2025-26

Climate Action & Accountability Report

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | Sustainability





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THIS IS NOT A SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

It's a report about school buses that don't burn diesel.

It's a report about classrooms that stay cool when it's 100 degrees outside.

It's a report about students growing their own food and sharing it with their communities.

About teachers turning climate into chemistry, art, economics, and engineering.
About buildings that pollute less.
About kids who ask impossible questions — and then refuse to accept "because that's the way we've always done it" as an answer.

Because here's the truth: climate change isn't waiting until you graduate. It doesn't care if you believe in it or not. Extreme heat isn't waiting. Air pollution isn't waiting. The next generation of jobs isn't waiting. So neither are we.

Every solar panel we install.
Every electric school bus we put on the road.
Every gallon of water we save.
Every fossil fuel system kicked to the curb.
Every student who earns the Seal of Climate Literacy.
Every one of those choices says the same thing:
The future isn't something that happens to us. It's something we build.

This report isn't a list of projects. It's evidence. Evidence that thousands of students, educators, operations staff, families, and community partners fight carbon pollution, save money, create healthier schools, and prepare students for the world they're inheriting — all at the same time.

Are we getting everything right?
No.
Are we moving fast enough?
Definitely not.
Will we keep learning and moving?
Absolutely.

Because sustainability isn't one department. It isn't one project. It isn't one year. It's how we prepare students for the future while taking responsibility for the present.

So don't just read this report.
Challenge it.
Question it.
Steal ideas from it.
Demand we do more, and do it faster.

Then go make next year's report even better.

— Your Sustainability Team

Student Advocacy for Climate Action

Climate change isn't a future threat — DPS students are experiencing climate change *here and now.*

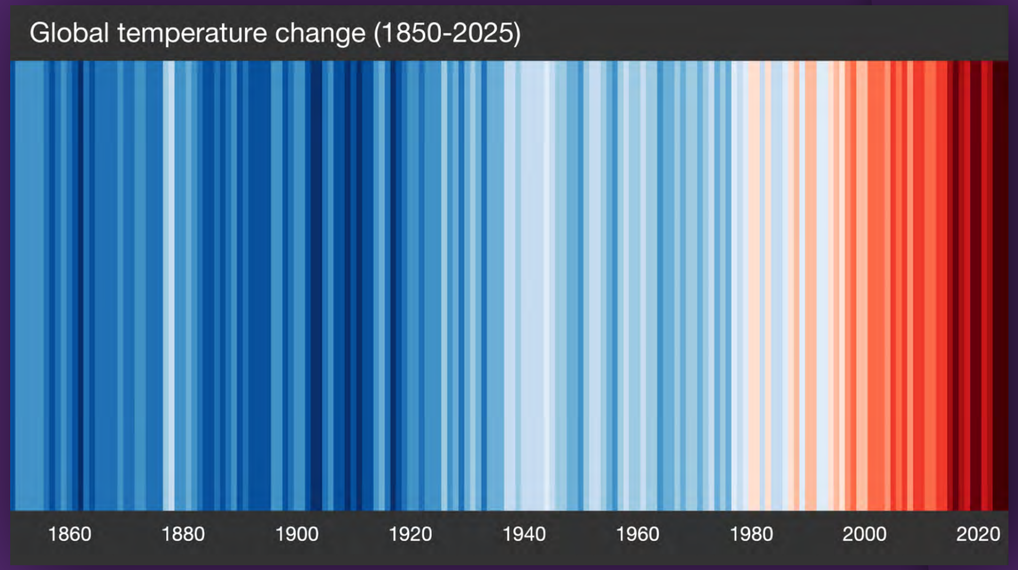
> ***Today's students will spend the rest of their lives on a hotter planet, mainly owing to the actions — and inactions — of their elders.***
>
> *- Yale Climate Connections*

In this year alone, students lived through scorching heat waves, shattered heat records, a historic drought, and dangerous wildfire smoke. DPS utility bills are climbing, and retrofitting schools with air conditioning is no longer a luxury — it's a necessity.

Refusing to sit back, DPS Students For Climate Action urged the district to act with urgency and bold action. And their activism led to DPS adopting its first-ever Climate Action Plan in December 2022.

The Climate Action Plan is a commitment to students that DPS will do its part for a livable future. The plan sets three North Star Goals to reach by 2050 and 23 goals to meet by 2028.

The Climate Action Plan plan was born from student courage, and this report gives you the transparency into the progress made and challenges faced in the third year of work toward the 2028 goals[1].



This climate stripes graphic from Professor Ed Hawkins (University of Reading) shows that DPS students have only known, and will only ever know, a starkly hotter world compared to just 50 years ago.

[1] This report uses the best data available at the time of publication. While we've made every effort to ensure its accuracy and completeness, the data is subject to adjustment.

