



Climate Action Update

Winter 2024

Congrats to DPS' Climate Champions!

Fourteen projects across the district were awarded funding through the Climate Champions Grant Program, which provides \$225,000 for DPS students to implement climate action projects in their schools.

The program is funded by Denver's [Climate Protection Fund](#) and is in partnership with Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency.

Climate Champions | 2023-2024



Beach Court Elementary
Discovery Link Climate Champions



Northfield High
Nighthawk Oasis



Centennial Elementary
Project Bike 4 Earth



Park Hill Elementary
Bike Racks for Change



DCIS at Fairmont
*Service Learning and Sustainability
Earth Day Celebration*



Teller Elementary
*Eco-Groovy Air Conditioning
for All*



**Greenwood, Ford and
Swansea**
Reboot to Recycling



University Park Elem.
*Outdoor Waste Station
Installation*



Lincoln Elementary
*Lincoln Garden Improvements and
Programming*



Valdez Elementary
*WasteLess Warriors / Los
guerreros del desperdicio*



McAuliffe Manual Middle
*Enhancing Sustainability-Focused
Project-Based Learning Curriculum
and Outdoor Education*



Vista Academy
MANRRS Initiatives



North High
Reducing Standby Power at North



Westerly Creek Elem.
Trees at WCE!

Free seed-starting materials and workshops

Free seed-starting materials and class workshops are available to Title 1 schools with a free and reduced-lunch population of 75% or more. In-class seed starting workshops will be led by our garden specialist, and no gardening experience is needed. Email [Chris Woodburn](mailto:Chris.Woodburn) to schedule your workshop(s), and act fast as materials are limited.



Learn
More

Get involved with EcoSchools

Does your school have a garden club, green team, or sustainability club? Are your students ready to take their efforts to the next level?

The National Wildlife Foundation's [EcoSchools certification](#) offers a framework to foster environmental stewardship at the school level. Schools can choose from a variety of options based on their starting point and capacity.

If your school is interested in this certification, complete this [interest form](#), and Kelly Moses, sustainability program manager, will reach out and help determine an appropriate path forward.



