

<b>Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.</b>	
File ID Number	20-1789
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Enactment Number	
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# Memo

**To** Board of Education

**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
 Jody London, Board President Shanthi Gonzales, Board Vice President  
 Tadashi Nakadegawa, Acting Deputy Chief of Facilities Brendan  
 Havenar-Daughton, Energy & Sustainability Manager

**Board Meeting Date** September 23, 2020

**Subject** Resolution No. 2021-0081 - Oakland Unified School District Climate  
 Emergency Action Resolution

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**Action Requested** Approval by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2021-0081 - First  
 Read - Review and discuss proposed Board Resolution – Oakland  
 Unified School District (OUSD) Climate Emergency Action Resolution.

**Discussion** In acknowledgement of our students’ urgent demand for equitable and  
 just climate action and in concert with student voices from around the  
 world, the Climate Emergency Action Resolution presented herewith  
 declares a climate emergency and commits the District to immediate  
 action.

It is evident that our changing climate is negatively impacting the  
 District’s operations and compromising student outcomes. Excessive  
 heat, wildfire smoke, and power outages related to climate change will  
 continue to reduce the actual number instructional days and adversely  
 impact our students’ ability to learn in a healthy and safe environment.  
 The recurrent blanket of toxic smoke over Oakland and much of the  
 west coast is testament to this reality, as were the Public Safety Power  
 Shutoffs in 2019, closing many of our schools for days on end.

We have now blown through the record of hazardous air quality days,  
 compounding the long-standing air quality crisis already experienced  
 by the most vulnerable and least-advantaged members of our  
 community. Many of our students live and go to school in  
 neighborhoods that continue to be disproportionately impacted by  
 environmental pollution. This Resolution is grounded in our values of  
 equity and justice and specifically highlights the critical need to keep

the concerns of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) central to this work.

Apart from the paramount issue of protecting human health, the District stands to reduce waste, cut expenses and even generate revenue from many of the “climate actions” that will be detailed in the forthcoming Board Policy and Sustainability Plan.

Oakland Unified School District has a long history of action on different aspects of sustainability. This includes work involving facilities, buildings and grounds, custodial services, nutrition, and student instruction. Most recently the Board passed BP 6142.5, 2 Environmental and Climate Change Literacy, recognizing that Climate Change is the greatest threat facing future generations, and that education plays a critical role in preparing future citizens to be actively engaged in working together to create solutions to this crisis. In alignment with this goal, this Climate Emergency Action Resolution calls for the identification of specific opportunities for student engagement in sustainability planning and implementation activities for the purpose of curriculum enhancement within and outside of the classroom. Furthermore, it acknowledges that Oakland’s students must be afforded genuine agency to help lead society’s commitment to, and implementation of urgent climate action.

The intent of this Resolution is to declare an emergency and establish an OUSD Task Force and Community Sustainability Advisory Council to work collaboratively to define and implement an equitable and just Climate Action and Sustainability Planning process. This process serves as a road map for drafting a Climate Action and Sustainability Board Policy. The proposed approach to the planning process can be described in three phases:

- Phase One - Climate Emergency Action Resolution
- Phase Two - Climate Action and Sustainability Board Policy
- Phase Three - Sustainability Plan

The Timeline for this work is proposed below:

Phase One - (Resolution) - Initiated in August; First Read September 23rd; Board Approval October 28th (2020) Phase Two - (Policy) - November 2020 through April 2021 (target board meeting closest to earth day (April 2022) for approval) Phase Three - (Administrative Requirements/Plan) - April 2021 - April 2022

## **Recommendation**

The current ecological crisis -- heat waves, fires, floods, and other extreme weather events -- attributable to the changing climate and its adverse impact on district operations and student outcomes underscores the need for OUSD to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. While there are several programs and

initiatives in place throughout the district, there is opportunity to better embed and coordinate these activities across all departments. OUSD is presented with an opportunity to bring together and build upon current sustainability efforts across the District through the creation of a comprehensive Sustainability Plan. The District should join other school districts and local governments in California and across the country in declaring a climate emergency and committing to immediate action.

