



PORTLAND
Public Schools

Climate Crisis Response Committee Meeting
January 21, 2026 - Staff Update

Progress towards Policy Goals

25-26 Priorities:

Decarbonization: On track to 2030 Goal*

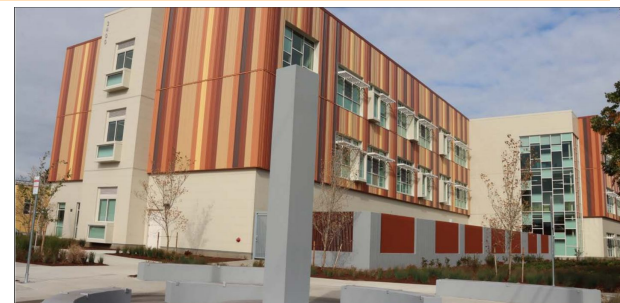
- With the modernization of the 3 high schools to take place before 2029, with the assumption that those 3 high schools will be fully electric and that utilities continue to make progress on decarbonizing the electric grid.

Climate Literacy:

- ODE developed K-12 Climate Literacy Standards, are working to identify those across our curricula and support resources to fill any gaps.

Student Empowerment:

- [Student-led climate projects](#) in full swing
- [Digital Showcase](#) & Resource Site



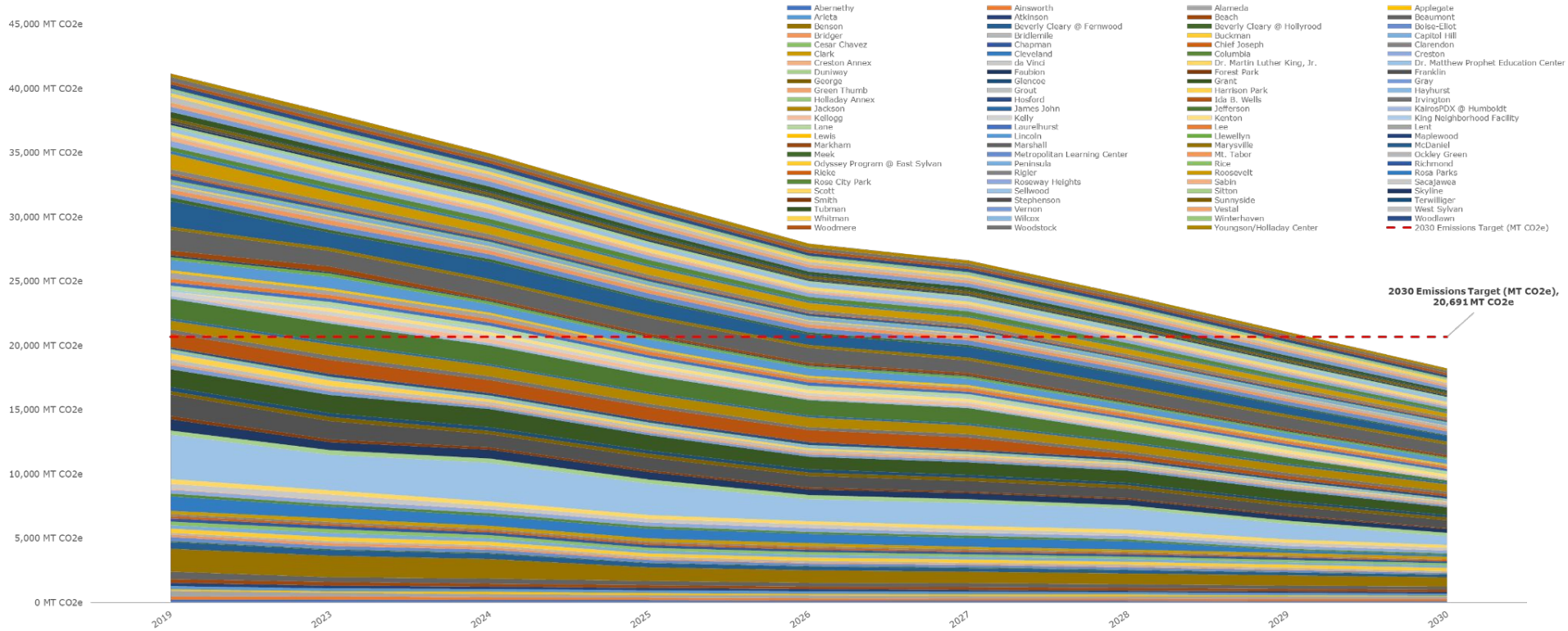
Portland Public Schools Decarbonization Roadmap
DECARBONIZATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