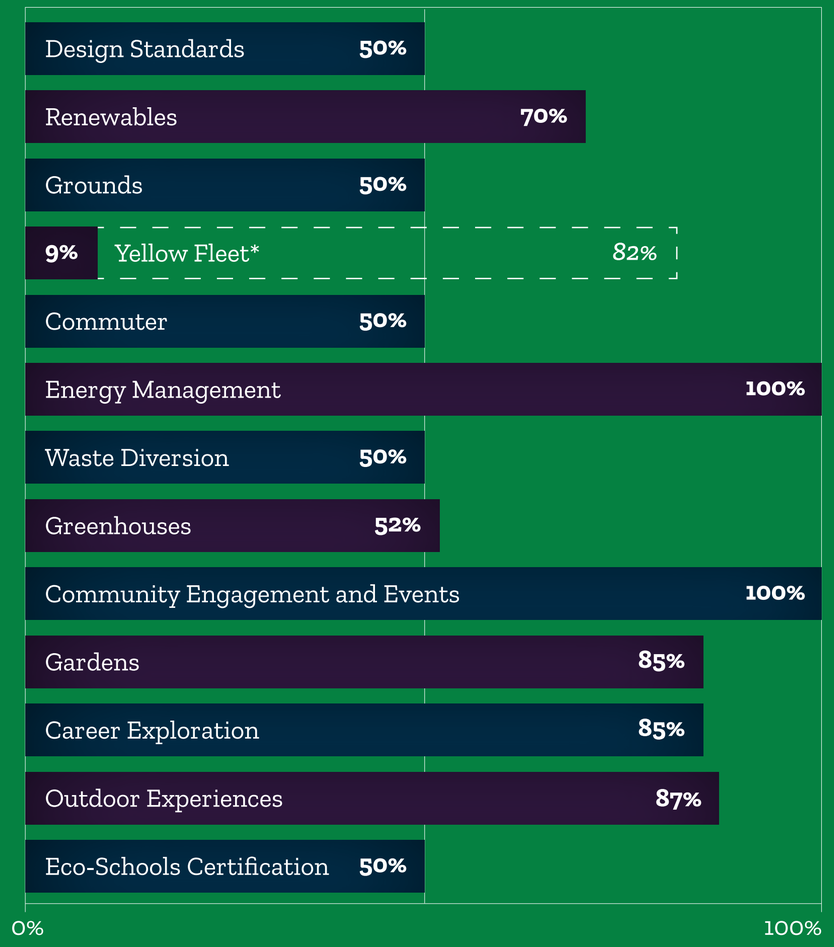
PROGRESS ON CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

Here we break down where each goal stands and why.

Some goals have been reached, some show progress, some goals show no progress but have a lot of work behind them to set the foundation for progress in the next two years, and some goals need more resources behind them.

Rockin' & Rollin'

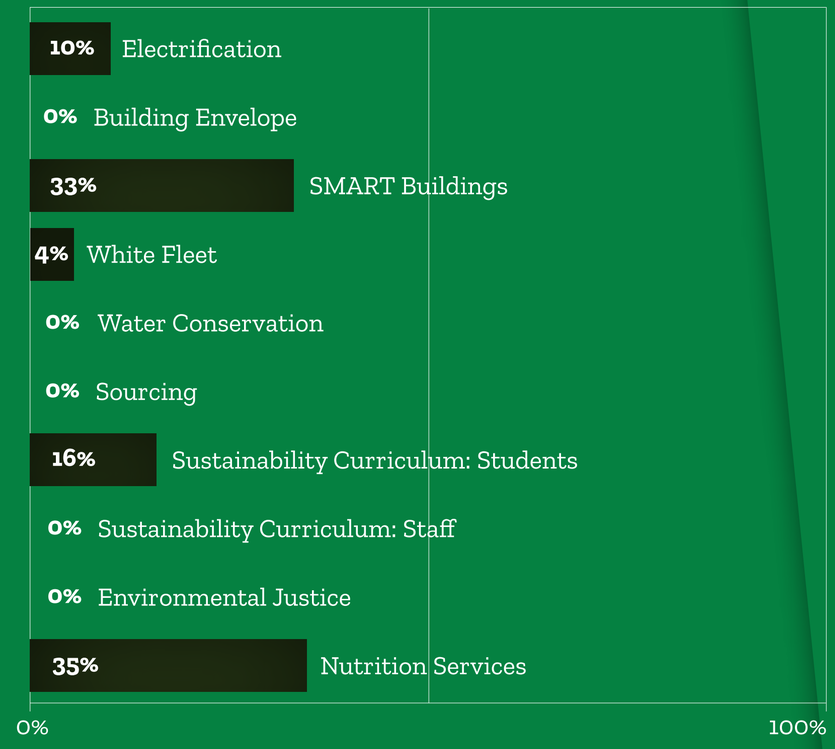
These goals are movin' and groovin'.



*82% reached when 25 e-buses are delivered.

