



Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education 2023-2024 Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee Summary Report

This report provides a summary of the LAUSD Green Schools and Climate Resilience Committee's key discussions and progress from March 2023 to September 2024. The charge of the committee is to advance sustainability initiatives and create healthier, greener learning environments for students, with representation from the school board, district staff, and the community. This work aligns with LAUSD's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, specifically Pillar 2: Joy and Wellness, Safe and Healthy Environments, which emphasizes developing safe, sustainable green spaces, outdoor learning environments, and shaded areas at each school to support student well-being and foster a positive educational environment.

Key Focus Areas

1. *Electric School Bus Transition*: Goal of all-electric fleet by 2040, aiming for 2035 to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and support student health. This transition includes prioritizing the electrification of bus yards and exploring partnerships to maximize benefits (Res-018-19/20).
2. *Campus Greening*: Target of 30% green space on all campuses by 2035, prioritizing low-income and communities of color. This includes converting asphalt areas to green spaces. Addressing soil contamination, and ensuring ADA compliance (Res 002-22/23).
3. *Community School Parks*: Increase access to school playgrounds and green spaces outside school hours, particularly in underserved areas, through a partnership with the City of LA. This initiative includes addressing liability concerns and developing clear guidelines to ensure community access.
4. *Climate Literacy*: Systematic integration of climate education; supporting teachers to empower students as future environmental stewards. This involves expanding programs and partnering with organizations to enhance climate literacy (Res-016-21/22).
5. *Funding and Partnerships*: Actively pursuing funding opportunities and building partnerships with a focus on labor standards and state/federal support. This includes seeking grants, leveraging tax credits, and collaborating with various entities to secure funding.



Highlights

- Over 100 greening projects are transforming schoolyards into vibrant green spaces with trees, native plants, and outdoor classrooms.
- Three middle schools are now open as Community School Parks, with seven more planned by the end of 2024.
- LAUSD is actively transitioning to an electric school bus fleet, with 38 buses currently in operation and plans to electrify the entire fleet by 2038.
- The District is exploring job pathways for youth in the growing green economy, offering students opportunities to gain skills and knowledge in sustainability-related fields.
- The updated [Green Schoolyards for All Plan](#) outlines a comprehensive approach to sustainability and environmental justice.
- The District is developing a comprehensive Eco-Sustainability Master Plan, with specific goals and strategies for each division to promote sustainability.
- The [Greening Index 2.0](#) has been enhanced to assess and track progress in greening initiatives across all schools.
- Initiatives related to environmental health, food, and nutrition are being explored to support a holistic approach to sustainability and student wellness.
- Student-led green projects, such as enhancing education through indoor plants, continue to foster sustainable learning environments.
- Climate literacy programs have expanded to 314 schools, empowering students to become environmental stewards.

Roots of Resilience Event

In October 2024, Dr. Rocio Rivas convened the Roots of Resilience event, uniting over 130 parents, educators, advocates, and industry leaders to advance LAUSD's greening and climate resilience goals. The event focused on building climate equity, expanding climate education, and creating pathways to green careers for students.

What's Next for 2025

The Committee will continue to build on 2024's accomplishments with expanded community partnerships, scaling greening projects, and deepening climate literacy programs across the district. Stay tuned for upcoming initiatives in 2025, as LAUSD furthers its commitment to sustainability and climate resilience, with an increased focus on equitable access to green spaces and green career pathways for students across the district.