



D65 Sustainability Focus Areas

24-25 School Year



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

Sustainability Focus Area Categories



Same categories as last year...

1. Curriculum & Student Action
2. Waste & Circularity
3. Energy & Transportation
4. Buildings & Grounds
5. Water



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By May 30 2025, a district-wide sustainability program plan will be presented to the D65 School Board and shared District wide through multiple modes.

The sustainability program plan will include:

- ★ Vision of sustainability in D65,
- ★ Categories of focus,
- ★ Goals / targets,
- ★ Strategies to achieve / implementation

The sustainability program plan will be aligned to City of Evanston and Village of Skokie sustainability program plans and District 65 strategic priorities.

Ongoing:

- Lead D65 Sustainability Leadership Team comprised of D65 departments / teams responsible for sustainability.
- Host 2 climate action community meetings.
- Monthly sustainability newsletter to climate action / school garden community.

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Curriculum & Student Action

1. Collective Action for Climate Justice (Student Projects) for all D65 7th Graders connected to 7th Grade Climate Change OpenSciEd Unit 7.6 including Community Showcase in Spring 2025. ***Partnership with Science Curriculum.***
2. Participating in yearlong [Learning in Places](#) leadership cohort with D65 Educators, lead by Northwestern. ***Partnership with Science Curriculum.***
3. Host Earth Month activities at our schools. ***Partnership with Schools Team.***

Ongoing:

- Support Climate Clubs at our schools.
- Support students engaging in D65 school gardens.
- Promote [Evanston Public Library Blueberry Award](#) book list curated for young readers boosting love of nature and climate action.

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Waste & Circularity

1. Lunchroom Composting and Recycling at all schools, with focus on improving student sorting and reducing contamination.
2. Recycling Truck Art Competition with the City of Evanston and D65 Middle Schools for America Recycles Day. *Partnership with City of Evanston and D65 Middle School Arts.*
3. School Recycling Improvements (year 2). *Partnership with City of Evanston and B&G.*
4. Host revamped end of school clean out. *Partnership with Schools Team.*
5. Develop D65 technology tool and supply removal and recycling process. *Partnership with Technology Team.*
6. Develop zero waste / sustainability guidelines for meetings and events.

Ongoing:

- Reducing single use packaging for student lunches. *Partnership with ETHS and D65 Nutrition Services.*
- Host trash or treasure candy wrapper recycling.

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Energy & Transportation

1. Complete [ComEd Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment](#) at all remaining schools (completed in 2023 at Chute, Haven, Nichols and Kingsley). *Lead by B&G.*
2. Complete [Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Public Sector Assessment](#) at all schools. *Lead by B&G.*

Ongoing:

- Solar Panels at our Schools.
- Exploration of purchasing renewable electricity.
- Applying for grants, including US EPA Clean School Bus Grant.
- Member of the [Efficient and Healthy Schools](#) Campaign.
- Adding new bike racks upon School Principal request.

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Buildings & Grounds

1. Develop guidelines for Native Plantings on D65 School Grounds, including maps of native planting areas and consistent fencing / signage across all D65 schools. *Partnership with B&G.*
2. Develop tree planting guidelines on D65 School Grounds. *Partnership with B&G.*

Ongoing:

- [New 5th Ward Foster School](#) and sustainability features.
- Applying for grants for building improvements, including Renew America's School Grant.
- Planting new trees and natives on school grounds.
- [Yard waste pick-up](#) for D65 schools.

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Water

Ongoing:

- Upgrading to more efficient water fixtures in school bathrooms.
- Monitor water usage at schools and identify water leaks, partnership and collaboration with D65 Maintenance.
- Maintain and socialize [best practices for watering at school gardens and grounds](#) (new trees and native plants).