Passage of this Climate Emergency Action Resolution will approve the establishment of an Interdepartmental Task Force and Sustainability Advisory Committee responsible for developing a Climate Action and Sustainability board policy and ultimately, a comprehensive District-wide Sustainability Plan.

**Fiscal Impact**

This work can be accomplished by current staff. A core part of the policy and plan will be to identify funding opportunities for improvements and utility and waste disposal cost savings.

**Attachments**

Attachment A: Map of CalEnviroScreen Disadvantaged Communities and Oakland Unified School District Schools

Attachment B: Timeline of Sustainability Initiatives in OUSD

Attachment C: Overview of OUSD Climate Action and Sustainability Planning Approach

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**OF THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 2021-0081**

**Oakland Unified School District Climate Emergency Action**

**WHEREAS**, there is scientific consensus that the extraction and burning of fossil fuels is the major driver of the climate crisis; and that the current level of carbon pollution in the atmosphere is causing climate threats already adversely impacting health, food security, water supply, human security, and economic stability; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a generational justice, human rights, social justice and equity issue; and “climate neglect” has resulted in real harm to the physical and emotional well-being of young people; and

**WHEREAS**, we are already experiencing the lethal effects of climate change including prolonged heat waves, drought, wildfires and sea-level rise; and,

**WHEREAS**, excessive heat, wildfire smoke, and power outages related to climate change will continue to reduce the number of instructional days and adversely impact our students’ ability to learn in a healthy and safe environment,

**WHEREAS**, environmental racism has subjected Oakland’s Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities, to more severe negative impacts on their health and wellbeing from air pollution and hotter temperatures caused by climate change; and,

**WHEREAS**, racist redlining tactics have rendered residents in East and West Oakland to be exposed to five times the toxic emissions levels compared to increasingly gentrified parts of Oakland, making community members more susceptible to asthma, other respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, and premature death,

**WHEREAS**, nearly a third of asthma cases and other respiratory illnesses in California are due to poor air quality due to burning fossil fuels and other pollution, and 18% of Oakland’s

youth have asthma - a leading cause for school absenteeism associated with achievement gaps; and,

**WHEREAS**, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of effectively addressing the climate crisis calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland has joined the global effort to combat climate change by declaring a climate emergency in 2018 and committing to the 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 56% by 2030 compared to 2005 emission levels; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board recently passed BP 6142.5, Environmental and Climate Change Literacy, recognizing that Climate Change is the greatest threat facing future generations, and that education plays a critical role in preparing future citizens to be actively engaged in working together to create solutions to this crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board acknowledges that Oakland's students and their community must be afforded genuine agency to help lead society's commitment to, and implementation of urgent climate action, because student voice, student opinion and student action is critical to effectively combating the climate crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, OUSD is committed to principles of equity, justice and inclusion, and transitioning to 100% clean energy and expanding ecologically sustainable practices can help advance these goals by a) saving money that can be invested into under-resourced schools, b) improving indoor air quality, which results in better learning outcomes, c) helping to address climate change, which disproportionately harms low-income communities and communities of color and d) creating multidisciplinary learning opportunities; e) expanding community resiliency, and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Red Cross, school facilities comprise over 50% of emergency shelters, and OUSD's investment in solar plus battery storage could serve the dual purpose of keeping schools operational during power outages and expanding community resiliency during crises; and

**WHEREAS**, energy-related expenses are the largest non-personnel expenditure in school district budgets (according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), and savings from energy costs can be redirected into classrooms and student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Unified School District intends to build on the accomplishments of our ongoing efforts aligned with ecological sustainability, including but not limited to:

1. Designing and building ecologically sustainable schools and facilities by adhering to the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) standards; and
2. Investment in energy efficient lighting and high efficiency building systems; and,
3. The installation of 4.7 MW of solar photovoltaic systems installed at 16 sites throughout the district; and,
4. In 2013 OUSD became a priority school district with StopWaste in a Partnership Resolution that adopts the county's waste diversion goals; and,
5. Developed and implemented a comprehensive district wide food share program and a donation program that provides surplus food to our students, families and communities.
6. The Board Resolution No. 1314-1109 authorizing and adopting a Shared Operational Savings and Green Revolving Fund program.

