Sustainability at DCSD
Guide to Getting Started at Your School

Through green school environments, we can improve student health, reduce school operational costs, and lessen our impact on the environment. If you have any ideas for implementing sustainable practices, feel free to contact us!

Waste Reduction
All DCSD schools offer single-stream recycling and a third compost on-site. We can support getting started and helping to educate staff and students to ensure we divert the maximum amount of waste.

- **Waste Management** offers single-stream recycling throughout the district. They accept plastic bottles & containers, food & beverage cans, paper, flattened cardboard & paperboard, and food and beverage cartons. They do not accept food waste, plastic bags, foam cups or containers, or needles.
- **Red Apple Recycling** provides a little red school house and supports clothing drives to raise money for schools. In 15-16, 20 schools diverted 127,298 pounds of textiles from the landfill while earning $5,136 for their efforts!
- **TerraCycle** is a great way to raise money, as well, through sending in hard to recycle items in their brigades.
- **Crayola ColorCycle**: Recycles markers of all kinds.

Healthy Living
55 schools have gardens, schoolyard habitats, and/or outdoor learning areas to give students opportunities to learn in nature! We also have two staff-operated vegetable gardens in Transportation and Nutrition Services. Our office can support the process of establishing a garden (through O&M procedures) and provides resources for incorporating gardens into the curriculum.

If you want to start a garden, or need help with an existing garden, contact us.

Energy Conservation
Energy reduction campaigns improve the physical environment for our students while saving money. By pursuing the appropriate lighting levels and avoiding over- or under- lit areas, we create healthier learning environments. This has an impact on student performance, reduces absenteeism, and enhances student and staff attitudes.

- Eco-Schools USA provides an excellent framework to address any number of environmental issues. This program has supported many of our teachers by providing best practices in engaging students toward more sustainable schools. Many DCSD teachers find it very useful. Go to [www.eco-schoolsusa.org](http://www.eco-schoolsusa.org) to get started.

Transportation
Working with our bus drivers, the District has been able to clear the air and save roughly $30,000 by reducing the amount of time our yellow fleet (buses) idle. Efforts are now underway to spread this work to DCSD’s white fleet.

- **Clean Air Engines OFF!** (CASEO) offers funding and support for implementing no-idle zones. Upon completion of the program, schools receive $500.
- **SchoolPool** is great website to facilitate carpooling.
- **Safe Routes to School** has resources for implementing bike or walk to school initiatives.

Tool Library
We maintain a few tools that you can “check out” to facilitate your sustainability initiatives.

- **Light Meters**: These are used as you conduct your energy audit to discover whether the rooms in your school are maintaining appropriate lighting levels.
- **E-Meters**: For students to measure how much energy individual appliances are using.
- **Scales**: For use during waste audits, you can check one out to help weigh each waste stream.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
sustainability@dcsdk12.org
Facebook: Sustain DCSD
Twitter: @sustainDCSD

Newsletter: [https://www.smore.com/hy310-sustain-dcsd](https://www.smore.com/hy310-sustain-dcsd)
Internal Website: [https://sites.google.com/a/dcsdk12.org/sustainability-and-energy-management/](https://sites.google.com/a/dcsdk12.org/sustainability-and-energy-management/)