



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Gail Pinsker
310.450.8338, ext. 70230
gpinsker@smmusd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2019

Board of Education Adopts Sustainability Plan to Guide District Conservation Efforts

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education has approved the [District Sustainability Plan](#), which provides a strategic roadmap for formalizing and uniting the District's many existing sustainability initiatives and integrates sustainability into student learning and District operations. The plan is organized into eight focus areas:

- **Climate:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the local environment.
- **Education and Engagement:** Integrate sustainability education into the curriculum and improve environmental literacy.
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewables:** Install energy efficient systems and use clean, renewable energy.
- **Water:** Conserve water and eliminate water waste in buildings and on landscaping.
- **Solid Waste:** Reduce, reuse and recycle in classrooms and all school operations.
- **Transportation:** Convert to environmentally friendly fuels, carpool and walk / bike to schools.
- **Food, Nutrition and Wellness:** Serve healthy, nutritious and locally grown foods.
- **Green Buildings & Operations:** Set standards for nontoxic, energy efficient and local building materials.

The plan, approved at a regular school board meeting on March 21, 2019, had been in development for more than a year, and aligns multiple sustainable efforts that date back to 2010.

The new plan included input from students, faculty, staff, parents and the larger Santa Monica and Malibu communities. It is in line with efforts also being undertaken by the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica.

Board of Education President Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein lauded the extensive work that went into what he called a comprehensive plan. "This plan is the right thing to do for our communities locally and the environment globally. It's a plan so thorough that other districts will use it as a benchmark," he said.

The district is working with fiscal staff to come up with specific budgets for the major programs that require funding. Most of the projects outlined are cost neutral, including those that are paid for with grants, cost savings, or involve staff time.

-more-

Cause for celebration: On April 30, the district will be presented with an Excellence Award in Stewardship of the Environment as part of the Sustainable Quality Awards, an annual program that is a joint project of the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, and Sustainability Works.

- The District Sustainability Plan can be found here: [SMMUSD Sustainability Plan](#)
- Stay informed regarding the district's sustainability actions: Follow @BeGreenSMMUSD on Twitter and the [Sustainability](#) webpage.

Written by: Chris Clonts, communications specialist

#

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1651 16TH Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404
ph: 310.450.8338; fax: 310.581.1138
www.smmusd.org Follow us on Twitter: @SMMUSD