



Decarbonization Roadmap Guide for School Building Decision Makers


Discovery Elementary | Arlington, VA
Credit: VMDO

The Decarbonization Roadmap Guide for School Building Decision Makers by New Buildings Institute is a resource for anyone interested in healthy and efficient school design.

The Guide outlines achievable goals that result in healthy, affordable, all-electric schools. It also explains common actions that districts take when considering decarbonization projects. The Guide, templates, and supplemental materials are meant to be useful to a variety of stakeholders, for example:

- **School board members** and **student groups** can use the Resolution Templates to establish district-wide goals and policies.
- **Sustainability managers** can customize action plans to define specific decarbonization steps and actions.
- **Facility managers** may use the Decarbonization Roadmapping Planner to benchmark buildings and store information about equipment.
- **Administrative staff** or **teachers** can use the Guide to engage students with building systems and energy use concepts.

To access the Guide and associated documents, scan here!



<https://bit.ly/Decarb-Roadmap>

Customizable Templates and Other Key Resources

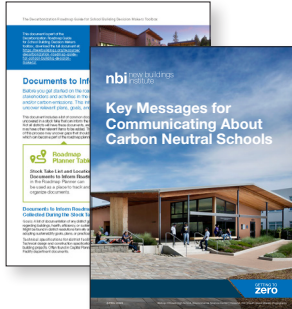
The Guide also links to a variety of templates that can be customized locally, as well as key supplemental resources to assist districts in their efforts. Some of the key resources include:

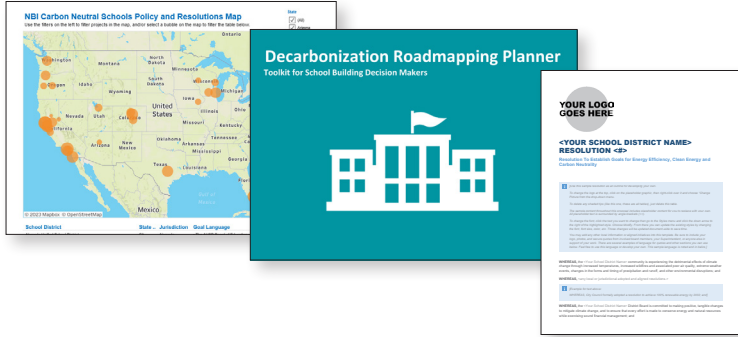
Documents to Inform the Stock Take

Offers a list of documents to include in an assessment of existing plans, goals, and policies within a school district. Knowing what already exists is a good precursor to roadmap development.

Key Messages for Communicating About Carbon Neutral Schools

Addresses key questions around how to effectively communicate ambitious climate goals and how to engage various stakeholders in the process.





[Interactive Map of Carbon Neutral School Districts](#)

Easily find other districts that have addressed healthy, efficient, resilient schools by adopting formal goals to tackle carbon emissions.

[Energy and Carbon Project Requirements Template](#)

Owners Project Requirements (OPR) template that can be customized for climate zone and location. The OPR narrative details functional requirements of school construction and outlines expectations of how the building will be used and operated.

[Decarbonization Roadmapping Planner](#)

Organizational tool with detailed, customizable workplans and reporting template for sharing results with stakeholders.

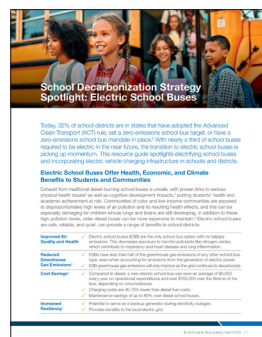
[Carbon Neutral Schools Resolution Templates](#)

Helps establish formal district policy regarding carbon neutral facilities. The Templates include instructions on how to successfully adapt the resolution to declare the district's commitment to healthy, carbon neutral facilities.

[Strategy Spotlights](#)

Many school districts are also considering options related to **electric school buses, resiliency, and all-electric kitchens.**

Three standalone spotlight documents are available and offer a deeper dive into how to integrate these key concepts into school district planning and activities. Access the Guide, inserts and other resources [here](#) or by using the QR code above.



The Decarbonization Roadmap Guide for School Building Decision Makers identifies cost effective strategies and approaches to help school districts achieve healthy, efficient, and decarbonized school facilities. This content was developed by New Buildings Institute.



New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a nonprofit organization driving better energy performance in buildings to make them better for people and the environment. We work collaboratively with industry market players—governments, utilities, energy efficiency advocates, and building professionals—to promote advanced design practices, innovative technologies, public policies, and programs that improve energy efficiency. Visit the [NBI Getting to Zero in Schools](#) webpage to learn more.