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland Unified School District has a long history of tackling society's deeply rooted systemic challenges through innovative and creative solutions that put students first, and thus OUSD is uniquely positioned to lead by example and establish bold goals and adopt paradigm-shattering commitments to climate action that influence and inspire other organizations, school districts and public agencies to prioritize climate action; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board declares a climate emergency and recognizes its direct and immediate threat to our students, families, schools, city, region, state, nation, and all of humanity; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board establishes the goal of achieving 100% clean electricity by 2030 and phasing out the use of fossil fuels by 2040. This goal represents a bold step toward becoming a carbon-neutral school district - one that off-sets or avoids all carbon pollution generated by our operations; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board requests the Superintendent to establish an Interdepartmental Task Force of appropriate Department heads, or their senior deputies, and OUSD Sustainability Managers, that will develop a Climate Action and Sustainability Board Policy that describes a holistic and equitable sustainability planning process focused on the areas of energy, water, waste, transportation, facilities, schoolyards, purchasing, curriculum integration, climate adaptation and the implementation of a sustainability revolving fund. The Task Force will coordinate and document interdepartmental sustainability efforts in collaboration with the Sustainability Advisory Council (outlined below), which will be made publicly available. The overall objective of these two bodies shall be to propose a final District-wide Sustainability Plan for Board approval within twelve months of the approval of related Board Policy. The Task Force

shall meet on a monthly basis during the policy development phase, to collect relevant data, identify strategies, prioritize actions, set goals and ensure accountability, and shall report on its progress before the OUSD board and to the Advisory Council, at least twice per academic year; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent or appointed staff establish the Sustainability Advisory Council that includes representation of parents, teachers, students, environmental/climate justice representatives and subject matter experts to help inform the creation and implementation of the associated Climate Action and Sustainability board policy and subsequent Sustainability Plan. The Advisory Council shall be convened at least four times per academic year to discuss progress on related planning and implementation activities. For purposes of continuity, Advisory Council members shall agree to serve for one-year, renewable terms; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sustainability Plan shall acknowledge and align with the goals set forth with the District's existing ecological, financial and social sustainability related board policies, agreements and resolutions such as Board Resolution No. 1314-1109 (Shared Operational Savings and Green Revolving Fund program, 2014) by establishing a revolving fund that captures financial savings from sustainability projects and reinvests in sustainability priorities; and Board Policy 6142.5 (Environmental and Climate Change Literacy, 2019), by identifying specific opportunities for student engagement in planning and implementation activities for the purpose of curriculum enhancement within and outside of the classroom; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board encourages the Interdepartmental Task Force and the Sustainability Advisory Council to seek partnerships with local student environmental and social justice groups, business leaders, nonprofits, and government agencies and organizations to promote climate education in our classrooms, ecologically sustainable practices in district operations, and to focus on climate-resilient district decision-making; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Superintendent to designate the OUSD Sustainability Managers as liaisons to the City of Oakland's Environmental Service Division to coordinate OUSD Sustainability Plan activities with the City of Oakland's Equitable Climate Action Plan, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board commits to keeping the concerns of Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), frontline and marginalized communities central in the planning process and implementation of the OUSD Climate Action and Sustainability Board Policy and Sustainability Plan; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that climate injustice is racial injustice, and the Board believes that climate solutions must advance racial and environmental justice in alignment with the leadership of Black Lives Matter and the Movement for Black Lives; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board does hereby urges Congress to take swift and effective action to fight climate change; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Executive Assistant & Parliamentarian to the Board to transmit official copies of this resolution to the Alameda County Office of Education, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the President of the State Board of Education, the California School Boards Association, the National School Boards Association, the District's state and national representatives in Sacramento and Washington D.C., and the Schools for Climate Action campaign.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District this 23rd day of September 2020; by the following vote, to wit:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NAY:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTAINED:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on October 14, 2020.

