**Carbon Neutral Schools Resolution Template**

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*School District logo – click to place*

School District Name

Resolution Number #

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH GOALS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY,   
CLEAN ENERGY AND CARBON NEUTRALITY**

*Instructions: Fill in any of the sections underlined in green. You may add any other local information or aligned initiatives into this release. Be sure to include your logo, photos, and secure quotes from involved board members, your Superintendent, or anyone else in support of your work. There are several examples of language for quotes and other sections you can use in the blue boxes below certain sections. Feel free to use this language or develop your own. This sample language is noted and in italics and can be easily deleted by clicking on the blue box and deleting.*

**WHEREAS,** the School District name community is experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change through increased temperatures, extreme weather events, changes in the forms and timing of precipitation and runoff, any regionally specific effects, and other environmental disruptions; and

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|  | *[Example for text above]:*  *… increased wildfires and associated poor air quality****,*** *more frequent and intense storms, major flooding events* |

**WHEREAS**, any local or jurisdictional adopted and aligned resolutions; and

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|  | *[Example for text above]:*  *WHEREAS, City Council formally adopted a resolution to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2032; and* |

**WHEREAS**, the School District Board is committed to making positive, tangible changes to mitigate climate change, and to ensure that every effort is made to conserve energy and natural resources while exercising sound financial management; and

**WHEREAS,** School District students and staff are entitled to safe and healthy working and learning environments that reflect recommendations of reliable scientific studies indicating that student achievement and attendance and teacher and staff retention are improved when their environment incorporates natural light, improved indoor air quality and acoustics, and is free of toxins, thermally comfortable, and well maintained; and

**WHEREAS**, School District embraces the tremendous opportunity to teach students about ecological sustainability, environmental health and nutrition; to meet math, science, and social studies standards by integrating environmental education; and to support students in becoming leaders as they make their own schools healthier and more ecologically friendly; and

**WHEREAS,** research has shown that prioritizing energy efficiency and carbon neutral construction with clean and renewable energy improvements, and low-carbon or carbon-free construction materials in school district facilities and operations save school districts money, improve learning environments and the health and wellness of school district student and staff; and

**WHEREAS,** Include any state or local goals, policies, codes or laws regarding energy efficiency and carbon neutrality; and

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|  | *[Example for text above]:*  *WHEREAS, an Executive Order to achieve Carbon Neutrality of 2018 (B-55-18) requires the State of California to achieve statewide carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter; and*  *OR*  *WHEREAS, B-30-15 Sets interim target of greenhouse gas emissions 40% less than 1990 levels by 2030; and*  *OR*  *WHEREAS, the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan of 2008 requires all new commercial construction to be Zero Net Energy by 2030 and 50% of existing buildings to be Zero Net Energy by 2030; and California requires all buildings – new and existing will be Zero Net Energy with clean renewable energy by 2050; and* |

**WHEREAS,** School District recognizes that achieving environmental sustainability will require a commitment from all sectors of society, and that school districts are in a unique position to make substantial contributions toward the goal of a sustainable world for future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** the School District Board also believes that responsible stewardship of public funds requires that new schools and district buildings be designed to provide the district with cost-saving, environmentally sustainable systems, flexible configurations that will enable future improvements, and efficient use of its land and resources; and

**WHEREAS,** the School District Board finds that it has a considerable opportunity through the district’s purchasing power to improve the environment and to lower financial outlay by providing guidance for district expenditures on energy, mechanical equipment, construction materials, and other building construction and energy efficiency needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District Board intends that this document create a long-term, inspiring vision that integrates and strengthens many efforts in our district, and further recognizes that fully implementing this resolution will take time and must be achieved in stages that are to be measured and publicly reported each year.

**RESOLUTION**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education of the School District recognizes the deliberate progress already made by district and board staff to reduce the district’s energy consumption and lessen its carbon footprint through enter active district or local resolutions*,* and steps towards environmentally responsible and resource-efficient construction practices.

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|  | *[Example for text above:*  *… and lessen its carbon footprint through its* ***Renewable Energy and Sustainability Committee, Resolution for Climate Literacy, Resolution for Healthy and Sound Schools,*** *and steps towards environmentally responsible and resource-efficient construction practices.]* |

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that as the School District Board seeks to expand upon those efforts and to create healthier, more environmentally sustainable schools, the Board hereby establishes the following goals:

1. to prioritizing student health, well-being and learning outcomes when making school facility decisions.
2. to identifying a champion who will support energy efficiency during each school construction project and additionally may support energy related curriculum.
3. the School District commits to the energy and carbon emission reduction goals below for new and existing school construction projects. Adopting absolute energy goals ensures project teams have actionable and measurable goals to adhere to.

**Portfolio Level Goals:** *(choose all or some that apply to your district or add more of your own)*

* + reduce consumption by 50% below year baseline by 2030
  + eliminate on-site fossil gas combustion before 2045
  + achieve an average portfolio site EUI of 25 kBtu/square foot-year by 2045
  + generate 100% of portfolio energy use from renewable energy sources
  + reduce embodied emissions from construction by 50% below year baseline by 2030, with zero emission construction sites by 2045

**Project Level Goals:**

**(1) All new construction projects will:** *(choose all or some that apply to your district or add more of your own)*

* + achieve LEED, CHPS, or other sustainability goal
  + achieve a site energy use intensity of 17-20 kBtu/square foot/year
  + be all-electric and have no on-site fossil gas combustion
  + incorporate renewable energy sources to offset annual electricity use
  + 5 total air changes per hour (ACH) for high indoor air quality
  + reduce life cycle impacts associated with high embodied carbon materials (like steel and concrete)
  + utilize low global warming potential refrigerants
  + integrate electric vehicles (EV) and fleet infrastructure
  + consider grid harmonization

**(2) All major modernization projects will:**

* + achieve LEED, CHPS, or other sustainability goal
  + achieve a site energy use intensity of 25-30 kBtu/square foot/year
  + 5 total air changes per hour (ACH) for high indoor air quality
  + eliminate on-site gas combustion or have a plan to eliminate gas by a target year signed off by the department director
  + utilize low global warming potential refrigerants

**(3) All school facility retrofits will:**

* + achieve LEED, CHPS, or other sustainability goal
* improve the site energy use intensity by a minimum of 20% from a baseline year *(2018 or 2019 suggested)* baseline
* consider opportunities to remove gas-combusting equipment,
* specify low global warming potential equipment and low embodied carbon materials

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that with the help ofenter the names of organizations supporting the district in this effort, School District will develop and adopt a series of guidance documents and standards to help guide the decision-making process for building construction and upgrades to adhere to the goals above. These documents will be developed, adopted, and finalized by Enter goal date (Ex: May 2022)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the School District Board will report annually on the status of these goals in terms of EUI (kBtu/square foot/year) on new construction and retrofit projects, total % reduction of energy as compared to baseline year of year across the district portfolio, total annual emissions and % reduction as compared to year baseline across the district portfolio, % of energy supplied by renewables across the district portfolio and number of mechanical systems (such as HVAC) converted to from natural gas to electric at the end of their useful life.

The foregoing resolution is hereby approved and adopted by the Board of Education of the School District at its regular public meeting held virtually on this DAY OF MONTH YEAR.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this DAY OF MONTH YEAR by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Board Clerk