BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREENING SCHOOLS & CLIMATE RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room Los Angeles, CA 90017 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Committee Members

Dr. Rocío Rivas, Chairperson Sherlett H. Newbill, Board Member Scott Schmerelson, Board Member

District Members

Krisztina Tokes, Chief Facilities Executive Christos Chrysiliou, Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer Jay Golida, Associate General Counsel

Board Secretariat Contact

Ebony Wilson

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External Representatives

Eddie Alvarez, LA/OC Building Trades
Gloria Medina, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and
Policy Education, SCOPE
Lauren Ahkiam, Los Angeles Alliance for New
Economy (LAANE)
Mikaela Randolph, Green Schoolyards America

Method for Accessing the Meeting and Providing Public Comment

There are three ways members of the public may access this Committee Meeting: (1) online (<u>Granicus stream</u> or join the <u>zoom webinar</u>), (2) by telephone by calling 1-888-475-4499 (Toll Free) and entering the Meeting ID: **815** 1855 9131, or (3) in person.

The Board of Education encourages public comment on the items on this agenda and all other items related to the District. Any individual wishing to address the Board must register to speak using the Speaker Sign Up website: https://boardmeeting.lausd.net/speakers, and indicate whether comments will be provided over the phone or in person. Registration will open 24 hours before the meeting. 20 speakers may sign up for general Public Comment, and each speaker will have two minutes to present. Each speaker will be allowed a single opportunity to provide comments to the Committee.

Speakers who do not register online to provide comments may use the following alternative methods to provide comments to Board Members:

- Email all Board Members at boardmembers@lausd.net;
- Mail comments via US Mail to 333 S. Beaudry Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90017; and
- Leave a voicemail message at (213) 443-4472, or fax (213) 241-8953. Communications received by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting will be distributed to all Board Members.

Speakers registered to provide public comments over the phone need to follow these instructions:

- 1. Call 1-888-475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Meeting ID: 815 1855 9131 at the beginning of the meeting.
- 2. Press #, and then # again when prompted for the Participant ID.
- 3. Remain on hold until it is your turn to speak.
- 4. Call in from the same phone number entered on the Speaker Sign Up website. <u>If you call in from a private or blocked phone number</u>, we will be unable to identify you.
- 5. When you receive the signal that your phone has been removed from hold and/or unmuted, please press *6 (Star 6) to be brought into the meeting.

The Office of the Inspector General would like to remind you that they investigate the misuse of LAUSD funds and resources as well as retaliation for reporting any misconduct. Anyone can make a report via the OIG hotline on their website (https://www.lausd.org/oig), by telephone at 213-241-7778, or 866-528-7364, or by emailing inspector.general@lausd.net. Reports are confidential, and you can remain anonymous if you wish.

Please contact the Board Secretariat at 213-241-7002 if you have any questions.

AGENDA

I.	Welco	ome and Opening Remarks
II.	Prese	ntations
	a.	Update on the Resolution to Strengthen Greening Initiatives through Community Partnerships
		Carlos Moran Executive Director, North East Trees
		Tori Kjer Executive Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
	b.	Climate Literacy Task Force Report
		Jerry Song Coordinator, STEAM-Climate Literacy
		Nicolas Gardner Serna

UTLA Political and Community Organizer

III. Public Comment

IV. Adjournment

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations shall be made 24 hours prior to the meeting to the Board Secretariat by calling (213) 241-7002.

Materials related to an item on this agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available for public inspection at the Security Desk on the first floor of the Administrative Headquarters, and at: https://boe.lausd.org/apps/events/2025/8/27/31378601/?REC_ID=31378601&id=0

TAB 1

ECO-SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

Strengthening Greening Initiatives Through Community Partnerships

Christos Chrysiliou, FAIA, LEED AP Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer August 27, 2025







Board Resolution

Objectives

On February 11, 2025, the Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution for Strengthening Greening Initiatives through Community Partnerships.