Longer Journey

These goals have faced challenges getting to the finish line.



Rockin' & Rollin'

Design Standards

Require Sustainable Design Guidelines to be integrated into all capital improvement decisions

We cannot meet DPS's climate goals if major building renovations continue to lock in fossil-fuel infrastructure. So we are changing the rules by which capital projects are designed and evaluated.

Capital projects shape building energy use and carbon pollution for decades. Each major renovation or heating and cooling replacement is an opportunity to improve efficiency, increase resilience, and replace fossil-fuel systems with cleaner electric alternatives. If those decisions continue to default to conventional systems, DPS locks in fossil-fuel pollution and higher operating costs for years to come.

So this year, the Sustainability Team worked with capital planning, procurement, design, and construction teams to build climate action directly into the way major capital projects are planned and delivered.

Rather than treating energy efficiency and electrification as optional enhancements, DPS is establishing them as core design priorities from the beginning of the project.

Specifically, the district's template RFP language and design-build contracts were updated to reflect DPS' climate action goals. Key updates include:

- **Energy Efficiency Targets:** New buildings must now aim for an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 19 kBtu/sqft/year, and major renovations must reach 48 kBtu/sqft/year.
- **Transition to Clean Energy:** DPS contracts now prioritize electrification of heating and cooling systems, moving away from polluting fossil-fuel systems.
- **Smart Building Technology:** Incorporation of modern "smart" technology, ensuring facilities are optimized for energy efficiency and occupant experience.
- **Responsible Material Lifecycle:** Reuse and retrofitting of existing materials and equipment when possible.

These measures are now embedded into our contracts — requiring builders, architects, and consultants to ensure these goals are prioritized.

This year also marked the first time that life-cycle cost analysis (LCCA) was used to assess design options for major cooling projects in schools. Instead of exclusively considering the initial capital cost to decide among design options, LCCA helps DPS evaluate the true, long-term costs of our systems, from energy and maintenance to overall durability. This approach prioritizes designs that not only provide the best value for the district but also deliver more efficient, cleaner, and resilient facilities for students and staff.

We are making good progress on this goal with new construction and large capital projects, and our next step is to update design standards for critical maintenance work.



Rockin' & Rollin'

Renewables

65% of electricity supplied to DPS is renewable

Renewable energy is one of the best solutions for reducing pollution from fossil fuels and lowering energy costs, allowing DPS to meet the rising temperatures of our modern world without sacrificing the comfort of students and staff.

We're excited to share our progress adding new solar arrays to schools:

- Construction of new solar arrays at Montbello High (450kW) and RASA (367 kW) is **nearing completion,** with both sites expected to begin producing electricity in fall 2026.
- Construction of new solar arrays is **expected to begin in summer 2027** at Knapp Elementary (230kW) and McMeen Elementary (280kW), and those sites are expected to begin producing electricity in fall 2027.
- Gateway Elementary will receive a solar array (approximately 360kW) after construction, and staff are **finalizing plans and selecting schools** for the remaining funding to install about 770 kW of solar capacity by 2028.

Based on Xcel Energy's transition to renewable energy sources and the solar arrays DPS is adding, DPS expects to be close to meeting this goal.

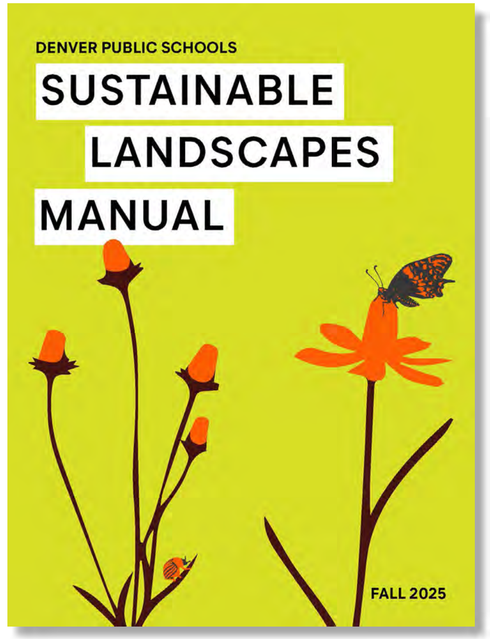


Rockin' & Rollin'

Grounds

Create Sustainable Landscape Standard & Implementation Plan

Sustainable landscapes save water, support learning, and help students build a positive relationship with nature. We are excited to share that the sustainable landscape implementation plan is complete!



The **Sustainable Landscapes Manual** is a how-to guide for transforming DPS landscapes into resilient, water-smart spaces. It provides tools and templates for choosing plants, improving soil, setting up irrigation, and caring for new plantings all to help make it easy to water, support learning, and bring nature back to campus.



The **Maintenance Manual** provides practical guidance for maintaining sustainable landscapes across school sites. It explains short-term and long-term maintenance needs by season.

