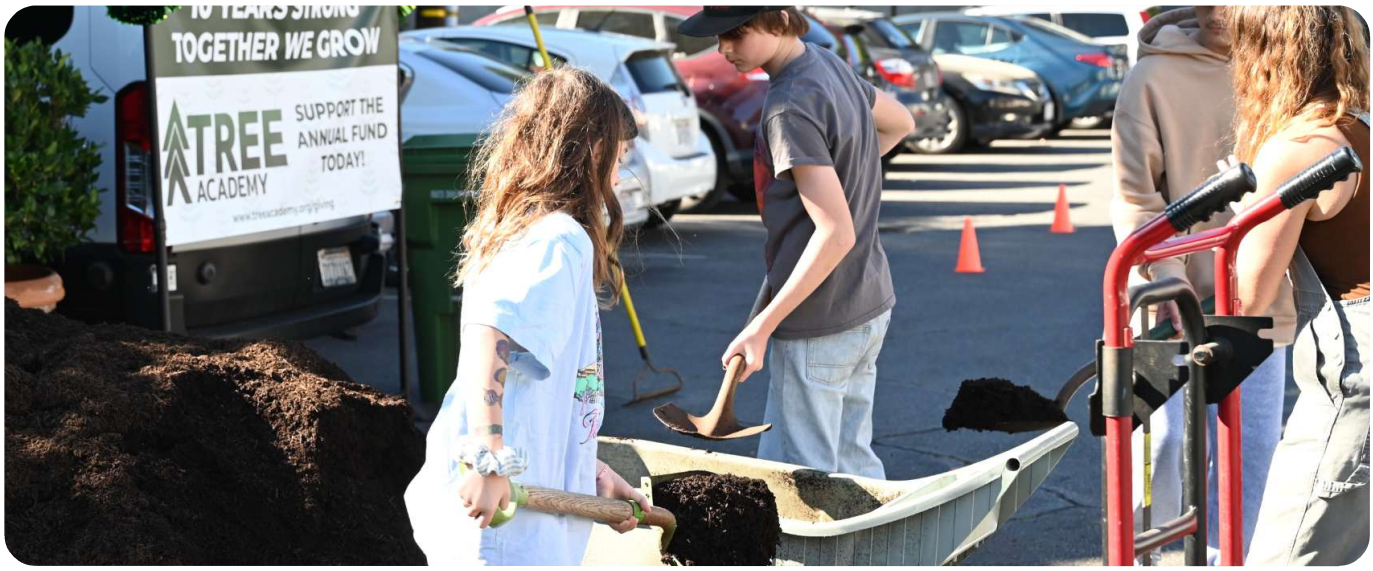
GREEN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT · CERTIFIED 2025

TREE Academy

California Green Business Program · School / Education



Sustainability as a Lesson, Not Just a Checklist

For TREE Academy, a small independent school in West Hollywood, serving about 80 students in grades 6 through 12, becoming a certified Green Business wasn't just about cutting utility costs — it was an extension of what the school already teaches. "Becoming a Green Business is in line with our school mission and philosophy," Head of School Phú Trầnchí shared. "We value sustainability and want to minimize our environmental footprint."

But the most important part of the process wasn't the paperwork — it was the students. TREE Academy made certification a hands-on learning opportunity, engaging students directly in the process of earning the designation. Rather than sustainability being something the school talked about in the classroom, it became something students helped build in real life.

BUSINESS PROFILE

LOCATION
West Hollywood, CA

SECTOR
School · Education

FOUNDED
2016

CERTIFIED
2025

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Phú Trầnchí

> *"Becoming a Green Business is in line with our school mission and philosophy. We value sustainability and want to minimize our environmental footprint."*
>
> — Phú Trầnchí, Head of School · TREE Academy

Building on a Strong Foundation

TREE Academy wasn't starting from scratch. The school already taught sustainability concepts and had established habits like waste sorting and mitigation well before pursuing certification. That head start made the process smoother than expected.

> *"We were surprised at how far along we already were, and how simple it was to gain further ground. There were not as many barriers as many might perceive. It is a commitment, but it's not as cumbersome as skeptics would believe."*

What They Changed

TREE Academy focused on a handful of practical, high-impact upgrades:

Lighting

Fluorescent bulbs were swapped for LEDs throughout the school. Even as energy costs have risen, the bills haven't — thanks to using less power overall.

Sustainable Supplies

Office and maintenance supplies shifted to renewable, biodegradable, and eco-friendly sources — with no meaningful increase in cost.

Water Conservation

Water-saving devices, including aerators, reduce flow and waste — lowering water usage without any noticeable disruption to campus life.





HANDS-ON LEARNING

A certification requirement became a real-world lesson.

Students sorted and composted campus waste, and measured faucet flow rates with a flow-meter bag to verify the impact of the new aerators — seeing water conservation proven with their own hands.

The Payoff

THE BIGGEST WIN

Not a number on a utility bill — it was community engagement.

The students who helped the school earn certification are now carrying those habits and values forward — presenting to their peers, leading projects, and shaping the culture of the school for the classes that follow.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meghan Roggenbuck, who teaches Middle School STEM, was awarded a 2026–2027 Literacy for Life Standard Grant from the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC).

Advice to Other Businesses

"Just do it! It's simpler to accomplish than you might think, and gratifying, because every action and every measure is a positive. It makes each subsequent step easier to take. I have no regrets, and there is no looking back."

— Phú Trần chí, Head of School · TREE Academy

TREE ACADEMY

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GREEN CALIFORNIA GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK
CERTIFIED 2025