Objectives:

- Strengthen and expand partnerships with non-profit organizations
- Remove internal fees and allocate funding to cover fees that cannot be removed
- Prioritize review of grant-funded greening projects to ensure timely completion
- Implement a comprehensive plan to achieve these goals and strengthen partnerships



Status & Discussion

- Commitment to Partnerships
- Removal of Internal Fees
- Eligibility Criterion
- Review Process
- Progress Reporting
- ESO Staffing





Commitment to Partnerships

Action 1

Strengthening partnerships:

- Monthly standing meetings with the Living Schoolyards Coalition
- Non-profit organizations are now supported by the Establishment of the Eco-Sustainability Office
- Actions described in the Implementation Plan demonstrate commitment to strengthening and expanding greening partnerships



Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District (Board) recognizes the vital role of non-profit organizations in creating sustainable and equitable learning environments for all students, and commits to strengthening and expanding partnerships within this sector including organizations that have developed relationships with communities that have been historically underserved and negatively impacted by climate change and environmental hazards;



Removal of Internal Fees

Action 2

Removal of Fees:

- LAUSD has approved a budget allocation of \$3
 Million over 3 Years to support current third-party greening projects:
 - Cover unpaid fees and reimbursement of paid fees, including OAR and inspection fees
 - Other fees and expenses, including ADA upgrades etc. would require additional funding
 - Funding allocation will consider project construction cost
- Use of bond funds requires BOC & BOE approvals



Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to remove internal fees for non-profit organizations that lead District school greening projects regardless of funding source. Where feasible and legally allowable, up to \$3 million in District resources, including eligible bond funds, will be allocated to cover costs such as: Owner's Authorized Representative fees; project fees; ADA retrofits; District staff time; testing; design reviews; and inspections



Removal of Internal Fees

Summary of Strategies Reviewed

- Identify and categorize various fees and related services
- For essential services and fees such as environmental abatement and permits, identify them early and where allowable incorporate them into grant funding requests
- Determine if LAUSD can offset any costs if not allowable as grant-funded
- Assess internal LAUSD services/fees that impact greening project budgets
- Determine streamlining methods for LAUSD that will result in greater efficiency and cost reduction
- Evaluate applicability of various fees and remove costs where possible
- Determine if any applicable fees can be paid from another source
- Investigate all potential strategies to remove fees including reclassifying fees as in-kind contributions, using fee waivers, and reimbursing costs for fees to non-profit organizations



Removal of Internal Fees

Assessment

Identification and categorization of fees:

GREENING PROJECT FEES	LAUSD	External	Cost Range per Project
Design Review (including TQST review)			\$9,000 - \$30,000
FETU Testing	X		\$4,500 - \$20,000
OAR/M&O Support	X		\$30,000
Inspection			4% of construction cost
CEQA & Site Assessment Oversight			\$1,200 - \$4,075
A&E Services Constr Admin Support	X		\$10,000 - \$27,000
DSA Review		X	based on construction cost
Soil Testing		X	TBD
Soil Compaction Testing		X	TBD
FETU Phase 3 (if applicable)	X		\$15,000 - \$20,000
Payment Bond		X	~3% of construction cost
Insurance		Χ	TBD
Site Survey and Utility Location		X	\$15,000 - \$25,000



Project Eligibility



Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to develop an implementation plan defining eligibility criterion for non-profit organizations and projects. The plan will describe strategies to remove and/or mitigate fees, such as fee waivers, returning or reimbursing costs for fees that non-profit organizations have already paid, reclassifying internal fees as in-kind contributions, and precluding the upfront payment of fees

Action 3

Implementation Plan eligibility criteria:

Eligibility criteria for non-profit organizations seeking to do projects for LAUSD:

 Organizations with tax-exempt status with the IRS

Eligibility criteria for greening projects eligible for fee mitigation:

- Bringing outside funding for use to implement greening projects
- Increase green permeable features of school sites, including native and drought-tolerant planting, permeable paving, edible gardens, and stormwater management



Review Process



Resolved further, That for grant-funded partner greening projects, the District will prioritize the review of these projects and ensure that they begin construction on time to meet grant deadlines. In order to accomplish this, the District will utilize an efficient review process for all submittals including a 10-day review time as outlined in department guidelines

Action 4

Prioritize the review of grant-funded greening projects:

- The design review process is described in LAUSD guidelines and is explained in greater detail in the How-to Guide for LAUSD's Greening Partners
- The design review time-period:
 - 2-day intake period for upload of documents
 - 10-day initial design review
 - 1-week period for revisions by partner
 - 1-week back-check period
 - The revision and back-check periods can vary depending on the complexity of revisions