Available to all in both English and Spanish, DPS will use the manuals to inform landscape projects and funding requests. **And schools are already putting these manuals into action!** At CEC Early College, students used them to inform the redesign of the landscape by the bus waiting area for their Climate Champions project.

To meet this goal, staff still need to incorporate the guidance from the manuals into DPS' maintenance and landscape standards.

Rockin' & Rollin'

Yellow Fleet

12% of buses are zero "tailpipe" emissions

Electric buses are quieter and less polluting than their diesel counterparts — so students, drivers, and the broader community all benefit.

There are currently three electric buses in DPS' yellow fleet, and we are proud to share that DPS procured 25 more through grant funding! The 25 e-buses are now in service for the 2026-2027 school year.

Twenty-six DC fast charge ports will charge the buses through a centralized power cabinet and small pedestal-style satellite chargers, which improves ease of charging for drivers and reduces maintenance costs through centralized and modular power equipment. To support fleet operations, DPS auto shop technicians received electric vehicle training to safely service the new buses.

Once the 25 new electric buses are operational and through fleet right-sizing efforts, DPS is expected to be 82% toward this goal.



2025-26

25

e-buses procured

Rockin' & Rollin'

Commuter

Create an incentive program to increase alternative modes of transportation to DPS locations

How students and staff get to school and work matters for climate, health, and community.

Every trip made by bike, on foot, through carpooling, or on public transit reduces pollution from vehicles while creating opportunities for physical activity and connection. DPS' goal is to develop incentives that make these alternatives easier and more accessible across the district.

This year, DPS supported alternative transportation in several ways:

- **Free transit for students:** Students continued to have access to free local public transit through RTD's Zero Fare for Youth program, removing cost as a barrier to using public transit.
- **Transit support for staff:** DPS provided approximately 450 free transit passes to eligible central support staff who face parking challenges at their worksites, helping staff access an alternative to driving.
- **Bike buses:** The Sustainability Team co-hosted a Bike Bus Summit with Denver's Department of Transportation & Infrastructure to connect schools and community partners, share what is working, and support the creation of additional bike buses across DPS.

DPS has begun building the pieces of an alternative transportation strategy, but the district-wide incentive program remains under development. **The next step is to translate what we are learning from transit users, bike buses, and schools into a program that makes it easier for more people to leave the car at home.**



What's a Bike Bus?

It's a group of students and adults who bike to school together along a set route — just like a bus.

There's a leader up front and in the back for safety, and riders can join anywhere along the route. The goal is to give students a safer, more comfortable way to bike to school while also building community and having fun!

> ***They're much more focused in the classroom, and they seem to have a much better day on the days that we get to ride.***
>
> *- Stephen, Cheltenham Elementary teacher*

Rockin' & Rollin'

Energy Management

Reduce energy (MMBtu) consumption by 15% from 2021 baseline

Being more thoughtful about our energy use allows us to reduce fossil-fuel pollution and enjoy lower energy costs.

A cleaner environment means better health for students, while lowering energy costs allows for investment in other areas like classrooms and buildings.

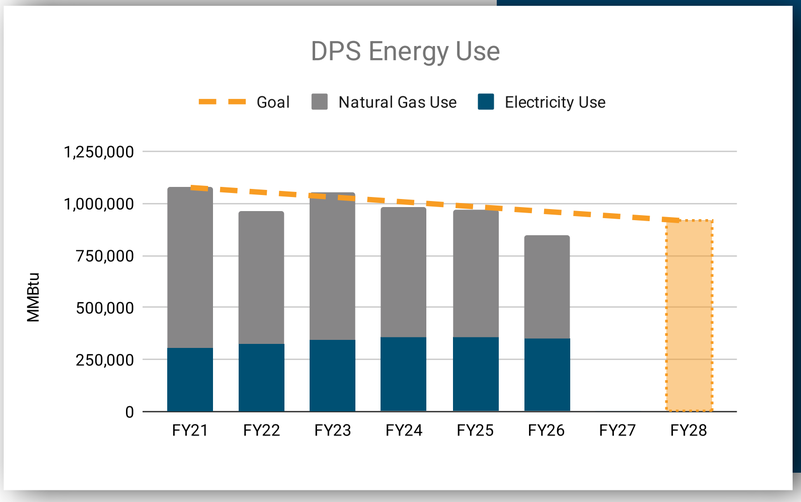
DPS reduced its energy use 21% from the 2021 baseline — which meets the Energy Management goal. But since FY26 had a mild winter requiring less energy for heating, **the challenge will be to maintain these energy savings when we experience a colder winter.**

DPS onboarded more schools onto the Fault Detection and Diagnostics (FDD) platform, which is a software that proactively identifies performance issues and energy waste in building equipment. During a three-month pilot, we repaired 63 issues at 16 schools, and those repairs will save DPS an estimated $124,000 in energy costs per year. Funding for FDD was provided by the 2024 Bond.

