



100% CLEAN ENERGY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Move Your School District to 100% Clean Energy!

Sierra Club's Climate Parents program is working to move school districts around the country to adopt 100% clean energy. School districts are major energy consumers. Powering them with renewables is a climate solution that benefits kids and communities. This effort builds on the success of Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign's momentum in helping more than 100 U.S. cities to commit to 100% clean energy.

Moving school districts to 100% clean energy is important to our kids and communities for many reasons, including: cutting climate pollution, saving districts money, creating STEM learning opportunities and expanding community resiliency.

Schools represent a surprisingly large share of fossil fuel use. According to the U.S. Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools, school districts manage two million acres of land and as much building space as half of the entire commercial office building sector. School districts are a leading consumer of electricity in many municipalities, spending \$8 billion each year on energy costs, school districts' largest expense after personnel. We can help make schools, the heart of our communities, healthy spaces that help put in place the clean energy future our kids deserve.

Shifting American K-12 schools to 100% clean energy would reduce the same amount of climate pollution as taking 1 in every 7 passenger cars off the road.

State and local governments invest more capital in K-12 school facilities than in any other infrastructure sector outside of transportation. Let's seize the opportunity to help steer these investments into schools that run on clean energy!

Take action to support your school district in committing to 100% clean energy. Launch a 100% Clean Energy School District campaign in your community.

WHY 100% CLEAN ENERGY SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

To build the movement and progress forward on climate action, we are working toward the following outcomes:

Invest money saved on energy bills into students and classrooms

- Energy efficiency measures alone can save U.S. schools \$2 billion/year, a quarter of total energy costs.
- The cost of solar panels is one-third of what they were 10 years ago.
- Space heating and cooling represent half of all energy use in schools; efficient air-source or geothermal heat pumps can offset significant energy use.

- Money saved can be redirected to academic and enrichment programs or facility upgrades.

Improve kids' health and academic performance

- Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that health effects from mold, poor ventilation, uncomfortable temperatures, inadequate lighting, and noise can undermine achievement and disadvantage students who already struggle in school. Many clean energy solutions can address these challenges.
- Asthma causes more than 13 million school absences per year. Low-income kids and children of color are disproportionately impacted. A shift to clean energy can improve ambient air quality.

Position school districts as leaders on climate action

- Schools can lower their carbon emissions by 30% or more through efficiency measures, and can entirely offset the climate impacts of their energy use by shifting to 100% clean energy.
- Because young people are particularly vulnerable to both health risks from fossil fuel pollution and climate impacts, school communities are important avenues for climate solutions like 100% clean energy school districts.

Expand educational and leadership opportunities

- On-campus clean energy projects provide exciting real-world project-based learning opportunities for classes in science, technology, engineering, and math.
- Schools inspire broader awareness in our communities about clean energy solutions.

Build community resilience

- Schools are a leading go-to for emergency shelter and services. By coupling clean electricity and power storage, schools can maintain power and heat, expanding their ability to serve communities during hurricanes, fires, and other disasters.

Create new jobs

- 60 percent of funds spent on energy efficiency goes to labor, and local suppliers provide half of all energy efficiency equipment available to schools.



CONTACT US!

Sierra Club's Climate Parents program wants to work with you and your school district in making the shift to 100% clean energy.

We can work with you to advance your own local campaign and provide you with the following:

- **100% Clean Energy School Districts Toolkit.** A comprehensive, user-friendly resource complete with templates and tools for advocates who want to move your school district to make a 100% clean energy commitment.
- **100% Clean Energy School District Handbook.** A guide for school district staff detailing the pathways to achieve 100% clean energy.
- **A learning network** of parents and others moving school districts to 100% clean energy around the country.
- **Staff support** and partnership in launching and implementing your campaign.

Please reach out to Lisa Hoyos, the Director of Sierra Club's Climate Parents program at: lisa.hoyos@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5749. Thank you!