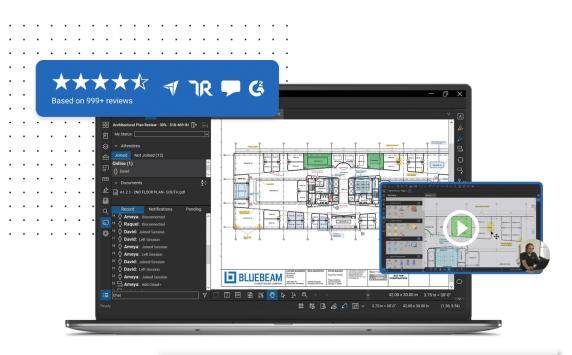


Review Process

Streamlining

Ways to streamline the review process:

- Ensure that partners have full understanding of submittal requirements prior to submitting for design review
- Provide advanced notice to review team and emphasize importance of 10-day turnaround
- Provide 2-day warning of closing of Bluebeam review to ensure comments are added on time
- Close comments on time with notification provided to partner when review is complete
- Develop strategies to mitigate factors in the project implementation process that might delay the start of construction



Bluebeam Software source: Bluebeam Product demo video



Review Process

Strategies for Timely Start of Construction

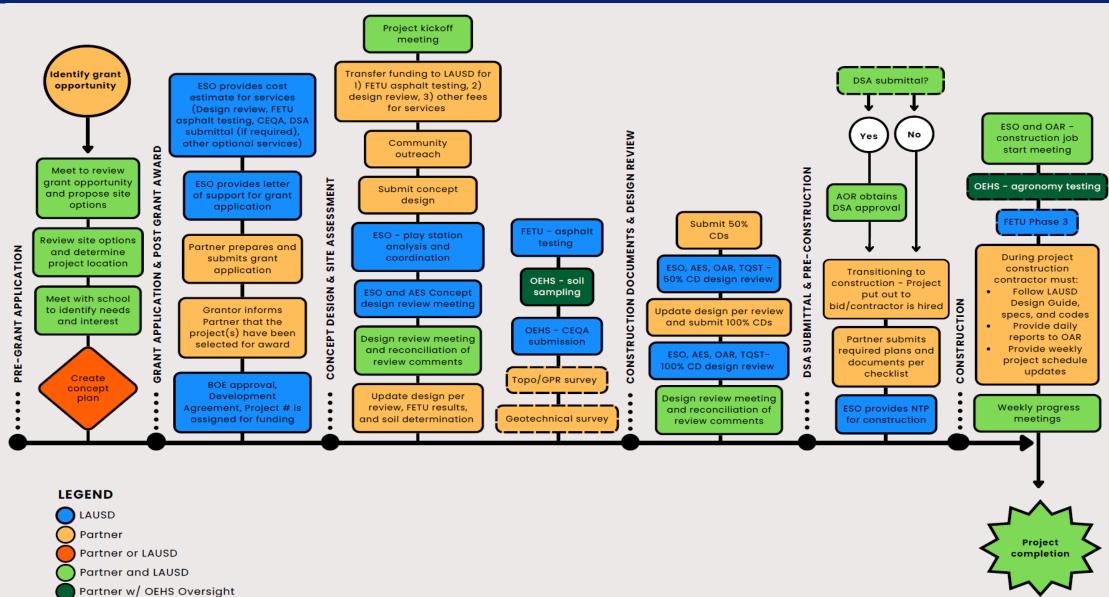
- How-to Guide section on transition to construction
- OAR onboarding checklist
- Job start checklist
- Greening Project Process is explained in the How-to Guide for LAUSD's Greening Partners





---- Activity is contingent

Greening Project Process







Action 5

- f) "How-to" Guide for LAUSD's Greening Partners
- Recommendations for streamlining project supervision
- 3) Work on Design Guidelines specific to school greening projects
- 4) Development Agreement modifications

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to present to the Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee a comprehensive plan for fee removal and a progress report on potential funding options to support third-party greening projects, within 60 days. The District will also provide a progress report on (1) the District's "how-to" guide for greening projects requirements; (2) recommendations to streamline project supervision requirements and reduce oversight expenses; (3) development of school greening-specific Design Guidelines; and (4) potential modification to Development Agreements to reduce unnecessary burdens on greening partners; and, be it finally