DPS continued energy management practices including:

- Real-time electricity monitoring with eGauges
- Building automation system alarms
- Control sequencing
- Occupancy scheduling
- Utility bill monitoring





Our generation's defining challenge with buildings is how to reduce energy use while adding air conditioning to battle rising temperatures.

While DPS has reduced energy usage significantly, we need to accelerate the adoption of energy-efficient technologies such as geothermal and heat pump systems, and more rigorously align our building's heating and cooling schedules with building occupancy schedules.

Rockin' & Rollin'

Waste Diversion

Ensure landfill diversion rate is at least 25%

Waste diversion is something every student and staffperson can participate in.

Reducing waste extends the life of landfills, recycling keeps reusable materials in circulation, and composting has the dual benefit of keeping food waste out of landfills and enriching soils.

DPS' waste diversion rate — the proportion of waste diverted from landfills by recycling or composting — is estimated to be 12.5% for FY26.

The Sustainability Team partnered with Arizona State University's College of Global Futures to reduce food waste and increase waste diversion in six school cafeterias. Staff leads received stipends to educate their school's students and staff about eliminating food waste. Participating schools completed a cafeteria waste audit, added "share tables" for unopened food, and added sorting stations in the cafeteria for recycling, composting, and landfilling.

This work shows how small changes with our lunch trays lead to big impact!





Waste Collected from DPS

7,400 tons of trash

870 tons of recycling

195 tons of compost

Because most DPS locations already have recycling, we are focusing on expanding composting beyond the 42 schools that already have it.

Cafeteria composting continues to roll out at a small but increasing scale across the district, but it needs to scale rapidly to meet our goal. Waste diversion is also challenged by the district's use of single-use serviceware in cafeterias, something that produces significant landfill waste.

Rockin' & Rollin'

Greenhouses

50% reduction in tomatoes purchased commercially to be produced by the Glenbrook Greenhouse

Where our food comes from and how it is produced are important parts of sustainability.

Glenbrook Greenhouse is nearing its production capacity, so realistically there is no expectation that this goal can be met without costly greenhouse expansion. Nevertheless, to continue supporting the intent of the goal, **staff will continue to balance local tomato production in the greenhouse with operational realities.**

IN FY26

16,000

pounds of tomatoes

harvested in the Glenbrook Greenhouse and purchased by DPS

making up

26%

of tomatoes purchased commercially



Rockin' & Rollin'

Gardens

100 gardens are active and produce 100 pounds or more of harvest per year

Gardens give students the space to grow fresh produce, spend time outdoors, and build a relationship with nature.

Not only are students learning more about where their food comes from, they are also able to cultivate skills by working in the school garden.

- **New active gardens** were created at Glenbrook Greenhouse, Dora Moore, Grant Ranch, and Florence Crittenton.
- The **first pocket forest** in the Front Range was installed at Marie Greenwood Academy in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, and SUGi. Volunteers **planted over 2,000 native and medicinal plants**, and the area will grow to mimic a natural forest ecosystem and clean the air.
- We are grateful for continued garden partnerships with community organizations including: Denver Urban Gardens, SustainEd Farms, Sprout City Farms, Jovial Concepts, and Colorado Master Gardeners.

IN 2025

85
active gardens
produced
100+
pounds of food



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Rockin' & Rollin'

Career Exploration

Of all students participating in work-based learning, 20% or more will explore/engage in activities that promote sustainability careers

We have a responsibility to prepare students for a world shaped by climate change and ensure they have the skills to be successful in the green economy.

This year 17% of all work-based learning programming was related to sustainability careers. This was done through career exploration, internships, and early work experiences offered by the Career and College Success Department.

The Career Development Team hosted its second **Electric Vehicle (EV) Academy** and taught 19 students in summer 2026 the knowledge and skills to pursue a career as an EV technician.

The team also hosted the **Renewable Energy Academy**, offering 21 students an opportunity to learn more about green energy careers and obtain a solar installation certificate. Both academies are funded by the Climate Protection Fund through Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency.

We encourage students to participate in these opportunities and reach out to their counselors for more information.

> ***My favorite part of the Renewable Energy Academy was going on the practice roof and installing the railing for the solar panels.***
>
> *- student participant*

THIS YEAR

17%

of all work-based learning was related to **sustainability**

THIS YEAR

19

students attended the EV Academy

21

students attended the Renewable Energy Academy



Rockin' & Rollin'

Outdoor Experiences

100% of schools incorporate an outdoor learning space in their academics

Outdoor experiences provide students with the opportunity to connect with nature, see in person the subjects they are learning about, and gain a larger worldview — all while getting fresh air.

87% of traditional DPS schools incorporated an outdoor learning space in their academics. This work is largely a result of partnerships with local environmental organizations such as Balarat Outdoor Education, SustainED Farms, and more.

