



Santa Cruz County Green Schools Working Group

Purpose: To support districts countywide in integrating sustainability practices that support student engagement, environmental and community health, curriculum and instruction, and greening of facilities.

Opportunity: Public schools are one of the largest landowners in California; systemic change in schools can have significant climate benefits. Also, schools serve all children, so we have the opportunity to create more equitable access to the outdoors and address local environmental and community health issues.

Sessions include:

- Introductions to frameworks for green schools that include three pillars of campus, curriculum and community and CDE's Green Ribbon Schools Recognition Program
- Panel presentations for each pillar that highlight approaches and actions in Santa Cruz County schools and beyond to inspire sharing of successful strategies and tools
- Multi-stakeholder input gathering on green schools priorities and strategies
- Community partner introductions that provide resources and foster partnerships

Outcomes:

- Districts identify and prioritize actions across pillars
- Districts identify advocates who can be the backbone for future action plans and for potential Green Ribbon Schools application in Fall 2022 for individual sites or districts
- COE captures and shares current green schools progress and initiatives across the county to map to support resources
- Multi-stakeholder awareness of districts' green schools current and future work is increased

DATES:

Jan 11, 2022 4-6pm
February 8, 2022 4-6pm
March 2022

Logistics:

- Core Team Participants: District superintendent, C&I director, facilities manager, student services director; health coordinator. Districts may also decide to involve site leaders, teachers and students depending on capacity and goals.
- Meeting Format: Three 2-hour Zoom meetings (1 mtg/month in Jan-Mar).
- Each meeting will focus on one of 3 pillars for sustainable and climate ready schools
 - Campus (increasing sustainability of facilities)
 - Community health (programs and policies for environmental and human health and wellness)
 - Curriculum (equitable environmental education and outdoor learning to build environmental literacy of students)
- Meetings will include learning about and sharing strategies across districts; connecting with community-based partners who can provide support and resources to schools, and district planning time.

Questions? Amity Sandage, Environmental Literacy Coordinator asandage@santacruzcoe.org
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