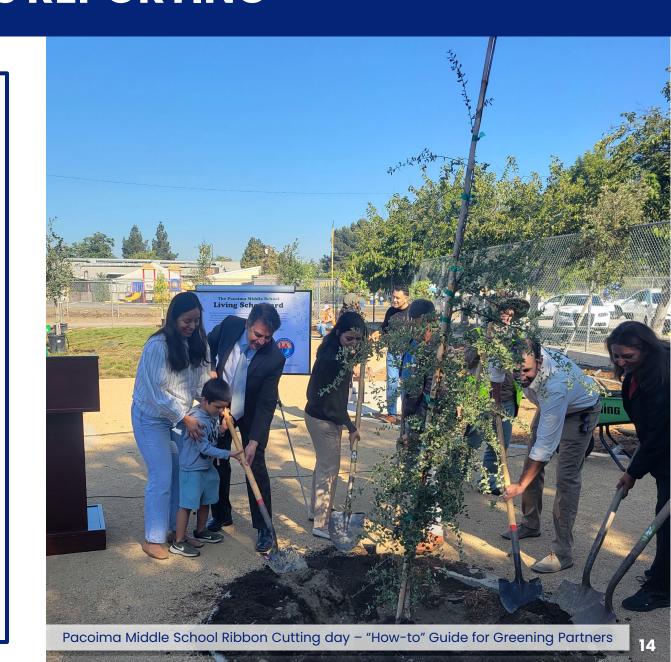


PROGRESS REPORTING

How-to Guide

for LAUSD's Greening Partners

- ESO has addressed comments from recent reviews of the draft guide
- How-to Guide was issued on June 5, 2025
- Topics covered in the How-to Guide:
 - Pre-Grant Application
 - Pre-Grant Award
 - Non-Grant Funded Projects
 - Design and Planning
 - Transitioning to Construction
 - Project-Related Fees





Streamlining Project Supervision

Change in approach for review and oversight of third-party greening projects

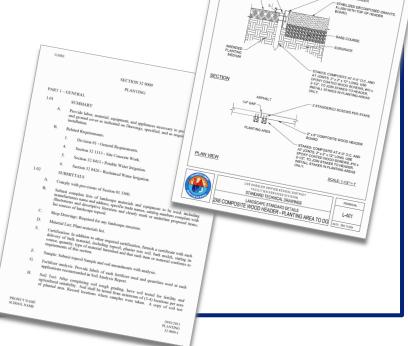
- ESO staff will provide expedited TQST design review per criteria developed in collaboration with TQST
- ESO will have dedicated Program Manager/OAR staff to provide targeted expertise and streamlined services during construction
- Additional ESO staff hiring will be required to carry out this increased workload





Greening-Specific Design Guidelines

- LAUSD Design Guidelines for Greening Projects
 - Initial draft in development and under review by internal departments
- A pilot wood play structure was approved for Esperanza ES
- Removal of lead-containing paint and coating is not required prior to the demolition of asphalt that has tested negative for asbestos.
- List of details updated
 - L-401 thru L-407 (2x6 and 4x6 headers)
- List of specs updated
 - Section 32 9000 Planting







Development Agreements

- In response to feedback from greening partners, the following modifications have been made to the Development Agreement:
 - The term "Developer" was replaced with the name of the partner organization throughout
 - Projects that are not within 20-feet of a building or structure can be exempt from fire insurance requirement
 - Small-scale projects limited to planting trees and native plants within existing landscape areas will utilize a Beautification License Agreement instead of a Development Agreement
 - Performance Bonds for third-party greening agreements are no longer required. However, if there is no added cost, maintaining the Performance Bond remains the best practice



ESO Staffing

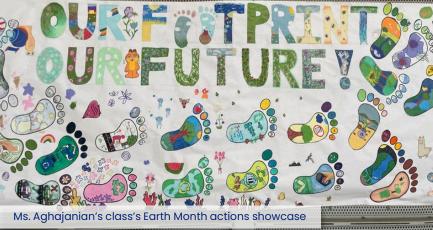
Action 6

- Currently four (4) ESO positions posted at careers.lausd.org:
 - Sustainability Specialist published date 3/7/2025
 - Energy & Sustainability Program
 Manager published date 3/20/2025
 - Energy and Sr. Energy Specialists published date 4/1/2025
- Outreach to nine regional universities with energy and sustainability related programs to recruit qualified graduates
- Hiring for Sustainability Specialist is underway; hiring for the other positions will proceed following the Sustainability Specialist
- Staff augmentation to support 3rd party project workload is under review



Resolved, That the Board directs the Superintendent to take all necessary steps to hire staff for the Eco-Sustainability Office up to the maximum number of positions allocated in the approved funding allocation. This measure ensures that the office has the necessary resources to effectively fulfill its mission and provide service to our District staff, school communities and greening partners. The Superintendent or designee shall provide biannual reports to the School Greening and Climate Resilience Committee on hiring progress, including any challenges or delays. If full staffing is not achieved, the District must state the reasons and any mitigating actions being taken.