EcoSchools U.S.
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

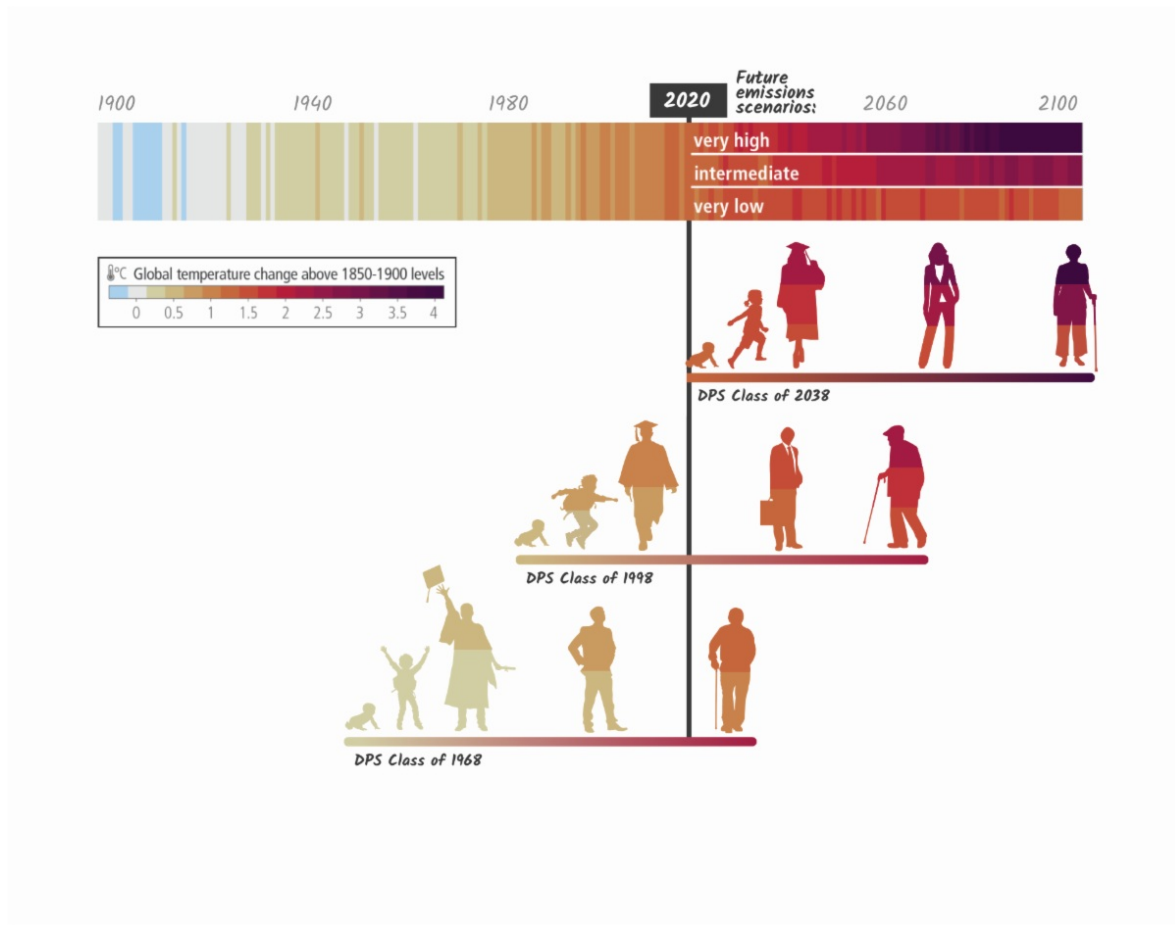
EcoSchools Interest
Form

Experiencing climate change differently

The IPCC stated: *“Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected.”*

That holds true for today's youth and DPS' learners, and that is why DPS Sustainability is responding with urgency to the cries of our youth for climate action.

This figure, adapted from the IPCC's 2023 Synthesis Report, shows how different generations will experience the effects of a hotter world, and how that experience will be affected by the climate action we take in the near-term.



LeeAnn Kittle recognized by AEE

DPS' Executive Director of Sustainability, LeeAnn Kittle, was recognized by the Association of Energy Engineers - a network of more than 17,000 members across 100 countries - and awarded Energy Manager of the Year for the Central & South U.S. Region.

This award acknowledges her outstanding efforts in promoting innovative energy management and sustainable development. Congratulations to LeeAnn on this well-deserved recognition!



How've you *bin*?



[DreamBooks](#) provides drop boxes at certain DPS schools for the reuse and recycling of books, CDs, and DVDs.

Last year, DPS' partnership diverted over 70,000 pounds of books from the landfill!

School administrators can request a drop box for their school by emailing the [Sustainability Team](#).

Also, every DPS educator and staffperson is given a \$50 credit at DreamBook's in-person [bookstore](#) *each month!*



[USAgain](#) offers drop boxes for schools to collect reusable clothing and shoes, diverting them from landfills and redistributing them to those in need.

In turn, schools can compete in contests for cash prizes.

School administrators can request a drop box for their school by emailing the [Sustainability Team](#).

Storytelling resources

Green Teams across DPS lead the way on environmental stewardship at their schools. Sharing their success stories with the community can help inspire collective action.

How to Tell a Good Story
(High School)

What story does your green team want to share? Here are some resources your students can use to help craft compelling stories.

In the News

- 9News: [New, all-electric school nearly complete, ready to greet students next school year](#)
 - EdWeek: [This Leader Partners With Students to Build a More Sustainable Future for Her District](#)
 - Sustainability Mag: [Students drive sustainable change in Denver Public Schools](#)
-

Teacher Spotlight: Juliann Lang



My name is Julie Lacey Lang and I lead the Global Leadership program at DSST: Cedar High School. Part of the vision for this program is to empower students to take leadership and action around sustainable development. This year, our theme has been around water. Students have worked with industry professionals around Denver to meaningfully partner to take on real work problems and work towards solutions. Two of our groups will participate in the Denver World Affairs Challenge and compete against students from all over the world. This will enable them to analyze the similarities and differences of global issues.

Our students partnered with: The Greenway Foundation, Mile High Flood District, Denver Water, Sand Creek Regional Greenway, CO Stormwater Center, Lincoln Hills Cares, & Trout in the Classroom. Students are preparing to head to the Global Leadership Summit in Berlin, Germany where students will work with others from all over the world to engage in dialog and solutions for sustainable water. After Berlin they will head to Switzerland and Italy to continue to explore

how water and sustainability go hand in hand.

I came to DSST Cedar during its founding year in 2013 because I wanted to help build a meaningful program for students that I believed in and wanted to work alongside like-minded educators. I started as a 6th grade social studies teacher and developed Falcons without Borders which took Middle School Students on a yearly service learning project. After 5 years I moved to the high school to found Global Leadership which would empower juniors to consider how sustainability fits into the global context and how to be change makers amongst their own communities.

Sustainability is important to me because I do not believe the Earth can sustain life with the current pressures humanity has placed on it. We need the current and future generations to have sustainability as a core pillar of their belief system and bring it into all careers. I love working with high schools as they are the future leaders of this world and I believe their mindsets will shape our future. I also love living in Colorado where I believe we are uniquely positioned to be transformative in the ways we practice sustainability because our state depends on us.

Tips I have for educators is to ask you students what they care about and provide opportunities for them to drive their own learning. Giving them the structures and outlets but allowing them to be in the drivers seat as often as possible. Make learning real, engaging, and empowering is the most exciting way to be a learner and an educator. I learn so much from my students and I feel fortunate to be their leader.



www.sustainability.dpsk12.org



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email





Try email marketing for free today!