87%

of traditional DPS schools **schools incorporated an outdoor learning space**



©Kalen Jesse Photography Co

I truly enjoyed every moment; this opportunity was a tremendous help to me — not just financially, but also professionally, personally, and emotionally.

- SustainEd Farms Summer Intern

We are thrilled that the Sustainability Team expanded its partnership with SustainED Farms!

Students at 47 schools got the opportunity to build a relationship with their school garden, learn about where their food comes from, understand the nutrition in the fruits and vegetables they grow, and give back to their community by donating some of the produce harvested from their school garden to local food pantries. **Students not only get their hands dirty but also gain the skills to build a healthy lifestyle.**

Rockin' & Rollin'

Eco-Schools Certification

25 schools have and maintain certification

Eco-Schools certification celebrates student-led climate action and environmental stewardship at schools, rewarding their efforts with national recognition and encouraging others to participate.

In total, 26 schools earned Eco-Schools certification this year: 13 schools received certification for the first time, and 13 additional schools recertified. DPS had the most Eco-Schools certifications in Colorado, and nationally only one state earned more certifications than DPS did as a district. Wow!

Although DPS already holds the most Eco-School certifications in the state, we want to keep going! As we work to increase the number of schools that get certified, we invite students to talk to their teachers about their desire for certification and staff to reach out to the Sustainability Team for help getting started.

THIS YEAR

26

schools earned Eco-Schools certification



Asbury Elementary has earned Eco-Schools certification twice, including the prestigious Green Flag, the top award!

How'd they do it? Students leveled up their waste diversion efforts (including composting, collecting hard-to-recycle items, and educating about contamination!), planted a pollinator garden, and completed an energy saving competition. And the Green Eagles club has made environmental action part of the school culture. Way to go!

> ***I'm gonna keep doing everything I can so that each year we can maybe get the green flag!***
>
> *- Quinn, Asbury Elementary student*

Rockin' & Rollin'

Community Engagement & Events

1 districtwide sustainability event per quarter

Community events offer meaningful opportunities for students and staff to lean into sustainability — no matter where they are on their sustainability journey — and capitalize on collective energy and interest.

We're proud to announce we met this goal with the following events:

- **Fall Garden Celebration**
- **Youth Unity Rising Summit**
- **Mini Environmental Film Festivals**
- **DPS STEAM Expo and North Denver Sustainability Fest**



Longer Journey

Electrification

Electrify 80% of the heating load for 10 buildings

DPS cannot meet its climate action goals without fundamentally changing how we heat and cool our buildings.

Heating is one of the largest sources of building-related carbon pollution, and every building that continues to rely on "natural" gas risks locking DPS into fossil-fuel use for decades.

Electrification is therefore not simply one sustainability strategy among many — it is central to the district's transition to reducing carbon pollution.

RASA continues to be DPS' first and only fully electrified school and remains the district's clearest example of what this transition can look like.

This year, Sustainability continued advancing electrification in both existing and new buildings:

- **Existing schools:** Staff continued optimizing heat pump operations at Carson Elementary, Stedman Elementary, and Denison Montessori, building operational experience with electric heating and cooling systems.
- **New construction:** Gateway Elementary is being designed as an all-electric school.
- **Existing-building retrofits:** Mosaic Campus Building #2 is being designed for a full electrification retrofit.
- **2024 Bond investments:** The Sustainability Team is working to ensure that schools receiving new heat pump systems through the bond are operated and optimized to maximize their electrification and energy benefits.
- **Future projects:** Schools receiving air conditioning in 2028 are being evaluated for opportunities to incorporate geothermal systems and move further toward full electrification.

But DPS is not currently on track to meet its electrification goal. While the number of schools using heat pumps is increasing, most buildings with heat pumps remain only partially electrified, meaning natural gas systems continue to provide some of the building's heating.



That distinction matters. Installing a heat pump is not the same as getting fossil fuels out of a building. To achieve the climate benefits envisioned in its Climate Action Plan, DPS needs to move from partial electrification toward full electrification wherever building conditions and project scope allow.

The Sustainability Team is therefore **pushing for a fundamental shift in how electrification is incorporated into capital projects**: prioritize full electrification in current projects, design future bond investments around the transition away from "natural" gas, and use each major heating and cooling investment as an opportunity to permanently reduce fossil-fuel dependence.

Longer Journey

Building Envelope

Commission two existing building envelopes and incorporate findings into future financial impact assessments

A well-designed building envelope improves occupant comfort and energy efficiency by keeping heat in during the winter and heat out during the summer.

Building envelope assessment studies are underway in seven existing buildings — an increase from the two that were originally planned as a result of favorable market conditions. **The studies will evaluate the building envelope and provide a prioritized strategy for improving them in a manner that conserves energy and makes them more resilient to extreme weather.**

The studies are expected to be completed in the following school year, and staff will incorporate findings into the 2028 capital planning process.



