

DRAFT

[Last year's Annual Report](#)

Climate Crisis Response Committee Annual Report to the Portland Public Schools Board 2025-2026 Academic Year

Climate Crisis Response Committee Members

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INTRO

Since the passage of the Climate Crisis Response, Climate Justice and Sustainable Practices Policy (CCRP) by the Portland Public Schools (PPS) Board in March of 2022, the district has taken action to meet ambitious goals that will impact the health and safety of students and communities throughout Portland. The CCRP mandated the establishment of a Climate Crisis Response Committee (CCRC) to “monitor effective implementation, transparency, and tracking of progress” of the CCRP. This Annual Report of the CCRC serves to celebrate this year's accomplishments, shed light on challenges to overcome, and provide recommendations that will maintain PPS on its trailblazing path as a climate leader.

Following up on the 2024-25 Recommendations:

The 2024-25 CCRC Annual Report included the concluded with the following recommendations:

- I. Align Climate Work with PPS Priority Goals*
- II. Embed Transparency and Engagement Tools*
- III. Preserve and Scale Climate Programs*
- IV. Institutionalize Student Voice*
- V. Expand and Redesign the PPS Volunteer Program to Include Climate Policy Implementation Support*

2025-26 Successes:

- Climate Friendly Public Schools Program, funded by the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) student climate projects have provided wider expanse of climate action, empowerment and engagement within our middle and high schools
- All new schools will be fully electric! (schools to open 2029 - will meet our decarbonization goal in 2030)
- Opportunity to strengthen the CCRC via the PPS School Board policy review committee - add air quality metrics (related to increasing climate resilience), include new technology recommendations (AI), etc.
- Second annual distribution of the Climate Crisis Student Survey to high school students - embedding student voice
- Early engagement with the District AI workgroup and an ongoing collaborative partnership will ensure that a future AI policy is in alignment with the CCRP's goals

Challenges to overcome:

- Loss of PPS Climate Crisis Response Policy dashboard due to eliminating contract with Enviso - loss ground in previous year's recommendation to "embed transparency"
 - Recommendation from previous year - Embed Transparency and Engagement Tools
- Staff capacity limitations - Climate Justice & Sustainability Team Reductions
 - Climate Resiliency Program manager position was eliminated last school year d/t budget cuts
 - Two remaining roles (Energy & Sustainability Program Manager and Sustainability Project Manager) have experienced vacancies - former role will be filled in May '26
 - **Result:** PPS Climate Justice Advisor has not had access/capacity to share detailed decarbonization progress with CCRC hampering the committee's ability to monitor progress
 - PPS staff reductions/limitations more broadly have resulted in reduced capacity to move work forward (examples?)
- Decarbonization goals are contingent on PGE decarbonizing the grid - can we do more advocacy work?

Recommendations:

1. Formalize relationship between CCRC/PPS Climate Team and the AI Governance Workgroup (e.g. Include a CCRC representative on the workgroup?)
2. Establish a mechanism for PPS staff to share (with PPS leadership & PPS community at-large), respond to, and incorporate learnings from Climate Crisis Student Survey responses
 - a. Kat's hope: Be able to share how the previous year's student survey data influenced climate work planning for the year ahead

3. The decarbonization dashboard should be recreated, updated on a consistent basis, and publicly available.
 - a. Ensure decarbonization data is accessible to all members of the PPS Climate team to provide consistent updates to CCRC and broader PPS community.
 - b. Moving forward with current budget constraints, we do not advise engaging contractors (i.e. Envisio) for services that require annual fees in order to maintain transparency on the district's progress towards the CCRP's goals. The current plan to embed the decarbonization dashboard on PPS's website is supported.
4. Increasing awareness and engagement - School-specific data to track progress on building (e.g. electrification, thermal comfort, improvements,
5. Adjust process/ timing for recruitment and onboarding for CCRC members (proposed addition from Jane)
6. Draft a proposal for investment in PPS schools via PCEF's next 5-year Climate Investment Plan (CIP), due in 2027. (proposed addition from Jane)