



Santa Clara Unified School District Climate Change and Sustainability Resolution #22-25

WHEREAS, human influence has created a climate emergency which demands mobilization on a massive scale to halt, reverse, and address the causes and consequences of global warming; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change is a non-partisan issue and local, state and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and

WHEREAS, the increase and trapping of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere leads to the rise in average global temperature; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) report posted to the Global Climate Change Vital Signs of the Planet website in April of 2022, "Since the beginning of the industrial era (1750), human activities have raised atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ by about 50%. This is more than what had happened naturally over a 20,000 year period."; and

WHEREAS, 21 of the warmest years on record to have occurred within the past 23 years, and the trend continues to increase; and

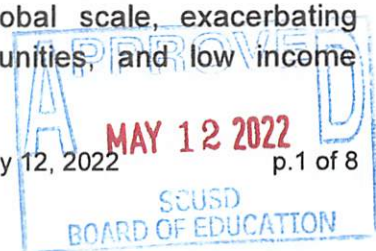
WHEREAS, according to NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021 were ranked within the sixth hottest years on record; and

WHEREAS, according to a NASA report from September 2021, "September Arctic sea ice is now declining at a rate of 13 percent per decade, relative to the 1981 to 2010 average"; and

WHEREAS, the ice caps have been slowly deteriorating in size, contributing to rising sea levels, another global warming problem; and

WHEREAS, according to the Smithsonian Institution Report in 2018, "warm water expands and takes up more space than colder water, increasing the volume of water in the sea," proving that the sea level in oceans has been expanding because of carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change is a generational justice, social equity, and human rights issue affecting communities at a local, national, and global scale, exacerbating problems which communities of color, indigenous communities, and low income





communities already face, such as income inequality and poverty, institutional racism, inequality based on gender and sexual orientation, poor infrastructure, and lack of access to health care, housing, clean water, and food security; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change disproportionately affects young people and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Climate Assessment both claim that Climate Change has increased the frequency of extreme weather events, including droughts, wildfires, storms, and more; and whereas Climate Change has interfered with industries, natural resources, agriculture systems, human health and safety, etc.; and

WHEREAS, an April 2021 report from Swiss Re, one of the world's largest providers of reinsurance to insurance companies for risk management, estimates that by 2050 the global economic output will be reduced 11 to 14 percent due to the effects of Climate Change, resulting in a cost of approximately \$23 trillion worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to the 6th International Panel on Climate Change report in February 2022, global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered; and whereas global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, taking actions to mitigate the effects of Climate Change now will positively affect future generations, and

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing Climate Change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and among all elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of actions necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, education, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of Climate Change, including public health and economic consequences, have a disproportionate impact on chronically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the California Parent Teacher Association, (PTA) adopted a "Climate Change is a Children's Issue" Resolution in 2015 that urges school districts to serve as





role models for practices that promote energy conservation, alternative energy sources, reducing dependency on automobile travel and encouraging sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016 (SB 32), called for a reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and

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

WHEREAS, the California Executive Order B-16-12 additionally sets goals for the vehicle emissions sector, a sector that accounts for 50 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions and 80 percent of smog-forming pollutants. Executive Order B-16-12 calls for 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2025 which includes electrifying school bus fleets; and

WHEREAS, California's eight-year, \$2.5 billion investment plan will help achieve the requirements of Executive Order B-16-12 by 2025 by funding more zero-emission infrastructure and continuing vehicle rebates for consumers; and

WHEREAS, California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan, which charts the steps for meeting the state's greenhouse gas emissions and air quality goals, presents a balanced set of economically viable and technologically feasible actions for carbon reduction, and calls for supporting innovative actions at the local level—among schools, governments, and individual households; and

WHEREAS, an Executive Order to achieve Carbon Neutrality of 2018 (B-55-18) requires California to achieve statewide carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 100 of 2018 (SB 100) sets a world-leading precedent by committing to 100% clean, fossil fuel free energy in California by 2045, speeding up the state's timeline for moving to carbon-free power sources; and

WHEREAS, California requires all buildings – new and existing will be Zero Net Energy with clean renewable energy by 2050.