Longer Journey

SMART Buildings

Implement one fully SMART building, perform a cost-benefit analysis, and create a funding plan for additional SMART buildings.

SMART buildings give DPS the ability to see how our buildings are operating in real time and, importantly, use that information to improve energy performance, student and staff comfort, and maintenance.

RASA continues to meet DPS' definition of a SMART building, providing a working example of how connected building systems can support more responsive and efficient operations. DPS is also carrying this approach into new construction by designing Gateway Elementary as a SMART building.

We are learning that the value of these systems comes not simply from collecting data, but from having the people, processes, and resources to act on what the data tells us. For example, Fault Detection and Diagnostics (FDD) can identify mechanical problems and inefficiencies across a building. The financial, energy, and comfort benefits are only realized when DPS has the capacity to investigate those findings, make repairs, and verify that the improvements are delivering results.

The goal is to move from "smart" buildings that generate data to smart operations that use that data to continuously improve how our buildings perform.



DPS defines a **SMART building** as one that collects data from multiple systems and devices and shares that information so that action can be taken to improve operational efficiency, sustainability, decarbonization, health & occupant safety, and user experience.

Longer Journey

White Fleet

7% of buses are zero “tailpipe” emissions

DPS’ transition to a zero-emission white fleet has barely begun, but the infrastructure needed to accelerate that transition is now being built.

Electric vehicles eliminate tailpipe emissions, reducing local air pollution and helping DPS move toward its climate action goals.

One electric vehicle is operating in the white fleet, and no additional vehicles were added this year. While electric vehicle deployment remains limited, we made important progress in building the infrastructure and procurement pathways needed to scale electrification.

- **Charging infrastructure:** Construction began on electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the future electrification of the food runner fleet, which delivers meals to schools without kitchens.
- **Electric vehicle procurement:** Staff began procurement for two electric vans, establishing an initial pathway for replacing conventional fleet vehicles.
- **District-wide charging network:** DPS applied for funding through Xcel Energy’s Commercial EV Infrastructure Rebate Program to expand charging infrastructure at key locations across the district.
- **Long-term fleet transition:** Developing charging capacity across the district will remove one of the key barriers to future EV purchases and allow DPS to incorporate electric vehicles into fleet replacement decisions as vehicles reach the end of their useful lives.



Longer Journey

Water Conservation

Reduce water consumption by 15% from 2021 baseline

As climate changes makes droughts more frequent, water conservation plays an increasingly important part in the day-to-day function of DPS.

DPS used 565 million gallons of water in FY26. There was no reduction from the FY21 baseline.

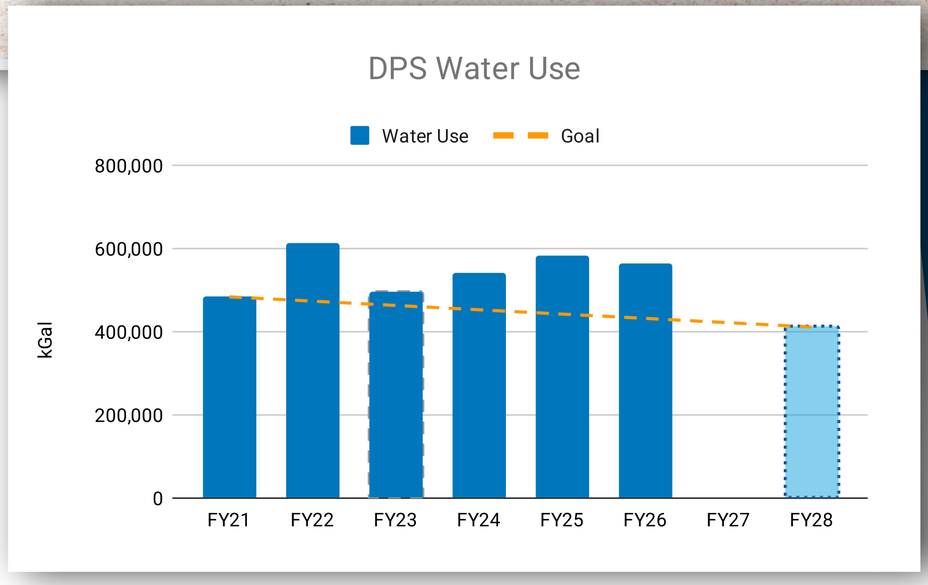
DPS uses about 80% of its water outdoors to maintain landscapes and about 20% indoors through fixtures like toilets, urinals, and sinks. Denver was placed on drought restrictions in spring 2026 after the winter's historically low snowpack. Summer 2025 and spring and summer 2026 were very hot and dry and placed significant stress on landscapes and increased their watering needs.

While no water savings were achieved, significant work happened to set the foundation for future water conservation.

