

ECO- SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE UPDATES

Greening Schools & Climate Resilience Committee Meeting

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

December 3, 2025



Hobart Blvd ES ELOP Project



Hobart Blvd ES ELOP Project



Hobart Blvd ES ELOP Project

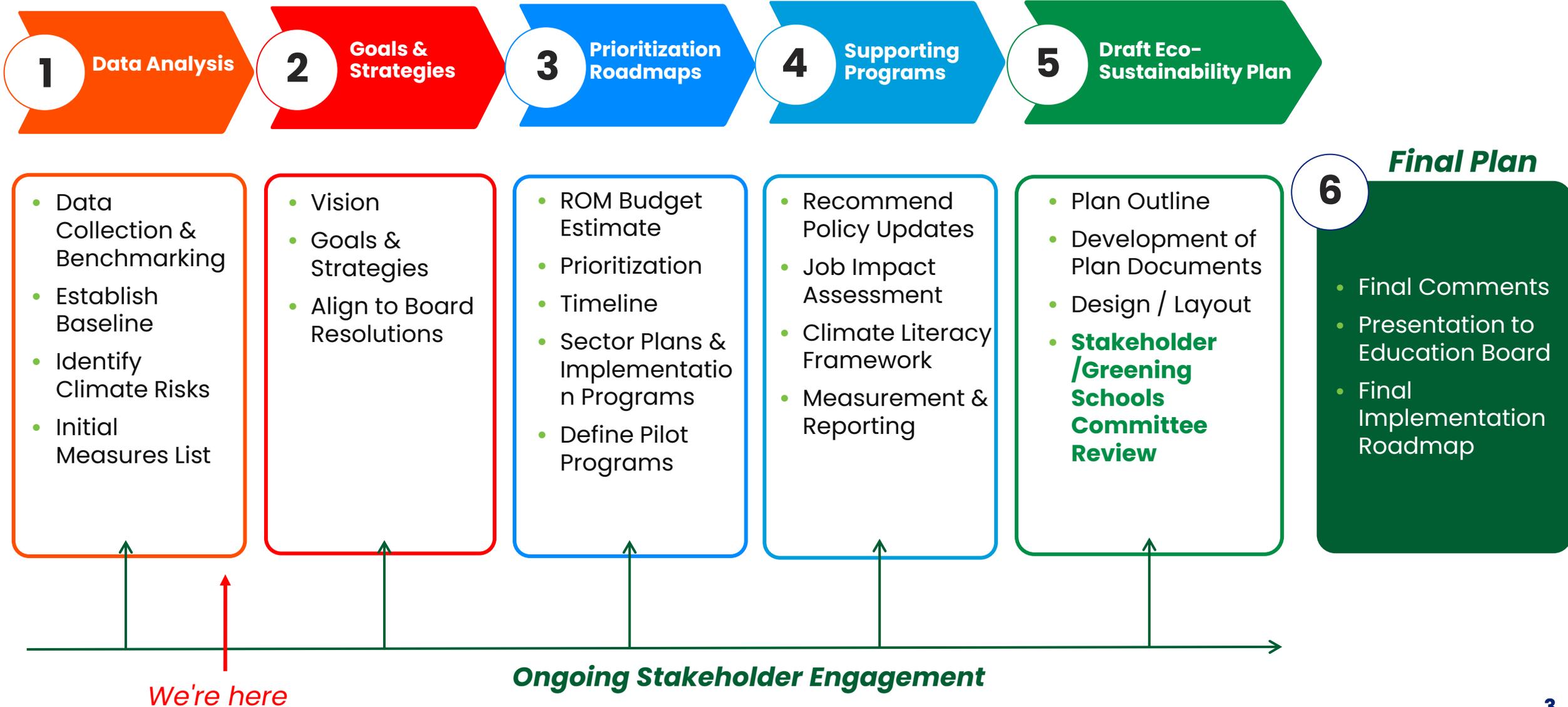
Agenda

- Eco-Sustainability Plan Update
- Climate Literacy Task Force Report
- LADWP MOU Renewal
- Water Conservation Programs
- Waste Diversion
- Resilient Schools: Extreme Heat Board Resolution
- ELOP Greening Program Updates
- Grant Programs