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**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Jody London President, Board of Education

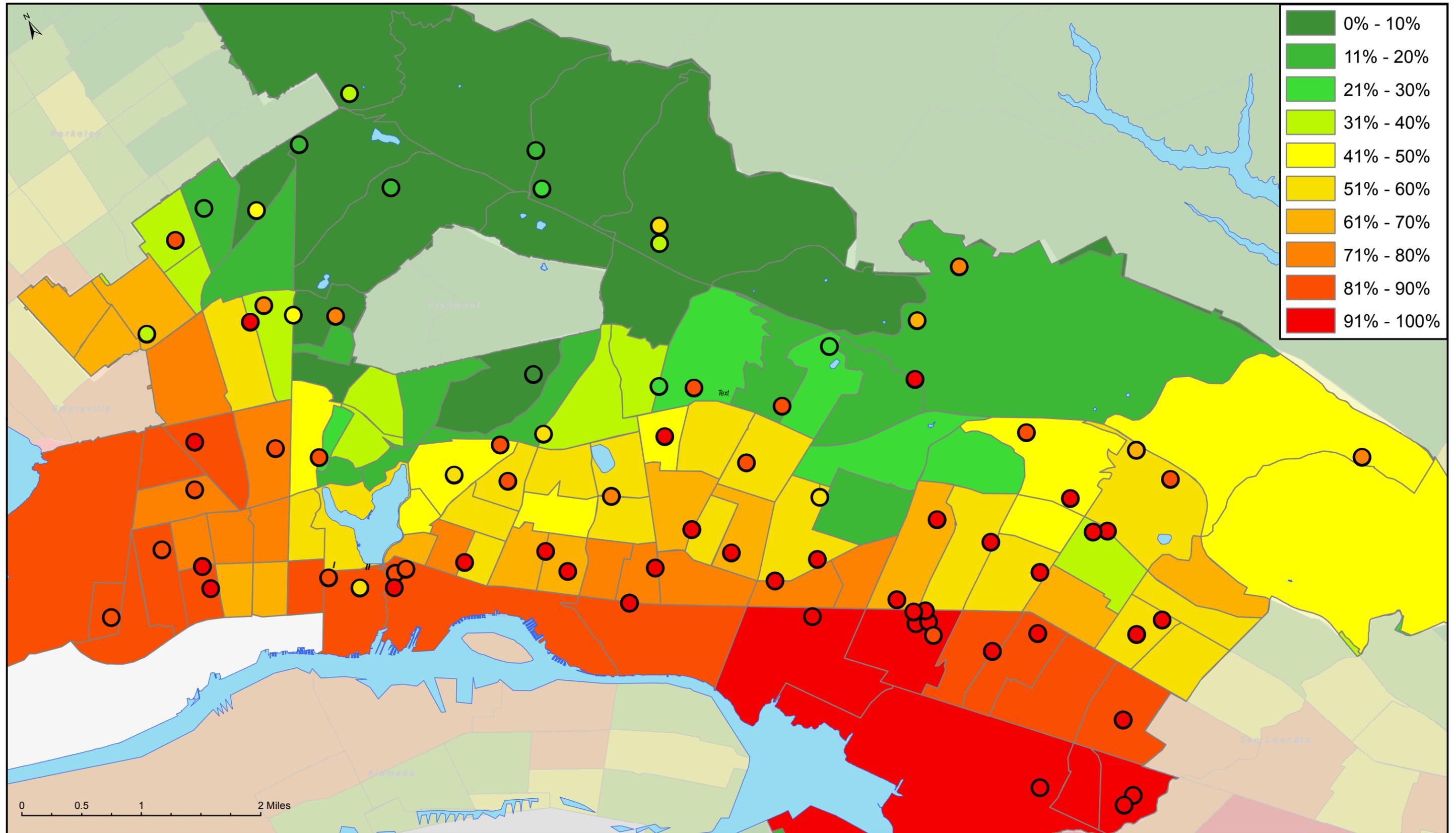
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Kyla Johnson-Trammell Superintendent and  
Secretary, Board of Education



