizens to think and act in new and creative ways.

No individual school or person can solve 21st century climate, conservation, or socio-economic challenges alone. As active participants striving toward this common goal, we must work together now so that future generations can thrive.

**LEVEL I: Sustainability Steward**

**Our school or district will set goals, take action, and monitor and share progress as we take action across our Physical Place, Educational Programs and Organizational Culture.**

> **Physical Place: Reduce Our Climate & Ecological Impact**

Our school or district will encourage healthy, efficient and sustainable systems across the school’s physical place. The balance between consumption and Earth’s finite resources are at the core of a sustainable existence. We will use our school or district as a learning laboratory to model sustainable behavior when we conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a healthy learning environment for our students.

> **Educational Programs:** **Educate & Engage Our Community in Sustainability**

Our school or district will integrate sustainability into its educational programs and will engage the school community in solutions-focused action. Acknowledging education’s distinct capacity to shape attitudes and behaviors, we will foster an understanding of our individual roles and responsibilities in creating a healthy and sustainable world. By integrating education and action, our school or district will become an engine for change.

> **Organizational Culture: Connect to Nature & Place**

Our school or district will take steps to foster communication and interdepartmental learning so sustainability is an integral part of our school or district’s organizational culture. The development of transparent and inclusive institutional environments that work across boundaries to implement sustainable solutions is a prerequisite to transforming our world. We will foster diversity and access, provide professional development, promote health and wellness, and connect to nature and place.

**LEVEL II: Climate Steward**

**In addition to Level I, our school or district will calculate its carbon footprint to establish an energy and carbon emissions baseline and will take steps to reduce emissions over time**.

The reduction of CO2 emissions through energy efficiency and carbon offsetting initiatives is necessary to mitigate the devastating effects of global climate change. While engaging and educating the school community, our school will set target dates for meeting milestones, implement strategies to reduce emissions and establish mechanisms for tracking progress.

**LEVEL III: Green Schools Champion**

**In addition to Levels I & II, our school or district will develop and implement a comprehensive climate action plan to reduce our carbon footprint by at least 50% within 5 years and achieve carbon neutrality within 10 years.**

The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO2) is the main driver of climate change, and that ambitious, accelerated action is required to drastically mitigate climate impacts. We will use our school’s collective power to achieve carbon neutrality by integrating carbon emissions education, setting target dates for meeting milestones and establishing mechanisms for tracking progress.

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**Submit the Sustainability Leadership Commitment:**

1. **Obtain the signature** of an authorized representative (principal, superintendent, or high-level administrator) from your school or district and choose the Level I, II or III Commitment.
2. **Submit** the signed Leadership Commitment to admin@greenschoolsalliance.org
3. **Get featured:** (optional) Email us at least one **high-quality image and quote** to be featured on the GSA Website. (**Image:** can be your school/ district logo, principal/ signatory, green team, buildings or other.)