Alta California Elementary School – Aeroponic Tower Garden Program

Sotomayor Magnet CTE Agriculture Program - Kunekune pigs











ECO-SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

Climate Literacy Task Force Report

Greening Schools and Climate Resilience Committee Meeting

Christos Chrysiliou, FAIA, LEED AP Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer August 27, 2025





TAB 2



AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Climate Literacy Task Force (CLTF)
 - Task Force Timeline
 - CLTF Report Methodology
 - CLTF Report Recommendations





WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



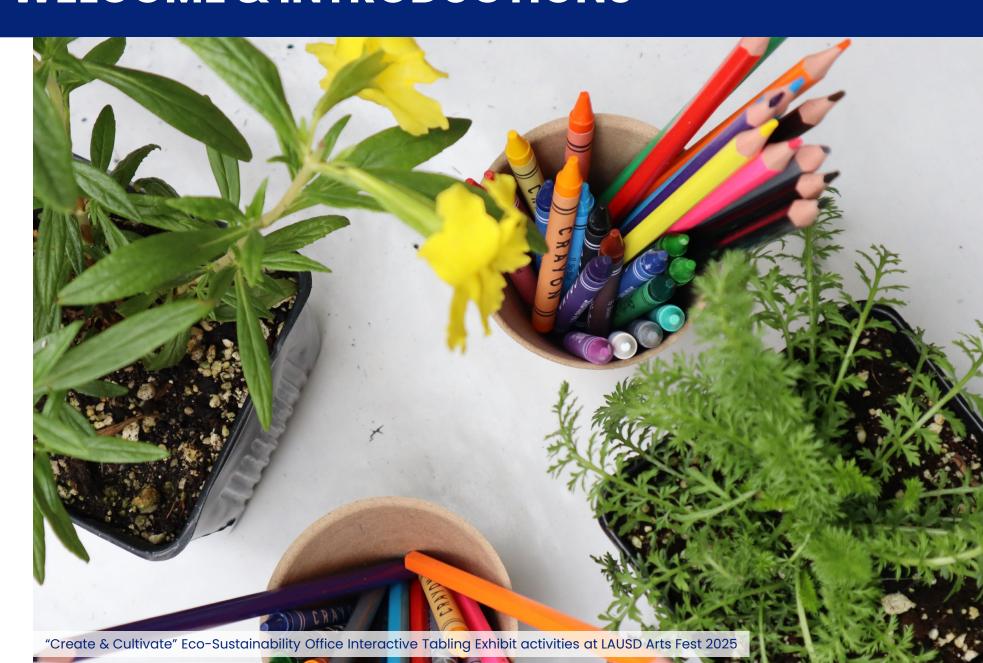
Christos Chrysiliou
Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer,
Climate Literacy Task Force Member



Jerry Song
STEAM Coordinator,
LAUSD Division of Instruction



Nicolas Gardner Serna Political and Community Organizer, UTLA





Climate Literacy Task Force

CLTF Goal

To convene and organize all other related working groups called for by previous initiatives and resolutions focused on school greening, gardening, outdoor education, and clean energy...to deliver recommendations that increase climate literacy and climate justice throughout the District.