K-12 Climate Change and Sustainability Education
Health, Social Science and Science: Opportunities to Climate Change and Sustainability
2025



Progress towards Decarbonization: FY25 projects





2025-2026

PPS Student-Led Climate Projects

2025-2026 Edition



CLIMATE FRIENDLY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund

City of Portland initiative, which:

- Generates **~\$200 million** annually to invest in efforts to address climate change and advance racial and social justice.
- Ballot measure passed by more than **65% of Portlanders** in November 2018 and first climate fund measure created and led by communities of color in the US.
- **1%** gross sales tax on Portland sales by corporations with \$1B+ sales nationally and \$500k+ in Portland.

Project Categories

- Clean Energy
- Transportation Decarbonization
- Regenerative Agriculture + Green Infrastructure
- Workforce Development for Climate Action



CLIMATE FRIENDLY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Climate Friendly Public Schools Program



City of Portland initiative, funded by the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)

- Awarding PPS \$3M over 5-years for **student-led** climate projects
- **\$10,000** for each K-8, middle, & high school per year for 4 more years
- Advancing PPS Climate Crisis Response Policy
 - Ambitious targets around energy use, waste reduction, curriculum development, green schoolyards, student health, and climate justice and resiliency.
 - **Pillar 3: Student empowerment and advocacy** is critical to establishing a culture of climate justice.



CLIMATE FRIENDLY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student-led Climate Projects



- Student Climate Project Advisor (SCPA) at each school (teachers, staff, community members)
- Students organize in classes or clubs
- Site-specific support
 - Admin teams, volunteers
- Central Office support
 - Resource Development
 - Project consulting & guidance
 - Central coordination between departments
 - Collaboration with funders
 - Community Partner outreach

Program Timeline

Sept - Oct

Building Your Team,
Project Ideation &
Partnerships

- Understand program guidelines
- Recruit a team & engage the school community
- Learn about climate action
- Brainstorm project ideas
- Reach out to partner organizations for project support
- Draft Project Proposal

Nov - Dec

Project Proposal,
Partnerships &
Continued Planning

- Submit Project Proposal
- Submit Additional Materials for Physical Improvement Projects
- Meet with partner organizations
- Draft contracts for future project work
- Draft timeline, roles & responsibilities, etc
- Identify specific materials needed

Jan - April

Project Approval,
Contracts &
Implementation

- Receive PPS & PCEF Approval
- Finalize all contracts prior to beginning work
- Project Implementation
- Mobilize volunteers & community partners
- Document progress & Track your budget
- Reach out to PPS Climate Justice Team for support

May

Celebration,
Reflection & Final
Project Reporting

- Project Wrap Up
- Complete Required End of Year Report
- Ensure all spending is submitted, with receipts
- Celebrate your accomplishments!
- Provide feedback to PCEF and PPS

