



Sustainability Plan 2030

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Introduction

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is the ninth (9th) largest school district in the nation serving 206,058 students with 25,125 employees in 32,395,323 square feet of facilities.* The Vision of OCPS is to ensure every student has a promising and successful future. To fulfill this Vision, the district has identified the following objectives:

- High Expectations for Student Learning
- Student Social and Emotional Well-Being
- Dedicated and High-Quality Team
- Positive Climate and Safe Environment
- Efficient Operations
- Engaged and Invested Community

In support of these objectives, the OCPS Office of Sustainability is to inspire action among staff and students to improve the environment, reduce district costs, and make a positive social impact in our community. The United Nations defines sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The OCPS Sustainability Plan 2030 provides a distinct pathway for our students to have a promising and successful future.

The OCPS Sustainability Plan 2030 provides the overarching tool to organize and communicate the objectives, indicators and strategies necessary for the district to achieve its sustainability goals. The development of the OCPS Sustainability Plan 2030 ensured alignment with our local municipalities’ sustainability goals, the United States Green Building Council’s Whole School Sustainability Framework and the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As one of the largest school districts in the nation, we will realize an immense impact locally and globally by 2030.

**Statistics provided as of April 2021



Background

In 2015, OCPS baselined its recycling rate, electric use per square foot, water use per square foot, amount of diesel fuel potentially avoided, and the number of schools participating in the Green Schools Recognition Program. From the baseline data, annual progressive goals were set for each of the five targets. Between 2016 and 2020, OCPS identified and implemented projects to assist in the achievement of the goals. Many of the goals did not come to fruition because they lacked internal and external stakeholder engagement, buy-in, and awareness. Through this experience, the district learned that collaboration across internal and external communities is necessary for the development and support of sustainability initiatives. The creation of the OCPS Sustainability Plan 2030 is through multiple collaboration efforts with students, faculty, staff, and the community. The goal of these collaboration efforts for all stakeholders to identify the most crucial sustainability challenges that OCPS Sustainability Plan 2030 (the Plan) will address



Sustainability Targets

The Five (5) Sustainability Targets are:



Waste Reduction



Water Conservation



Health and Wellness



Energy Conservation
and Renewable Energy



Transportation

TARGET 1:
**WASTE
REDUCTION**



Target 1: Waste Reduction

The Objective of reducing waste is to improve the health of our local and global communities, mitigate climate change and reduce district costs. Orange County Public Schools is committed to reducing waste districtwide. To ensure a promising and healthy future for all, there is a crucial need to reduce landfill waste. Currently, the district strives to reduce landfill waste by providing multiple recycling and reuse programs to provide an alternative to landfilling materials generated districtwide. A districtwide recycling audit program has been in effect since 2010 to educate students and staff on how to improve recycling programs at their schools or facility. Three (3) waste reduction goals are identified in the Plan. By 2030, each corresponding target will be achieved.

WASTE REDUCTION GOALS		
Divert total waste stream from landfill	Increase waste reduction educational awareness	Decrease food waste by increasing total weight of composted and donated food

Landfilling materials result in the release of methane, one of the greatest contributors to climate change. Many items that end up in landfills could have been recycled which conserves natural resources.

The SDG's supporting Waste Reduction Goals:



TARGET 2:
**WATER
CONSERVATION**



Target 2: Water Conservation

To improve water conservation districtwide to reduce costs, enhance local water resources, and ensure a healthy community for all is the main Objective under this Target. To ensure a promising and healthy future for all, there is a critical need to conserve our state's precious water resources. Currently, the district includes water-saving fixtures in new construction projects and responding to maintenance issues involving leaking water sources. Three (3) water conservation and water quality goals are identified in the Plan. By 2030, each corresponding target will be achieved.

WATER CONSERVATION GOALS		
Decrease indoor water consumption	Decrease irrigation usage	Increase water conservation educational awareness

Florida obtains its water for drinking and most irrigation from the Florida Aquifer. Due to continued population growth, over-extraction, sea-level rise and increasing saltwater intrusion are straining the Aquifer's ability to recharge. To ensure the availability of fresh water for future generations, sustainable water management is necessary.