Eco-Sustainability Plan Update





Climate Literacy Task Force Report

CLTF Report Focus Areas



Curriculum



Workforce
Development



Outdoor Education



Infrastructure

On-site

Off-site

Solar

Water Quality

Transportation

Stormwater

The CLTF Recommendations Report
has been released:

Available at lausd.org/cltf



Climate Literacy Task Force
Recommendations Report

September 2025
Los Angeles Unified School District
Eco-Sustainability Office and Division of Instruction





Climate Literacy Task Force Report



Planet Media Summit 2025 – student presentation for 9th Street Elementary’s Climate Action Club beautification project



Good Earth Community Garden table at L.A. Technology Center Adult School

Recommendations Include:

- **Curriculum:** LAUSD to provide ongoing support for climate literacy, including the Climate Literacy Champions program and ensure funding for the differential to have a champion for every school
- **Outdoor Education:** In alignment with the 2022 Climate Literacy Board Resolution to have every student participate in outdoor learning
- **Workforce Development:** Expand green career pathways by including CTE students in district sustainability projects
- **Infrastructure:** Identify funding opportunities to finance solar, water quality, stormwater management, and transportation projects

Recent Progress:

- **Curriculum:** The Division of Instruction (DOI) expanded the Climate Literacy Champions program to provide funding for Climate Action Clubs. The ESO and DOI will deliver more climate literacy resources and professional development to LAUSD educators in 2026!
- **Outdoor Education:** In 2025, the Beyond the Bell Outdoor Education program served over 56,000 students.
- **Workforce Development:** The CTE Linked Learning program is providing green career curricula at many secondary and adult education schools.
- **Infrastructure:** 21 Board-approved solar projects will include a Work-Based Learning Program at each school, delivered by industry professionals with kick-off in 2026.



LADWP MOU Renewal

Securing a Resilient and Sustainable Future for Our Kids: Energy and Water Efficiency in School Facilities

Effective October 27, 2025

MOU Overview:

- Up to \$22,500,000 per Term Year, as defined in this agreement, for programmatic activities
- 4 primary programmatic strategies:
 - 1) \$80 million – Direct Installation (“DI”) of energy efficient LED lighting measures; initial group of 37 schools
 - 2) \$5 million – Education and awareness of energy efficiencies
 - 3) \$10 million – Greening/climate resilience activities
 - 4) \$5 million – Water conservation measures through existing LADWP programs

Highlights:

- Tree planting/shade program – in line with the call to action from the Extreme Heat Board Resolution



Alta California Elementary School – Aeroponic Tower Garden Program – funded by previous MOU



Superior Street Elementary School – HEROES for Zero ‘24-’25 Team – funded previous MOU



Water Conservation Pilot Project

Hydrogel Pilot

- Funder: Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- Partner: Rain Systems
- Objectives: Evaluate the water conservation performance of hydrogel soil amendments on athletic fields at two LAUSD sites with different microclimates
- Technology: Hydrogel is a non-toxic, 100% biodegradable compound that lasts about five years and is injected 3–6" into the soil at the turf root zone.
- Results:
 - Roybal HS: One Two-Acre Test Field
 - 40% reduction in irrigation water use or 1.25 million gallons of water saved
 - 14% higher soil moisture levels compared to control area
 - \$17,103 in avoided water utility costs
 - Byrd MS: Two One-Acre Test Fields (A & B)
 - ~40% average reduction in irrigation water use or 1.12 million gallons of water saved
 - 13% higher soil moisture levels compared to control area
 - \$15,346 in avoided water utility costs