(Res-016-21/22 and LAUSD-UTLA Agreement, April 2023)

Climate Literacy Task Force

LAUSD Division of Instruction

Susan Caniura

Linked Learning Director, LAUSD

Gerry Salazar

Outdoor & Environmental Education Coordinator, LAUSD

Jerry Song

STEAM Coordinator, LAUSD

Aaron Ferrel

Social Emotional Learning Advisor,

LAUSD Facilities Services Division

Alix Walsh O'Brien

Deputy Chief Facilities Executive, LAUSD



LAUSD Eco-Sustainability Office

Christos Chrysiliou

Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer, LAUSD

Sylvia Palomera

Sr. Sustainability Specialist, LAUSD

United Teachers Los Angeles

Julie Van Winkle

Vice President, UTLA AFT

Lauren Ahkiam

LAANE Director, Water Justice LA Campaign

Michelle Cohen

Adult Education Counselor, LAUSD

Reies Flores

CTE Teacher, Sotomayor High School

LAUSD Transportation Division

Daniel Kang

Director of Transportation, LAUSD



TASK FORCE TIMELINE





- Meeting 1 December 13, 2023 via Zoom
 - Introductions, review of Climate Literacy Resolution & LAUSD-UTLA MOU
 - Next steps for review of tasks & roles determined
- Meeting 2 February 27, 2024 @ Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
 - Tour of LACI with presentations from partners
- Meeting 3 April 16, 2024 @ Sotomayor Magnet
 - Tour of the Agriscience Program & updates on Task Force member findings
- Public Meeting June 12, 2024 via Zoom
 - Preliminary recommendations shared & comments received
- **Meeting 4** September 25, 2024 via Zoom
 - Draft report outline shared & task force members begin drafting respective sections
- June 2025 Final Recommendations Report and published to CLTF website at <u>lausd.org/cltf</u>



CLTF REPORT - METHODOLOGY

CLTF Focus Areas









On-site

Off-site

Solar

Water Quality

Transportation

Stormwater

Each CLTF member was assigned a focus area to identify:

- **Existing programs and resources** at LAUSD for students across all school sites including existing partnerships
- Gaps to be filled in existing programs and resources at LAUSD
- Resources needed to fill gaps in existing programs to provide comprehensive climate literacy curriculum as specified in the Board Resolution and LAUSD-UTLA MOU:
 - a. Program materials, equipment, etc. including external resources available
 - Staffing, professional development and staff support in each Local District, Community of Schools, and every school
 - c. Funding
- Key recommendations to implement meaningful and effective climate literacy curricula and programs that can be maintained sustainably by the District over time



Presented by Jerry Song
CLTF Member and STEAM Coordinator,
LAUSD Division of Instruction











- Ongoing Support for Climate Literacy: Continue to support the District's Climate Literacy programs, including the Climate Literacy Champions differential for every school, the Climate Literacy Leadership Team, and climate literacy professional development for all LAUSD educators
- Enhanced Collaboration for Climate Literacy Education:
 Strengthen collaboration between the Division of Instruction and the Eco-Sustainability Office on climate literacy education efforts
- Shared Staffing for Eco-Sustainability Initiatives: Share staffing resources between the Division of Instruction and the Eco-Sustainability Office, such as a sustainability specialist, for specific tasks like grant applications, graphic design, and social media