# 2018 District-Run Schools: % LCFF Student (Foster, English Learners, Free or Reduced Lunch Eligible)

## Oakland Census Tracts: California Communities Environmental Health Screening Pecentage



California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) source: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>  
CalEnviroScreen identifies California communities in 2018 by census tract that are disproportionately burdened by, and vulnerable to, multiple sources of pollution.

## **Environmental Sustainability Initiatives in Oakland Unified School District**

2006: Measure B, \$435 million facilities bond

2007: Board adopts Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) as standard for school facilities projects. Board also adopts energy efficiency policy.

2009: Chabot Elementary portable replacement project is first in California to receive matching grants for being green verified. Today Oakland Unified is one of the districts with the most CHPS verified schools in California.

2009: Board adopts policy on vegetation management, governing roles, responsibilities, and planting lists for school gardens. (This policy will be incorporated into living schoolyards administrative regulation, hopefully in 2020.)

2009: Nutrition Services establishes a food donation program with two local nonprofits to be recipients to our meal programs surplus food from 4 schools.

2009: Custodial Services adds an award to their annual recognition program for custodial staff, Green Gloves Award, to recognize a leader custodian for their engaged and innovative involvement in their schools waste sorting program.

2009: Custodial Services hosts their first and annual Green Gloves Symposium that encompasses professional development, a panel discussion of engaged custodians and training on specifics to school waste sorting program.

2009: Custodial Services initiates OUSD Green Gloves Program that focuses on waste reduction and sorting programs for our schools and facilities.

2010: Nutrition Services takes on the Green Gloves Program in a partnership with Custodial Services.

2011: Board stops approving contracts for styrofoam in food services program, effectively ending use of styrofoam trays. Nutrition Services switches over to compostable trays.

2011: OUSD wins [Golden Bell award](#) from California School Board Association (CSBA) for Green Gloves cafeteria composting program

2012: Measure J facilities bond (\$475 million) includes funds for solar panels, new central kitchen with adjacent 1-acre educational farm.

2012: Nutrition Services replaces plastic wrapped spork kit district wide with dispensers for utensils and napkins and not replacing the straw.

2013: OUSD becomes a priority school district with StopWaste in a [Partnership Resolution](#) that adopts the county's waste diversion goals.

2013-Green California Schools and Community College recognition for our Green Gloves Program with a Student Engagement Award

2014 (ish): OUSD wins CSBA Golden Bell Award for Wellness Champion program

2014-2015: Solar panels installed at 16 sites across the district. 4.6 MW.

2015-2019: OUSD receives \$xx million in Prop 39 energy efficiency grants from the California Energy Commission. Funds are used for \_\_\_\_\_.

2015: OUSD becomes a member of USGBC Center for Green Schools, [School Sustainability Leaders Network](#).

January 2016: Environmental Justice Caucus (EJC) of the OEA is formed, a group of educators to promote and share resources about teaching environmental and climate literacy.

2016: La Escuelita Education Center wins awards for net zero energy design, [ZNE School Leadership Awards](#)

2016: Nutrition Services expands Food Share bins to be in cafeterias district wide that includes promotion of Take it to Go! Program.

2017: OUSD becomes a founding member of the [National Green Schools Alliance](#) District Collaborative.

2018 - OUSD partnered with StopWaste, LVJUSD and Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's League on a Smart Cafeteria Initiative. This program, funded in part by a \$500,000 grant from CalRecycle, focused on programs to reduce wasted food through prevention, food share, re-serving, and donation of surplus to those in need.

