

## Clean Energy Transition Plan

The United States alone wastes more than sixty percent of our energy. That equals up to one hundred and thirty billion dollars that the people of the U.S. spend. Wasted energy is a significant contributor to global warming. Clean energy helps improve our world environmentally and economically. This all starts within schools.

Schools have a significant influence on their students, which is why it is crucial to teach kids about clean energy. Schools can do this by leading by example and instructing in the classroom. One way we can teach them about saving and clean energy is by taking a field trip to educate them about it. Kids may become inspired when they see how passionate their school is about improving on creating less as well as using cleaner energy. Learning about these specialties, especially at a young age, will help our future of battling against climate change.

There are a lot of ways to be more energy efficient, especially within schools. This response includes upgrading to energy-efficient light bulbs and sensor lights and arranging all computers on monitors. Energy-efficient lights help reduce the amount of energy used while still giving off the same amount of light. If we make sure we have sensor lights as well as having all computers on a monitor it helps reduce the waste of energy.

One thing most people don't think about when trying to convert to cleaner energy is heating and cooling systems. Heating alone contributes forty percent of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. As well as being about half of the average person's energy consumption. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the most energy-efficient way to heat and cool a building is to switch to a geothermal heat pump. They are eco-friendly and inexpensive. They can reduce energy use by up to fifty percent and save us money in the long run.

One thing we could focus on is upgrading the kitchen in both schools by switching to induction stoves. They are eighty-four percent efficient, which is ten percent more than radiant stoves and forty-four percent more efficient than gas stoves.

An amazing thing our school has done to help with this issue is making all the bathroom sinks automatic. This saves our school about one thousand dollars per sink. Another action we have taken is upgrading our water fountains to have water bottle fillers. This helps reduce waste. We also have a lot of skylights throughout our high school. Although, it would help more if we got them installed in middle and elementary school.

All of those ideas do not just benefit the environment they also can save our school district money. According to ElectricChoice, schools in the United States spend six million dollars on electricity. If our school was looking at making a bigger change they could invest in solar panels, hydroelectric power, or windmills. However, Solar panels are the cheapest choice. They are even cheaper than fossil fuels. Solar panels save the average home anywhere from ten thousand to thirty thousand dollars. They are also a more environmentally friendly option, as they produce twenty to forty percent less energy than fossil fuels. If our community gets concerned about them being an eye sore they can easily be located on the roofs.

In conclusion, in schools, it is important to teach about our impact on the environment and the changes we can make to help. From little things like energy-efficient light bulbs to investing in solar panels, everything adds up. Global warming is only getting worse; the best way to stop it is within schools.