The SDG's supporting Water Conservation Goals:





TARGET 3:

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Target 3: Health and Wellness

The main Objective in this Target is to improve the health and wellness of our people and planet by increasing knowledge and access to sustainable food options, enhancing indoor air quality, and improving the physical, social and emotional health of our community. Throughout the district, there are school gardens, physical education, and health classes along with a robust indoor air quality program. By attaining the targets for the five (5) goals by 2030, the district will develop a comprehensive and holistic approach to Health and Wellness.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS GOALS				
Increase school gardens	Increase climate healthy and plant-based dining options	Increase the health of buildings by decreasing Indoor Air Quality challenges	Increase outdoor instruction time	Improve performance of The Florida Healthy District Assesment tool

Improving our environment ensures abundant and healthy natural resources for future generations. Healthy buildings provide a robust learning environment. Nourishing our mind, body and spirit prepare students and staff for managing stressors in an ever-changing world [9].

The SDG's supporting Health and Wellness Goals:



TARGET 4:

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY



Target 4: Energy Conversation and Renewable Energy

The main Objective in this Target is to decrease energy use despite growth in the built environment to mitigate climate change and save the district money on utility costs. Buildings are the largest contributor to energy consumption. In school districts, energy is the second-largest expenditure after salaries. In compliance with the Florida Statutes Section 255.2575, OCPS schools are designed and constructed in accordance with the Green Building Initiative (GBI) Green Globes rating system [16]. By achieving the targets for the five (5) goals by 2030, the district will develop a comprehensive and holistic approach to reducing our carbon footprint.

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS				
Decrease Energy Use Intensity (EUI)	Decrease Carbon Emissions	Increase use of renewable energy	Increase energy conservation and renewable energy awareness	Increase sustainable building design construction rating

The majority of electricity used by OCPS is generated from burning coal. Coal-burning emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing greatly to climate change. Buildings account for 40% of annual global GHG emissions most of which are from energy use [17]. Converting to renewable energy sources such as solar will reduce our district’s carbon footprint. By investing in energy conservation and renewable energy, the district will have the opportunity to use utility savings to enhance students’ education.

The SDG’s supporting Energy Conservation Efficiency and Renewable Energy Goals:



TARGET 5:
TRANSPORTATION



Target 5: Transportation

Engine combustion in transportation causes greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere that is a leading cause of climate change. The district has piloted a biodiesel program and individual schools have developed campaigns to reduce emissions on campus. The main Objective in this Target will decrease transportation emissions and improve air quality for our community to ensure a healthy and abundant future for all. By achieving the targets for the six (6) goals by 2030, the district will develop a comprehensive and holistic approach to reducing our carbon footprint and improving the health of our people and planet[20].

TRANSPORTATION GOALS

Increase number of electric schools buses	Increase electric or hybrid vehicles	Increase the number of EV chargers	Decrease idle time	Decrease transportation fuel	Conduct sustainable transportation lessons
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Transportation emissions from fuel consumption is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. According to the American Lung Association, transitioning to zero-emission transportation can save 6,300 lives, avoid tens of billions of dollars in health costs, and avoid tens of thousands of asthma attacks by 2050.

The SDG's supporting Transportation Reduction Goals:



Conclusion

All targets set in this Plan are to be met in 2030. The Plan is a dynamic document that will be used as a road map to navigate change over the next nine (9) years. Annually, the internal and external stakeholder Advisory Councils will review the Plan to determine progress towards goal attainment. Every three (3) years, a Progress Plan Report will be made available to inform the community and district of progress.

The Sustainability Plan 2030 will be realized with the support and buy-in of district leadership, staff, students, and our community.

By 2030, Orange County Public Schools will create a culture of sustainability by meeting the goals in the Plan. Initially, awareness will grow; over time, the behavior will change; and eventually, the community will become committed and engaged in sustainability to ensure every student has a promising and successful future.