We are thrilled to share that DPS began installing smart irrigation controllers district-wide with funding from the 2024 Bond, and DPS was also **awarded a $2.3 million grant** from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to support the smart irrigation system rollout and to repair the issues identified by the smart irrigation controllers!

We are determined to leverage our resources to meet this goal despite the challenges we've faced so far.





Longer Journey

Sustainability Curriculum

STUDENTS: 100% of schools have at least 1 annual sustainability project-based learning opportunity

To prepare students for a world shaped by climate change, DPS is integrating sustainability into school curriculum across grade levels and connecting students to careers in the ever-changing green economy.

All traditional high schools had a sustainability project-based learning opportunity available to students that was embedded into district-managed curriculum in English 2 and Civics. This means we are 16% toward the goal.

The Civics unit, called The Power of Protest, teaches about first amendment rights and using climate action planning to promote civic engagement and earn the Seal of Climate Literacy.

The English Application unit teaches students to research a local climate issue and design an action plan that can be implemented to help earn the Seal of Climate Literacy.

Staff plan to meet this goal by creating additional in-classroom opportunities to provide sustainability project-based learning in a renewable energy unit for elementary schools and a social studies unit for middle schools.

Sourcing

Embed sustainable practices in all procurement policies including "end of life planning"

Staff began identifying the district's purchases that have the greatest waste and carbon emissions, and staff will work next year to develop a sustainable procurement plan.





Climate Champions Program Supports Student-Led Action

The Sustainability Team partnered with Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency on the third year of the Climate Champions Grant Program, which provided over $205,000 for 13 student-led climate action projects.

This program provides students opportunities to solve real-world challenges within their community, develop leadership skills, and foster creative solutions to climate change.



400 Students Earn The Seal of Climate Literacy

Four hundred students from 20 high schools received the Seal of Climate Literacy diploma endorsement this year, which is more than double the number of recipients from last year!

These students proved they have the skills to be leaders in the green workforce and are ready to bring solutions to the problems posed by climate change.

Teachers are beginning to incorporate the seal's project requirement into a variety of academic contents, which helps the seal become more accessible to students and helps students see that climate change is relevant across multiple disciplines.

Longer Journey

Sustainability Curriculum

STAFF: 50% of science teachers participate in an annual professional development on climate and sustainability

Because climate intersects many school subjects, it's important teachers have a strong grasp of climate principles.

Staff are working to create virtual professional learning opportunities on climate change for middle and high school science teachers.

Staff expects the rollout to occur within the next two years so progress on this goal can be made.



Longer Journey

Environmental Justice

100% of schools have an action-based pledge toward continuously addressing environmental justice

Students advocated for environmental justice to be a key part of the district's climate action plan as data demonstrates climate change disproportionately impacts young people, people of color, and people in poverty.

While no environmental justice pledges were submitted this year, we built a process for meeting this goal. **An advisory committee was created and was made up of high school students, Sustainability Team staff, and environmental justice professionals.** The committee prioritized student voice and created a pledge template, and the students advocated for environmental justice pledges to both the superintendent and Board of Education.

The committee intends to have school leaders fill out the environmental justice pledge template over the next two years.



Longer Journey

Nutrition Services

Develop a comprehensive nutrition education plan to be used at 100% of schools for all grade levels

What we eat has a major impact on the climate and our health. The Sustainability Team partnered with SustainED Farms to provide comprehensive nutrition education at 47 schools.

This education was with students four times per year in their school garden, and funding came through a partnership with Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency. Staff are developing a plan to expand to more schools to meet this goal.



47
schools with nutrition education

YOUR CLIMATE ACTION

Climate *action* is an antidote to climate *anxiety* — and the best part is that there's no single "right" way to take action, so everyone can do something.

Your starting point is where these three questions come together, so find that intersection and *go for it!*



Adapted from the Climate Action Venn Diagram by Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.

Here are concrete actions you can take to make a difference:

1 Talk about climate change.

Talk with your friends and family about why climate change matters to you, how you have been impacted by climate change, and what actions you are taking to advocate for change. This normalizes conversations about climate. Invite folks into the conversation rather than calling out.

2 Demand policies and initiatives that protect the climate.

Hold elected officials — like your school board — accountable to climate action and tell them why climate change matters to you and what you expect them to do for a livable future. And vote, whether at the ballot box, with your voice, or with your wallet.



3 Get involved with climate action.

Whether you are a student, parent, or educator, there are many ways to get involved with climate action at DPS today:

- **Demand more:** Advocate at Board of Education meetings or to your school leaders. Use the data in this report as your guide.
- **Join the movement:** Get involved with Earth Rangers, DPS Students for Climate Action, or your school's sustainability club.
- **Stay informed:** Follow DPS' climate action on Instagram (@dps_sustainabilty) and YouTube (@DPS_Sustainability).
- **Do something:** Review Denver's list of simple sustainable actions you can take (available in both English and Spanish).

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | Sustainability

No tagline. Just action.

Get Started