collecting and sorting

weeds for data collection





student from North Hollywood HS speaking at the Planet Media event at USC

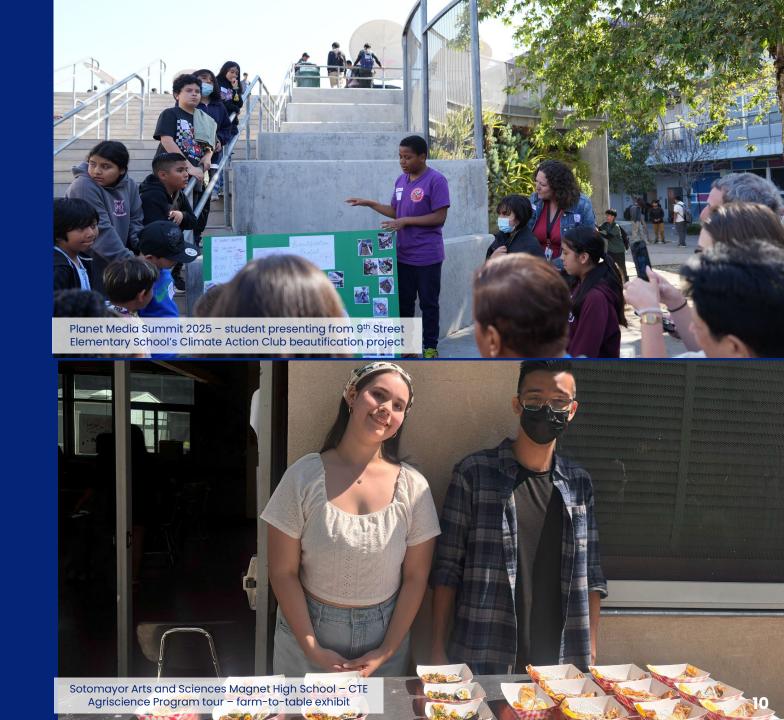


CLTF REPORTRecommendations

- Promotional Campaigns: Wellness and the Outdoors: Launch campaigns promoting socialemotional wellness and the outdoors, as well as social-emotional wellness and climate change
- Partnerships for Educator Engagement in SEL Events: Develop partnerships for the Eco-Sustainability Office to engage educators at highprofile SEL events, including SEL Day and SEL Symposium
- Cross-Departmental Procurement Strategy for Climate Literacy Services: Implement a crossdepartmental procurement strategy for climate literacy services, fostering collaboration between the Division of Instruction, the Eco-Sustainability Office, and other relevant parties



Presented by Nicolas Gardner Serna Political and Community Organizer, UTLA



Polytechnic High School CTE Agriculture greenhouse and plant starters







CLTF REPORTRecommendations



- Expand Partnerships with Unions and Industry Leaders:
 Collaborate with unions and industry to build green career pathways linking education to jobs
- Develop a pipeline: Create a seamless K-12 to employment pathway in key green sectors (renewable energy, sustainable transport, etc.)
- Empower educators and infrastructure: Invest in teacher training and resources, including hands-on learning spaces like gardens and labs
- Leverage existing funds: Maximize use of grants (e.g., Golden State Pathways, Strong Workforce) for green CTE programs
- Hands-On Learning Through District Infrastructure
 Projects: Include CTE students in LAUSD's infrastructure
 projects, such as installing solar panels, rain gardens, or
 other sustainable infrastructure, allowing them to apply
 their knowledge in real-world settings

RINO FOR THE WORLD

Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet High School – CTE Agriscience Program tour – building with earth project

Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet High School – CTE Agriscience Program tour – building with earth exhibit



Sotomayor Arts and Sciences Magnet High School
– CTE Agriscience Program tour – fiber arts exhibit



CLTF REPORTRecommendations



• Expand Non-Construction Green Career Pathways:

- While green building trades are essential, LAUSD will also promote green career options beyond construction, such as:
 - Sotomayor High School's Agriscience CTE Program
 - West Los Angeles College's Climate Change and Environmental Studies Program
 - Lincoln High School's Green Career Pathways

• Expand MC3 Offerings in Secondary Schools:

Increase Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3)
 programs to introduce high school students to
 various green career pathways early, giving them
 the skills they need to succeed in a green economy

Partner with Unionized Transportation Industries:

 Work with transportation sectors, such as electric vehicle (EV) development, to create green transportation career pathways, preparing students for the future of urban mobility



On-site

Off-site











On-site Outdoor Education

- Outdoor Learning Integration: Integrate the climate literacy curriculum with existing outdoor learning opportunities i.e. SEEDS, EEC Outdoor Classrooms, Outdoor Learning Environments
- Curriculum Enrichment: Integrate curriculum focused on indigenous roots, food waste reduction, hunger awareness, and the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals into relevant classes
- Community Partnerships: Partner with organizations like UC Cooperative Master Gardeners and utilize parents' expertise in school gardens, potentially offering stipends
- Partnership Framework: Create a guiding document for establishing partnerships between schools and external organizations
- Support for Regenerative Farming: Establish a veterinary program to support the regenerative farming curriculum
- Dedicated Outdoor Space Coordination: Establish a
 District-wide Garden/Outdoor Space Coordinator
 position (potentially regional positions) to oversee
 and support school gardens and outdoor spaces



- Sustainable Water Management: Prioritize the use of water catchment systems as educational tools for school gardens
- Sustainable Program Funding: Secure funding for educational programs that integrate with existing outdoor learning infrastructure programs

Off-site Outdoor Education

- Integrated Climate Literacy: Weave the Climate Literacy Curriculum into outdoor learning opportunities, expanding hands-on experiences for students
- Expanded Day of Discovery: Broaden the Day of Discovery Program to incorporate vital topics such as clean energy, wastewater treatment, and other climate mitigation efforts
- Equitable Program Connections: Foster equitable connections between existing programs and address indigenous and racial equity issues
- Streamlined School-Organization Partnerships: Develop a School-Organization Partnership Guide, a guiding document to streamline the process of establishing partnerships between schools and external organizations











