

Model 100% Clean Energy School Board Resolution

You can use this template to create a proposed 100% clean energy resolution for your school board. The resolution can be customized for your district, and we provide a range of core elements you can choose from and/or modify. You may also identify additional rationales specific to your district or region to include.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

[SCHOOL DISTRICT]

[LOCATION]

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, schools, school districts, and cities around the country are making commitments to run on 100% clean energy to improve public health and to help tackle climate change.

WHEREAS, American K-12 schools have an important part to play in reducing carbon pollution from buildings, given that they are major energy consumers, using as much energy as 43% of all office space nationwide.

WHEREAS, a reduction in emissions from dirty energy sources results in tangible improvements in student health and performance, particularly among the most vulnerable.

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, energy-related expenses fall second only to personnel as the largest expenditures in school district budgets, and resources that can be saved on energy bills can be redirected into students and classrooms.

WHEREAS, school buildings — which are the primary source of emergency shelter during disasters — can be equipped with solar and battery storage to ensure displaced community members have access to heat and light when grid power fails.

WHEREAS, [school district] is dedicated to supporting programs and strategies to make schools climate-safe, energy-efficient living laboratories teaching children to understand STEM concepts through clean energy applications.

WHEREAS, we acknowledge [school district]'s contribution to climate change from onsite sources including from fossil fuels used for heating, [list other uses as appropriate for district, including source of electricity].

WHEREAS, [school district] is committed to principles of equity, justice, and inclusion, and transitioning to 100% clean energy can help advance these goals by a) saving money that can be invested into under-resourced schools, b) helping to address climate change, which disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color, c) creating STEM learning opportunities.

WHEREAS, a 100% Clean Energy School District is one in which the amount of clean energy brought into, or generated by, schools equals or exceeds 100% of the annual energy consumed within that school or district.

WHEREAS, clean energy includes energy derived from wind, solar, geothermal, and wave technology sources that have significant public health benefits associated that can address pressing environmental justice challenges in sensitive communities locally and nationally. “Clean energy” specifically excludes energy derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, incineration of municipal and medical waste, and large-scale future hydroelectric development. Low-impact, small hydropower, and some forms of small-scale biomass may be considered clean energy after being evaluated for public health, sustainability, and environmental justice implications.

WHEREAS [option to insert additional local conditions that this resolution will help address — e.g., utility rates are expected to increase dramatically in the next few years; city or county commitment to climate action, clean air, energy independence, fiscal responsibility, and community health]

WHEREAS [option to insert additional policies and plans the school district has already developed that this Resolution would support the implementation of — e.g., sustainability plans, cost reduction mandates, etc.]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the [school district] hereby establishes the goal of achieving 100% clean electricity by 2030 (from renewable resources such as wind and solar only) and phasing out all fossil fuels onsite by 2040.

Board of Education of [school district] calls for the school district to commit to transition to 100% clean energy in the form of wind or solar, and energy efficiency measures within the electricity sector by 2030, and all energy-use sectors including heating and transportation by 2040. The Board of Education requests that the school district appoint a taskforce to create and oversee an implementation plan by [DATE] to meet the clean energy goal. The taskforce should be selected through a transparent and inclusive process which includes community members and relevant stakeholder groups.

Planning and implementation of our 100% clean energy commitment shall include measures that enhance equity in our school district and provide student learning opportunities in STEM and sustainability.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Education calls on city, state, and federal officials and agencies to take swift effective action on climate change to protect current and future students.

Introduced on [DATE] by:

Adopted and approved by the Board of Education of the [school district] at a regular meeting held on [date]