

# Washoe County School District



Reduce  
Recycle  
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## Purchasing Department's Green Efforts Report

May 1, 2016

<http://www.washoeschools.net/Domain/65>

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In December 2009, the Washoe County School District's (WCSD) Purchasing Department adopted the following environmentally-friendly purchasing policy:

*The Washoe County School District's Purchasing Department embraces the responsibility to environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP). To support the effort of EPP the Purchasing Department will give preference to environmentally superior products where quality, function and cost are equal or better. In addition, the Purchasing Department will seek opportunities to increase sustainable and recycled product sourcing.*

From the inception of the policy and including data collected from 2013 to date, WCSD has taken many strides toward our goal of environmentally preferable purchasing. The following is a summary of these efforts.

### **OFFICE SUPPLIES & RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS**

WCSD's end-users purchase a wide variety of recycled and/or environmentally-friendly office supplies that are provided under contract with various awarded suppliers. In addition, WCSD gives preference to recycled paper products when such product meets standards, costs no more than a comparable non-recycled product and can be substituted for a comparable non-recycled product. Purchases made on recycled/environmentally-friendly office supply products that include recycled paper products are as follows:

<b>FY14 2013 – 2014</b>	<b>FY15 2014 – 2015</b>	<b>FY16 2015 – To Date</b>
<b>\$786,956</b>	<b>\$1,145,183</b>	<b>\$516,310</b>

### **RECYCLED TONER CARTRIDGES**

WCSD has continued to partner Office Depot-Max through the use of the "America Saves" national contract to continue providing remanufactured/recycled printer ink and toner cartridges to end-users of WCSD.

In addition to the continued use of this contract, the Purchasing Department with Office Max and Hewlett-Packard collaboratively launched a district-wide, no-cost, recycling program for used printer ink and toner cartridges. This project is considered a team effort towards understanding the significance of our environment and our united roles in protecting it.

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### WCSD ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

As WCSD's ongoing support in reducing its "carbon footprint" on the environment, the District launched its first online website/platform for anyone to share positive news about WCSD schools and the communities they serve called: WE ARE WCSD found at: <http://www.wearewcsd.net/>

All stories submitted must be ready for publication and must include the name of author, name of school, WCSD department, or organization being represented, and author's phone number. Additionally a story's author may choose to include: photos or other media (Author must also submit [This Student Media Consent and Release form](#) for any student photographed); captions for photos; video embed codes; and links to other trusted websites.

Everyone is invited to submit articles for publishing consideration by sending them in and with the required information and your stories. WCSD requests that submissions be district-related and reflect WCSD's highest purpose of getting "*Every Child, by Name and Face, to Graduation.*" To submit your story please email all text and related media to [wearewcsd@washoeschools.net](mailto:wearewcsd@washoeschools.net).

### PHOTO VOLTAIC PROJECTS (SOLAR)

WCSD has installed 40 solar photovoltaic systems at 36 of its schools for a total of 4,191 kilowatts. The systems generate 7,520,958 kilowatt-hours per year or 12% of WCSD's entire electricity usage. The systems are estimated to save the district more than \$830,000 per year. Several of the systems were built as shade structure to cover student and employment parking. Most of the cost of the systems were covered by federal grants and utility rebates leaving very little out-of-pocket expenditures for WCSD.

### MAJOR ON-GOING DISTRICT-WIDE PROJECTS

WCSD initiates and supports a multitude of projects that are environmentally preferable and while Purchasing is involved with managing solicitations and/or contracts to successfully launch these projects. These projects provide value to WCSD and benefit our ecosystem. A sampling of projects currently in use include:

- The Transportation Department uses a computerized route manager program called "VersaTrans" which computes and utilizes the shortest safest routes. This saves fuel and road time, which in turn reduces WCSD's carbon footprint.
- The Transportation Department, School Police, and the Truancy Department utilize a GPS system through Zonar Systems, Inc., which provides efficient adjusted pre-trip inspections for various vehicles (e.g. buses), reduction in idle-time that decreases

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exhaust released into the atmosphere, and reductions in manual paperwork completion, which is provided via electronic reporting features. Total annual cost savings to WCSD for the use of this program is estimated (at minimum) of \$210,000 per year.