Average Return on Investment of Hydrogel Applications *2-acre field with 5,000,000 gallons of annual water use in LA			
Year	Cost for Hydrogel Application	Annual Water Savings using Hydrogel	Cumulative Cost Savings
Year 1	\$26,700	\$27,377	\$677
Year 2	-	\$27,377	\$28,054
Year 3	-	\$27,377	\$55,431
Year 4	-	\$27,377	\$82,808
Year 5	-	\$27,377	\$110,185



Byrd MS Test Field B - October 2025

Water Conservation Pilot

East Valley HS Recycled Water Conversion Project

- Completed in partnership with LA Department of Water & Power
- Conversion of irrigation system from potable (drinking) water to recycled water



Project completed in September 2025

- Changing out fittings to purple indicates the use of recycled water
- Signs installed around irrigation areas inform visitors that the recycled water is not for drinking
- Saves approximately 5.7 million gallons of potable water annually
- Saves the district approximately \$126,000 utility cost annually

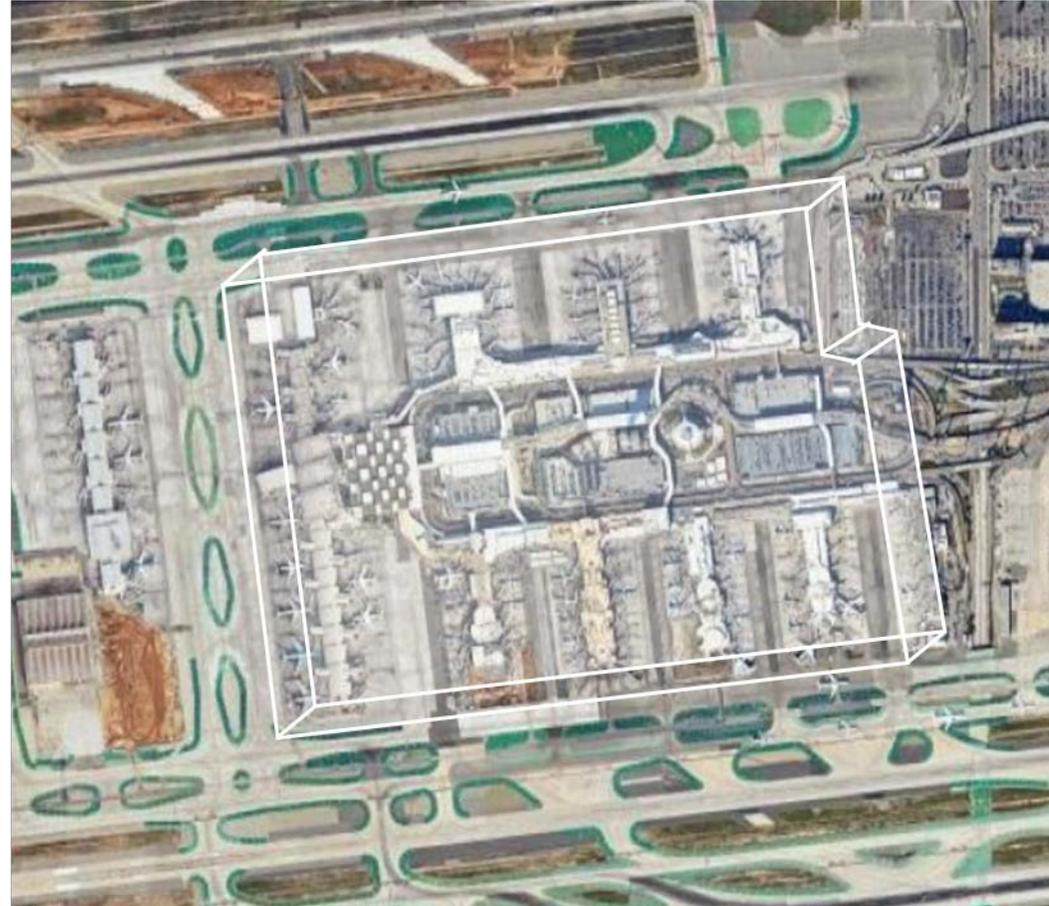




Waste Diversion

LAUSD Initiatives

- ESO coordinating with OEHS, Food Services and ITS to increase LAUSD's waste diversion
- LAUSD Waste Management Task Force
- Food Services Composting & Food Waste Reduction Pilot Program
- ESO Liquid Diversion & Carton Recycling Waste Audit Pilot Program
- ESO & ITS review of CalRecycle Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) Program



