

# Crunching the Numbers FOR CARBON

The importance of understanding the financial implications of achieving climate action goals



DENVER  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

## Sustainability

As a result of student activism urging DPS leadership to take significant and urgent climate action, Denver Public Schools published its first-ever Climate Action Plan in December 2022.

The DPS Sustainability Team hired a third-party engineering firm to evaluate the financial impact of achieving the electrification, renewable energy, and energy management goals in the Climate Action Plan.

<https://sustainability.dpsk12.org>

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DO A FINANCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION?

A

Setting goals is easy. But *achieving those goals* is what matters most.

B

With finite financial resources, *every dollar should make the greatest impact possible* in reducing carbon pollution over the life cycle of projects and equipment.

## 4 SCOPES OF WORK

*included in our financial impact assessment (FIA)*

### 2020 Bond Electrification Evaluation

- Consult on schools receiving new cooling or cooling upgrades
- Recommend electrification, assess costs

### 2024 Capital Planning Electrification Evaluation

- Plan ahead for next bond round to include electrification
- Recommend electrification, assess costs

### Renewable Energy Assessment

- Analyze gap to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030 considering Xcel Energy targets
- Determine options and costs for new solar

### Portfolio Level Analysis

- Evaluate historic energy use and emissions
- Assess impacts and costs for efficiency, electrification, and renewables across DPS

## OUR LEARNINGS FROM THE FIA

1

Electrification opportunities are available in EVERY school

2

There are easy, medium, and hard routes to reaching electrification goals

3

Electrification projects should be considered holistically and in specific types of projects

4

Partial electrification is recommended for existing schools

5

183 schools out of 195 showed at least some onsite solar potential

6

Solar installations should be considered during roof replacements, additions, and renovations

7

DPS completed the simplest energy efficiency upgrades like LED lighting retrofits. New projects will have a longer ROI.