June 2018: OUSD joins We Are Still In Coalition, affirming support for Paris Climate Accord. Board directs Superintendent to develop new policy on living schoolyards and updated policy on environmental education that includes climate literacy for all graduates.

2018: Trust for Public Land and the Rose Foundation receive grants from California Climate Investment fund for living schoolyard projects at six schools.

2018: Partnership with [KidScoop](#) is started with providing waste reduction and sorting content in their newspapers that are provided to selected elementary schools.

2018: Collaboration with StopWaste in creating [How to Sort Cafeteria Waste at School video](#).

February 2019: Board adopts policies on living schoolyards, environmental education.  
[OUSD Environmental Climate Change Literacy](#)

2019: Board directs Superintendent to develop an environmentally preferable purchasing policy. This should come to the Board in fall 2020.

2020: Central Kitchen is completed.

Resources:

[OUSD Environmental Climate Change Literacy](#)

[OUSD Green Gloves Nutrition Services webpages](#)

[Exploring and Celebrating the Earth-Distance Learning Curated Resources](#)

[StopWaste Schools Program](#)

[KidScoop 2018-19](#)

[KidScoop 2019-2020](#)

[Sharing the Table: A Roadmap to Reducing and Recovering Surplus Food in Schools](#)

# Overview of OUSD Climate Action and Sustainability Planning Approach

A truly just planning process requires all voices to be lifted up, most importantly those voices from Black, Indigenous, Communities of Color (BIPOC) that have consistently been silenced throughout the entirety of US History.

The proposed approach to the creation of an equitable and just Climate Action and Sustainability Planning process can be described in three phases.

## Phase One - OUSD Climate Emergency Action Resolution

This Resolution is high level and intentionally defers the work of strategic planning and goals-setting to the policy development phase in order to allow for deep and meaningful stakeholder engagement. The intent of this Resolution is to declare an emergency and establish an OUSD Task Force and Community Sustainability Advisory Council to work hand-in-hand to define and implement an equitable and just planning process.

*In Summary the Resolution:*

- Declares Climate Emergency
- Establishes Interdepartmental Task Force
- Establishes Sustainability Advisory Council
- Sets a concrete goal to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2030 and phasing out the use of fossil fuels by 2040 (this is the only goal called out in the Resolution as it is central to climate action)
  - Highlights the need to keep the concerns of Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), frontline and marginalized communities central in the planning process and implementation

## Phase Two - OUSD Climate Action and Sustainability Board Policy

This policy will present the vision of OUSD's Climate Action and Sustainability Activities. The policy will provide high-level direction and establish overarching sustainability goals. The policy will be created by the OUSD Task Force and Community Sustainability Advisory Council, working in collaboration. Prior to the drafting of this board policy, these bodies will define an equitable and just policy planning process to guide policy development.

*In Summary, the Policy will:*

- Establish OUSD's vision for climate action and sustainability work
- Establish high-level goals for each area of this work as described in the Resolution
- Provide a general framework for related implementation activities
- Be developed in partnership with Oakland's extensive network of community based organizations, especially those serving BIPOC members
  - Be fully vetted by the general public and by all corners of OUSD's community of stakeholders
  - Will provide a road map for comprehensive and robust sustainability planning at the district level

## Phase Three - Sustainability Plan / Administrative Regulations

This plan (AKA Administrative Regulation) will serve as OUSD's comprehensive implementation plan related to climate action and sustainability. It will be the single resource containing all of OUSD's sustainability goals, strategies, implementation timelines, funding considerations, etc. The Interdepartmental Task Force and Sustainability Advisory Council should be proactively proposing updates to this plan on a regular basis which will inform the formal board-approved updates every two years.

## Timeline

Phase One - (Resolution) - Initiated in August; First Read September 23rd; Board Approval October 28th (2020)

Phase Two - (Policy) - November 2020 through April 2021 (target board meeting closest to earth day (4/22) for approval)

Phase Three - (Plan) - April 2021 - April 2022