- The Facilities Management Department has placed “energy misers” on all of WCSD’s vending machines. The department staff tracks monthly water consumption and billing to determine WCSD’s largest water consumers. A recently completed turf management study has identified best management practices for all turf to decrease water use. The study also identified water conservation projects at the five highest water using schools. In 2015, WCSD used 348 million gallons with 53 million gallons, or 15%, of that being reclaimed water. The department worked with the Reed HS student group, the Eco-Warriors, to replace 7,798 32W T8 Fluorescent bulbs with 15W Plug & Play LED’s. The project is predicted to save 363,750 kWh/year and \$36,400/year. The project was funded through utility rebates and a grant from the Nevada Governor’s Office of Energy and has a three month payback.
- The Maintenance Department’s HVAC Division of WCSD utilizes a computerized “Energy Management System” to control heating and cooling temperatures throughout WCSD. Furthermore, the Maintenance Department is working closely with NV Energy to obtain reimbursements for “boiler tune-up” costs, which has multiple benefits. The projects save money and provide rebates while it assists in WCSD conserving natural gas consumption, which again, decreases WCSD’s carbon footprint.
- The Capital Projects Department has also contributed in the “go green” effort by completing several window replacement projects as part of WCSD’s revitalization rollouts to various elementary, middle, and high schools. These windows are more energy efficient, create better light for the students, and also are operable for teachers to control air in their classrooms. OF the 93 schools in WCSD, 49 meet the Criteria to be EPA Energy star schools. The most recently constructed school was built to LEED Silver standards, though not certified. And five of the schools were built with Groundsource Geo-Exchange systems that provide a well field for heating and cooling that reduces the energy from 18.6 kBtu/sf to 5.6 kBtu/sf, a 70% saving.

### **WCSD ECO-FRIENDLY PARTNERSHIPS**

WCSD partners with many local organizations to provide environmental education in the classrooms including:

- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
  - Educational program for educators in compliance with new standards

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- Waste Warriors – recycling & trash reduction
- Weed Warriors – invasive weeds
- Watershed Warriors – watershed protection
- Sierra Nevada Journeys
  - Delivers innovative outdoor, science-based education programs to develop critical thinking skills and inspire natural resource stewardship
  - >50% of the elementary schools
  - Served over 50,000 since inception in 2007 and 8,000 in FY16
- Great Basin Outdoor School
  - Programs immerse students in day trips and multi-day overnight ecology camps
  - Students hike, snowshoe, learn local ecology with hands-on standards-based activities
  - Served thousands of children and adults since 1998
  - Teachers get professional development courses
- NDEP - Nevada Recycles
  - Promotes resource conservation through recycling and waste reduction
  - Increase awareness of recycling and waste reduction opportunities
  - Provide education, outreach, collaboration, and technical assistance
- DRI – Greenpower
  - Educational outreach for DRI
  - Support educators in science-based, environmental education
  - Provide inquiry based STEM curriculum through Green Boxes, teacher trainings and workshops
  - Provide speakers, field trips, and special opportunities
  - 49 schools
- Project ReCharge
  - STEM based service-learning program
  - Provide 30 teachers with the training and materials to implement engaging energy efficiency curriculum
  - 3,000 students in 10 schools
  - Real-time energy monitoring data to be used by teachers and students to conduct energy audits
- Urban Roots
  - “Where does our food come from?”
  - From planting and harvesting to preparing
  - Follows food from seed to table
  - 18+ Schools

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- Reno Bike Project
  - After-school clubs, summer day camp, and as a credit-earning P.E. class
  - Riding skills and commuting knowledge Appropriate nutrition and attire
  - Maintenance and mechanics
  
- Alliance for Climate Education
  - Teach climate science that puts teenagers at the center of the story
  - Worked with Washoe County Air Quality
  - Idle Free Schools
  - 25 schools
  - (16 ES, 2 MS, 7 HS)

### SUMMARY

The initiatives described above are just a small portion of environmentally preferable programs that include a purchasing component that WCSD would eventually like to establish. Washoe County School District will continue to seek out ways to effectively conduct business while caring for and considering the environmental impacts of its decisions.

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