

Climate Crisis Response Policy

Policy Committee Meeting
May 10, 2021

General Comments & Feedback

- **Nutrition Services**
 - Language seems too narrow for a policy. Can we make it more broad with room for creativity?
 - i.e. Create overarching carbon and/or waste reduction goals for NS and then have staff come up with implementation plan in AD
 - Goal 1.2 is a good example of high level language
- **Purchasing**
 - Language is very specific. Policies are more difficult to update. AD can be more easily updated and can best fit the needs that are ever changing in this district.
 - Anything related to purchasing of goods should only apply to centralized purchases over a certain dollar threshold.
- **Transportation**
 - Very supportive, but will need more funding for implementation
- **Grounds**
 - Worried about increased maintenance of grounds (will need more staff or more funding for contractors)

Goal 1.1 (#8)

Include infrastructure for reusable trays, utensils, and milk dispensers at new schools and add infrastructure for reusable trays and utensils in schools where feasible.

- Nutrition Services
 - There are significant barriers to milk dispensers
 - Reusable trays and utensils required at elementary & middle schools only (high schools are open campus and only 25% of students eat school lunch)
 - Some sites do not have dishwashers (due to lack of space and/or electrical capacity).
 - NS would like this to be more broad (i.e. “NS will strive to reduce waste and single use plastics in the kitchen and cafeteria”)

Goal 1.2 (#2)

Establish standardized systems for waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and food waste in all campuses.

- Facilities Operations
 - Will need additional funds to purchase standard waste bins and signage district-wide
- Nutrition Services
 - Very supportive

Goal 1.3 (#1)

Maximize onsite stormwater infiltration capacity using techniques such as installing bioswales, rain gardens, de-paving projects, eco-roofs, and other stormwater management measures, in preparation for intense rain and potential flooding, while maintaining accessibility for those who use wheelchairs or need other walking assistance.

- Grounds
 - Current bioswale contract would need additional funding to cover new sites, retrofits, and maintenance
 - Would also need to expand scope to help establish and maintain eco-roofs and other green infrastructure and stormwater management facilities.

Goal 1.3 (#2)

Phase out gas powered equipment used for grounds maintenance.

- Grounds
 - Limitations to electric leaf blowers
 - The batteries don't last long enough (90 minutes at full power)
 - 3x the cost (Gas models are \$500-700). Would need more funding.

Goal 1.3 (#3)

Decrease water consumption and phase out the use of pesticides and herbicides.

- Grounds
 - All pesticides and herbicides used are on the EPA approved list.
 - If we phased out all chemicals, we would need funding to hire a larger crew or contract out.

Goal 1.3 (#4)

Increase shade trees, pollinator habitats, and de-pave projects, with highest priority in low-canopy neighborhoods.

- Grounds
 - Will need additional staff and/or contract to take care of new trees
 - PPS Grounds currently waters 120 new trees
 - Pollinator habitats might need to be taken out of the policy due to health risks (attracting bees)

Goal 1.4 (#2)

Transition PPS and contracted vehicle fleet to electric or low emissions, renewable fuels, based on a vehicle life-cycle evaluation of carbon impact.

- Transportation
 - Largest buses are diesel only and cannot be converted to propane or cleaner fuels at this time (could phase these out over time)
 - Contractors (First Student & STA) have both indicated interest in electric buses
 - Electric buses are 3-4x (\$225,000-\$300,000) the cost of a standard diesel or propane bus (\$75,000)

Goal 1.4 (#3)

Improve the “no idle” policy to lessen emissions for fleet vehicles, buses, and family cars at schools.

- Transportation
 - Current policy for bus drivers: turn engine off if idling for more than 5 minutes
 - Currently no policy or education around parents idling in their cars.
 - Transportation could help fund signage and/or make educational videos.

Goal 1.5 (#2)

Purchase products based on long-term environmental and operating costs and include ecological and resulting social costs in purchasing decisions.

- Purchasing
 - Hard to see how to operationalize that in a decentralized purchasing environment
 - Schools have their own budgets and purchase their own supplies
 - Could create scoring category in formal RFP for goods and services over \$150,000
 - We are part of regional and national purchasing agreements that solicit products at economies of scale on school districts' behalfs. We do not procure those items ourselves.
 - Would need funding for incremental costs

Goal 1.5 (#3)

Implement a life-cycle analysis tool or criteria to evaluate and prioritize products based on durability, reusability, locally made, sustainably produced, biodegradable, responsibly packaged, recycled content, and non-toxic.

- What definition are we using for all of these criteria?
- Is this for all products? Just food? Supplies too?
- Nutrition Services
 - Add “where durables are not an option, other materials will be considered”
 - Might be tough for small/local supplier to support a large district (NS needs 10,000-20,000 servings each day)
- Purchasing
 - This would be very difficult to enforce and manage in a decentralized purchasing system (schools purchase their own supplies)
 - Recommend implementing this for larger contracts that require formal solicitation (maybe just for district-level Biz Ops contracts?)
 - A life-cycle analysis on a box of pencils would be too time intensive for such a small purchase

Goal 1.5 (#5)

Transition from virgin paper to maximum post-consumer recycled content paper goods.

- Purchasing
 - We could tell suppliers to only show recycled paper in their catalogs
 - Will have budget impacts to schools (incremental cost can be 2-3x)
 - Potentially an equity issue here
 - Some schools spend a higher % of their budget on paper supplies
 - Recommend this topic to be part of the school engagement for their feedback

Goal 1.5 (#6)

Transition to electronic communication for the District, (e.g., internal memos, pay stubs, HR paperwork, contracts, and agendas).

- Purchasing
 - Purchasing department already went paperless during the pandemic
 - Feasible to implement across other central office departments
 - Probably not feasible in schools

Goal 1.5 (#8)

Incorporate management of durable trays, utensils, collecting food scraps, and recycling into staff responsibilities

- Nutrition Services
 - It's possible, but this will need to be negotiated with our union partners to shift specific job expectations (Custodial and Nutrition Services)

Goal 2.2 (#4)

Prioritize foods that are local, organic, seasonal, plant-based, minimally processed and/or minimally packaged, and lower embodied carbon while meeting requirements of the National School Lunch Program.

- Nutrition Services
 - National School Lunch Program should be called “USDA Child Nutrition Programs” (there are multiple programs with different requirements)

Goal 3.2 (#3)

Provide annual training to custodians, kitchen staff, teachers, principals, and all school staff related to climate impacts and solutions relevant to their job, establish accountability, and integrate sustainable practices into each position.

- Facilities Operations & Nutrition Services
 - What are the expectations when we say “accountability?”

Questions & Comments?