In FY 2024-2025, LAUSD sent **108 million pounds of waste** to the landfill. This would cover the entire central area of LAX with approximately 3" of trash.



LAUSD sends all trash waste to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Sylmar



Resilient Schools: Extreme Heat Board Resolution

Resilient Schools: Extreme Heat Mitigation & Disaster Preparedness at LAUSD Resolution

Adopted by the Board on November 18, 2025

Resolution Overview:

- Accelerate LAUSD's HVAC modernization projects
- Install climate friendly technologies such as heat pumps
- Create interim cooling plans for schools, including the deployment of portable AC units, shade structures, hydration stations, and misting systems
- Prohibit new artificial turf installations at early education, elementary, and middle schools and commission a comprehensive study of artificial turf vs. natural grass/materials for high school athletic fields

Related Research:

- ESO is sponsoring a grant opportunity led by UCLA and Arizona State University titled "Cultivating School Heat Readiness in the Southwest"
- The research will assist LAUSD schools in preparing for and responding to the negative impacts of schoolyard heat, making our schools more resilient.



Coldwater Canyon ES Before ELOP Project



Coldwater Canyon ES After ELOP Project



Green Schoolyard Improvement Program

Objective:

Enhance outdoor spaces used for before- and after-school activities by replacing asphalt with green spaces, incorporating native plants, natural turf, tree shade, and decomposed granite.

Funded by the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)

Progress on 34 ELOP Greening Projects:

- 17 completed, including recently at:
 - Hobart Blvd ES
 - Woodcrest ES
 - La Salle ES
 - Ford ES
- 15 projects in pre-construction/construction
- 2 projects in design

ELOP Greening will add over 800 trees and replace over 600,000 square feet of asphalt with green space at 34 school sites!

Recently Completed Projects





VPP-FLEX Grant

- **Upcoming grant project supported by ESO:**
 - Virtual Power Plant Approaches for Demand Flexibility (VPP-FLEX) CA Energy Commission Grant
- **Program Overview:**
 - Partner with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on a \$2.66M project to test peak-load reductions
 - Pilot an interoperable energy management technology platform that connects existing HVAC, lighting, solar panels, and EV chargers at Maywood Academy HS and Maywood Center for Enriched Studies
 - Install new controllers and provide hands-on training for LAUSD Facilities staff
- **Partnership roles:**
 - EPRI leads the research project
 - ESO coordinates implementation and alignment with District priorities to reduce energy consumption and utility costs



EV Charger at Maywood Academy HS



Solar Panels at Maywood Center for Enriched Studies



Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant

- **Upcoming grant application lead by ESO:**
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program
- **Program Overview:**
 - Provide local produce for Garden School Foundation's (GSF) cooking classes at 9 LAUSD schools
 - Build long-term outdoor learning by training teachers through a professional development program
 - Conduct a districtwide garden inventory and mapping to document existing gardens, guide training needs, and inform future greening and Farm to School planning
- **Partnership roles:**
 - GSF leads programming + professional development, Aziz Farms supplies locally grown produce, and ESO coordinates the grant, leads the mapping initiative, and ensures alignment with district goals



Annalee Ave. ES students participating in Garden School Foundation garden lessons



Thank You



Christos Chrysiliou, FAIA, LEED AP
Chief Eco-Sustainability Officer
lausd.org/eso

