



Schools Toolkit

Concerned About Your School's Impact on the Environment?

Join many school district officials, teachers, and students to save money while reducing the impacts of climate change. Visit the Schools Toolkit, a one-stop-shop of tools and resources to save money and protect the climate.

Tools in the Schools Toolkit

Cost Saving Actions

Learn about no/low-cost actions school district officials, teachers, and students can take to save money in areas of energy and water efficiency, transportation, purchasing, building, recycling and green energy.

Financial Resources

Discover financial resources for your school. Many utilities and other organizations offer incentives like rebates, grants, and low interest loans to implement climate-friendly actions.

Take Control: Climate Calculators

Use different calculators and modeling tools to measure your school's carbon footprint. The results can be used to take action to reduce your climate impact.

Climate Curriculum & Getting Kids Involved

Learn how to teach students about climate change and get them involved in the classroom. Help students learn of changes they can make to protect the environment.

Case Studies: Who's Made the Change in California

Find out how California schools have successfully and profitably reduced their climate impact.

Third-Party Recognition Programs

Find out about a few programs designed to evaluate and rate the energy efficiency and environmental performance of schools.

Visit CoolCalifornia.org to get started with the Schools Toolkit.
For more information, contact Heather Choi at 916.322.3893 or hchoi@arb.ca.gov.



Ways to Save Energy & Money at School

How Does Saving Energy Save Money?

Energy usage is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California. Schools can reduce annual energy expenses by about 20% through implementation of simple energy efficiency actions.

Steps to Save Energy

For District Officials

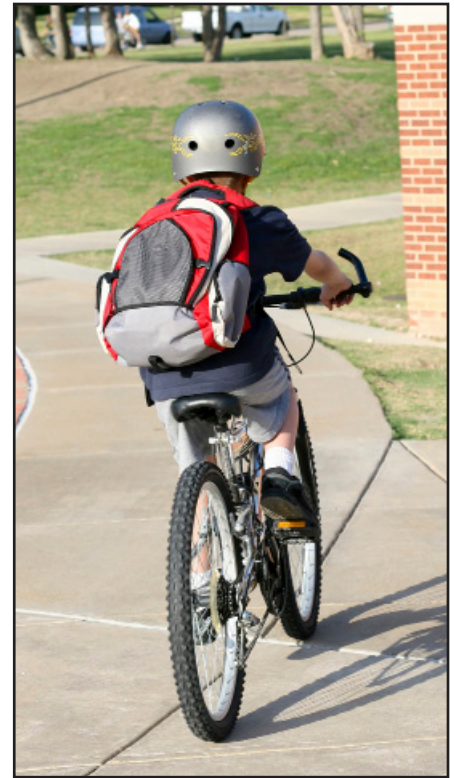
- Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Install programmable thermostats to minimize operating hours of heating and cooling systems in low-occupancy areas, like the cafeteria.
- Install occupancy sensors that will automatically turn off the lights when no one is in the room.



- Clean furnace filters. A clean filter maximizes its efficiency and longevity and minimizes your energy bills.

For Teachers

- Make duplexing (double-side printing) the default mode for copiers/printers.
- Hang a "Save Energy" sign near your classroom light switches. It will remind students to turn off lights when they are not in use.
- Change the thermostat settings in rooms to 78 during warmer months and to 68 during cooler months. Doing so will lower the heating and air conditioning use.
- Encourage everyone to keep doors and windows closed when heating or air conditioning is running.



For Students

- Turn off unneeded lights and use natural daylighting when possible.
- Ask teachers and staff to plug all equipment into surge protectors and turn them off when not in use.
- Set your computer and monitor to "sleep" mode even when inactive for a few minutes. Sleep mode saves energy.
- Join a Student Energy Patrol and work with your teacher to ensure lights are out when rooms are empty.

For more information on other strategies to save money, visit the Schools Toolkit at www.coolcalifornia.org/schools.