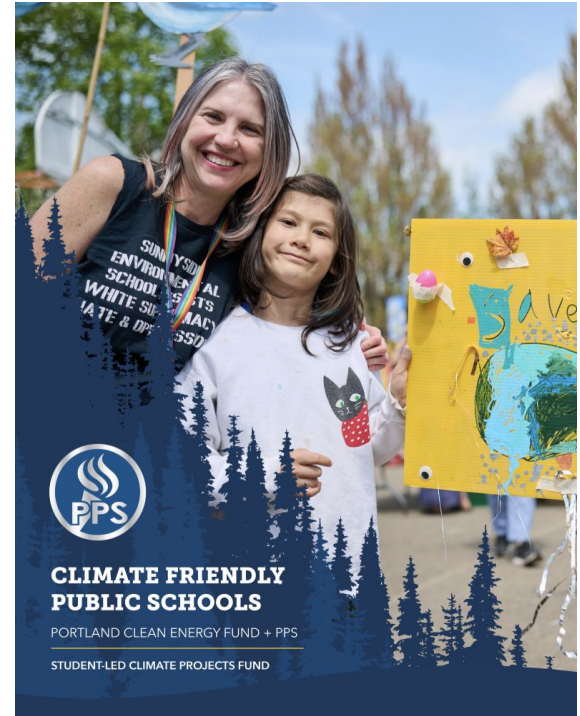


PCEF Student-led Climate Projects

24/25 Project Accomplishments

- *Over 1,500 students* designed and implemented 66 proposed projects
- *Over 4,300 students* engaged across 36 eligible schools
- Over \$120,000 spent
- 38 Student Climate Project Advisors (SCPAs) involved & provided support for student projects
- 12+ organization partnerships
- Countless community volunteers central office staff

[Project Showcase Document](#)



Program Improvements for 25-26

- **Communication:** Simplified structures and more consistent messaging
- **Contracting:** Clearer, more efficient contracting process
- **Role Expectations:** Clearer extended responsibility expectations
- **Advisor Supports:** Monthly group meetings and 1:1 support
- **Student Supports:** Additional adult volunteer support (grades 6–8)
- **Administrative Supports:** Budget and expense workbooks for school admin teams
- **Resource Development:** Ongoing creation and refinement of program resources informed by student and advisor feedback
- **Partnerships:** Community outreach and partner packages that connect student projects with professional expertise
- **Volunteer Support:** Advanced 24-25 CCRC Recommendation to develop a volunteer program to enhance capacity



PCEF Student-led Climate Projects



25/26 Project Proposals: By the Numbers

- Over **2,700** students involved in planning / project development
- Nearly **20,000** students anticipated to engage / participate in project activities
- **99** projects proposed and approved!
- **\$443,247** budgeted
- **47** Student Climate Project Advisors (SCPAs)

Community Support

- 37+ Community Partners in our Directory
- 71 Unique Partner Packages (and counting!)
- 10+ ESN Changemakers, in addition to countless community volunteers
- Professional Development Sessions

Project Proposal Highlights Celebration



- **Climate Careers: Build Skills and Develop Climate Advocacy**
 - Lincoln/Wells collaboration to plan events, including a lobbying trip to Salem in February, a student climate summit and career fair in March, and a local leaders climate justice community forum in April.
 - Involves multiple community organizations
- **Monthly Climate Challenges**
 - Grant HS students are planning **Climate Education Outreach** to help parents and youth understand the importance of climate action; **Electrify** to help the community use less electricity; **Regenerative Agriculture** lunchtime talk from Tabula Rasa Farms; and **Transportation Decarbonization** to establish a bike repair clinic for students.

Project Proposal Highlights Celebration



- **Leadership & Climate Action**
 - Vernon's leadership class is developing 3 distinct projects - A Climate Fair for the community; Partnership with a regenerative agriculture farm via a field trip & community dinner; Climate Action Mural
- **Estuary Explorers: Learning Climate Resilience from the Lower Columbia**
 - Odyssey students will understand how estuaries support people, wildlife, and climate resilience, and they'll engage in hands-on learning, model-building, field trip, and planning a schoolwide Estuary Climate Expo

Strategies for Accessible & Meaningful Projects

Resource Creation

- Iterative process, continuous opportunities for feedback from students and advisors

Partnerships

- Community partners provide professional project management and design support

Ecosystems of Support

- Supportive network of adults and community partners who guide, connect, and advise students
- Practical resources and structures that enable students to lead, plan, and carry out their projects



Have Questions?

Visit our [Student Climate Projects Website](#)

or

Reach out to the PPS Climate Action Team
studentclimateprojects@pps.net

LINKED TO
RESOURCES

Planning Your Climate Project