WHEREAS, implementing environmentally-friendly practices within school buildings can increase the overall health and well-being of students and staff; and

WHEREAS, schools expend considerable financial resources on energy, water, refuse services, and custodial and office supplies, and have a considerable opportunity through their purchasing power to improve both the environment and their financial bottom line; and





WHEREAS, many options and choices exist for schools and their staff to use natural resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to produce more sustainably sourced lunches, and to use clean energy and environmentally preferable products and supplies to protect our environment; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that within the Santa Clara Unified School District significant measures in support of green school practices, energy efficiency, healthy school nutrition programs, and waste diversion/reduction have already been undertaken; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District's mission statement reflects their willingness to, "provide equitable, engaging, and innovative educational experiences so that each student thrives in a global society"; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change is considered part of an ever-changing world where schools have the ability to encourage and prepare students to be stewards of their communities, the earth, and its resources; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards provides an opportunity for students to engage in real-world inquiry and application of science skills in understanding and addressing Climate Change; and

WHEREAS, California students across many grade levels — including those in their early elementary years and all the way up through high school — strive to be environmentally conscious in their daily lives and to be active and engaged leaders on combating global Climate Change in their community, both now and in the future; and

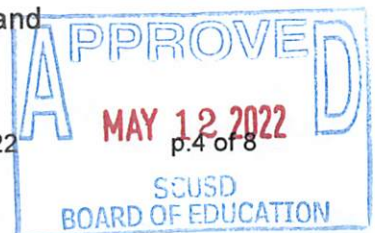
WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District will officially launch the implementation of this resolution on a time most suitable to the SCUSD Board and SCUSD Cabinet;

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes the use of Energy Star Portfolio aids the tracking of electrical and water use on school sites; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes there are six school sites and the district office that have solar panels installed; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes that water efficiency measures have been implemented on school campuses through the removal of turf areas and the planting of drought resistant plants and the replacement of outdated irrigation controllers with new efficient and weather dependant irrigation controllers; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes the majority of the schools have replaced old inefficient lighting with light emitting diode (LED) lamps and fixtures; and





WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes that the SCUSD has installed electrical bus charging stations and owns four electric busses; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes the SCUSD is applying for appropriate funding for installing energy efficient equipment and electric vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes that Abram Agnew Elementary, Dolores Huerta Middle and Kathleen MacDonald High Schools were designed and constructed to the Collaboration for High Performance Schools (CHPS) Design Criteria; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes that collecting or separating food scraps is required and the SCUSD is coordinating with local waste haulers to implement separating food waste; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes the SCUSD Grounds Department composts green waste from the SCUSD and creates its own compost for use on school campuses and at the Farm, eliminating the need to purchase all of the required compost to keep the landscaped areas healthy; and

WHEREAS, the SCUSD Board recognizes the SCUSD Farm grows organic produce for the Nutrition Services Program, allowing students to eat fresh, local produce and learn about environmental and agriculture topics from field trips to the Farm; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Santa Clara Unified School District Board calls on Congress and our State Legislature, in order to restore the climate to protect all people and future generations, to swiftly enact common sense state and national climate policies, such as: 100 percent clean energy transition plans that include safety nets and training for transitioning workers; green infrastructure and technology investments; investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture to draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it in soils and biomass; and investments in environmental education and other policies that combat this urgent threat to our students and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SCUSD recognizes that there is increasing demand for a skilled workforce in the clean energy and sustainability sectors, and that the SCUSD can help meet this demand by providing enriched learning opportunities for our students to prepare for careers in these emerging and important fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SCUSD will seek out creative and collaborative partnerships that connect our students and staff with local community groups, business leaders, associations and city and county government on efforts to make our community more environmentally friendly and promote sustainable practices; and





BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SCUSD endeavors to connect with key stakeholders within the community — including student and youth groups — on the importance of local climate action to gather input and identify additional opportunities for student learning and activism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SCUSD calls on the California Department of Education, the California State Board of Education and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to provide increased opportunities for local educational agencies to promote teacher, staff, and student learning on the effects of global Climate Change and identifying solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SCUSD also calls on federal entities, such as the U.S. Departments of Education and Energy, to support the efforts of state and local educational agencies to expand their curriculum and opportunities for student learning on climate and environmental literacy; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees recommends that the provisions of this resolution be reviewed, within six months of the date it is passed, by a district Superintendent's Environmental Sustainability committee composed of members from local district stakeholder groups, including students, to develop indicators of progress in key areas of district environmental sustainability, monitor, evaluate and report the District's progress to the Board; and create a plan to identify recommended actions to be implemented to achieve and build on the goals outlined in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCUSD governing board directs the board secretary, clerk or executive officer to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: all student councils in SCUSD, the SCUSD employee labor groups or representatives, the Santa Clara Schools Foundation, the Santa Clara County Office of Education Superintendent, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Governor of California, Congressman Ro Khanna, State Senator Bob Wieckowski, Assemblymember Alex Lee and the local elected city officials for Santa Clara, San Jose and Sunnyvale, and to request responses to the receipt of this resolution.






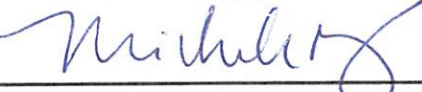
Passed and adopted by the Board of Education of the Santa Clara Unified School District this 12th Day of May 2022.



Jodi Muirhead, President




Bonnie Lieberman, Clerk



Michele Ryan, Ph.D., Member




Jim Canova, Member




Vickie Fairchild, Vice President



Albert Gonzalez, Member



Andrew Ratermann, Member



Stella M. Kemp, Ed. D., Secretary





References (Information used by Students and Teachers to develop the SCUSD Climate Change Resolution):

- [NASA's Global Climate Change Website](#)
- [NASA's GISS Surface Temp. Analysis Website](#)
- [NASA's Arctic Sea Ice Extent Website](#)
- [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Website](#)
- [IPCC 5th Report \(Executive Summary for Policymakers\)](#)
- [IPCC 5th Report \(Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C for Policymakers\)](#)
- [IPCC 6th Report- Feb. 2022 \(Executive Summary for Policymakers\)](#)
- [United Nations \(Department of Economics & Social Affairs - 'Climate Change & Social Inequality' Report](#)
- [United Nations Global Issues: Climate Change Website](#)
- [4th National Climate Assessment Website](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA - Climate Website\)](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA - National Centers for Environmental Information- NCEI Website](#)
- [Swiss Re Report on the economics of climate change - Website](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency Climate Change Website](#)
- [California PTA statement on Climate Change as a 'Children's Health Issue'](#)
- [California EPA Climate Change Website](#)
- [California Environmental Literacy Initiative Website](#)
- [San Mateo Environmental Literacy Initiative Website](#)
- [Santa Cruz Environmental Literacy Initiative Website](#)
- [SCCOE Environmental Literacy, Sustainability, & Climate Action Website](#)
- [Center For Green Schools Website](#)
- [California Science Educators Association \(Climate Change Resources\) Website](#)
- [Ten Strands Website](#)
- [350.org Website](#)
- [Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action Website](#)
- [Alliance for Climate Education Website](#)
- [SCUSD Environmental Science & Outdoor Education Website \(Facilitated by SCUSD Employees: Kim Hunter, Kelly Overduijn, and Mint Pasakdee\)](#)
- [All We Can Save Project Website](#)
- [Project Drawdown Website](#)
- [How To Save A Planet Podcast](#)
- [Climate Change Guide Website](#)
- [NASA Climate Kids Website](#)
- [Climate Steps: Action Plans, Maps, & Resolutions Website](#)
- [Schools For Climate Action \(lists of Board Resolutions\)](#)