Solar

Water Quality

Transportation

Stormwater







Solar Energy Generation

- New Funding For Renewable Energy: Explore how recent bonds can boost solar programs and connect to energy efficiency, building decarbonization, and EV charging goals
- Maximizing Renewables: Partner to assess total solar potential on LAUSD sites and plan how to meet the 2030 clean energy target
- Funding Opportunities: Keep looking at ways to finance solar projects, including bonds and government incentives
- Improve Efficiency: Identify changes needed in policies and procedures to better implement energy efficiency programs
- **Union Strong:** Continue using union labor for all solar and related energy projects
- **Stay Informed:** Keep sharing project and program updates with the public

















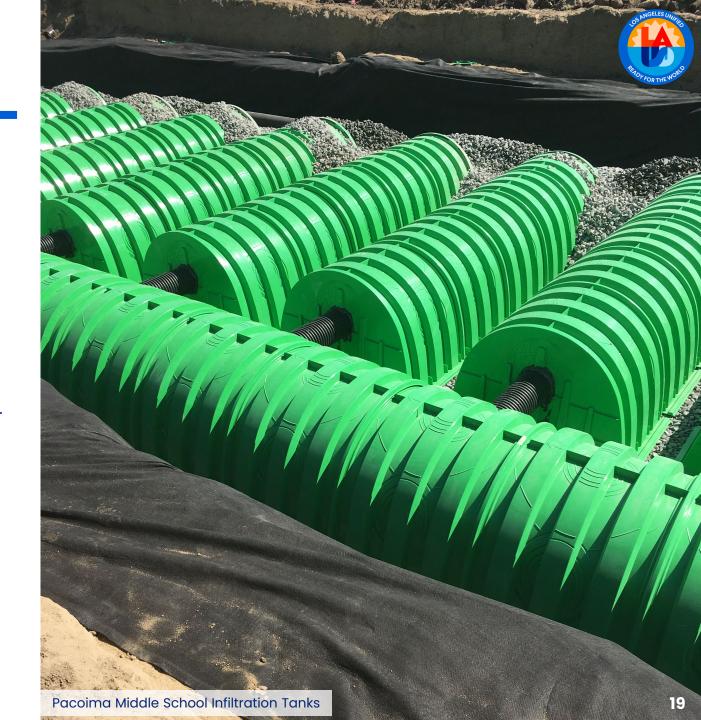
Water Quality

- Lower School Lead in Water: Aim for super low lead in water (under 1 ppb) in school water, using new funding to speed up current programs (getting elementary schools below 5 ppb quickly)
- Expand to High Schools: Create and fund a program to get low lead in water (below 5 ppb) in middle and high school water fountains and bottle fillers, prioritizing filters
- **Filters:** Install certified filters in bottle filling stations for near-zero lead in water and better taste/smell
- Check Other Faucets: Investigate and fix lead in water issues in classroom and kitchen faucets
- Annual Testing & Transparency: Test water yearly and make results public
- Partner with Health Experts: Work with health professionals to check lead levels in water and community water risks



Stormwater Management

- Water Capture: Set school-wide goals for capturing rainwater and coordinating with LAUSD's 30% greening goal
- Maintenance Plan: Plan for resources, training, and procedures needed to sustain the greening improvements long term
- New Funds for Greening: Explore funding opportunities including County's Safe Clean Water Program and other local and state funds for building and maintaining greening and stormwater projects
- Partnering for Success: We should work with other government agencies (like the County, Metro, and City departments) who can help with design, construction, and even manage rainwater near our schools







Stormwater Management

- Handle Rainwater Issues: Find ways to avoid problems with rainwater leaving our sites
- Schoolyards as Community Parks: Consider opening schoolyards as community parks helps us get more money for green projects that benefit everyone
- Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: We'll keep partnering with schools and the community to develop and fund these projects
- Guides for Green Building: We're creating easy-to-use guides for building and maintaining rainwater and native plant projects
- Green Projects: We're looking at our own rules and processes to make it easier and quicker to build these projects, learning from past successes. We'll also talk to others for ideas
- **Keep You Updated:** We'll continue sharing project news and funding opportunities with the public



The Work Continues!











Thank You



Christos Chrysiliou, FAIA, LEED AP Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer





