

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL

- Energy-efficient design: Incorporate passive solar heating, natural lighting, high performance windows with shading, LED lighting, occupancy sensor lights, Energy Star appliances, and super efficient insulation.
- Renewable energy sources: Install solar panels, and/or wind turbines to generate electricity. Consider batteries for energy storage. Siting the building for effective solar panel use.
- Heat and cool the building using geothermal or air sourced heat pumps. Effective air circulation to maintain a healthy learning environment.
- Sustainable materials: Use recycled, non-toxic, and locally sourced materials for construction. Examples include sinks made from recycled materials, reclaimed wood, bamboo, cork, rubber, stone, recycled glass, and plastic sheets, bricks and lumber.
- Using roofing materials and colors which reflect light resulting in a cooler building.
- Sustainable transportation: Encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transportation with bike racks and designated pedestrian paths.
- Water conservation: Implement rainwater harvesting systems, greywater recycling, and low-flow fixtures.
- Green spaces: Include gardens, green roofs, and outdoor learning areas to promote biodiversity and connect students with nature. Minimize the use of turf grass and instead plant native plants.
- Waste management: Establish recycling programs, composting facilities, and reduce single-use plastics. Build in

recycling receptacles and composting bins that can easily remove materials deposited.

- Electric vehicle charging stations for staff and maintenance equipment. Minimally the infrastructure for charging stations should be installed during construction with an eye toward installation in the future.
- Environmental education: Integrate sustainability principles into the curriculum and provide opportunities for hands-on learning about environmental stewardship. Establish an outdoor education classroom that can be utilized year round.
- Community involvement: Engage students, staff, parents, and local stakeholders in decision-making and sustainability initiatives.
- Monitoring and evaluation: Implement systems to track energy consumption, water usage, waste generation, and overall environmental impact to continually improve sustainability efforts.