

Greetings, ESAC members and friends of AISD Sustainability,

Please see the below for the latest updates in AISD’s sustainability action areas. We look forward to seeing you **in person at Govalle Elementary, 5:30-7:30pm this Wednesday** for our general ESAC Meeting. We will have an optional green building tour of the school after the meeting for anyone who would like to join.

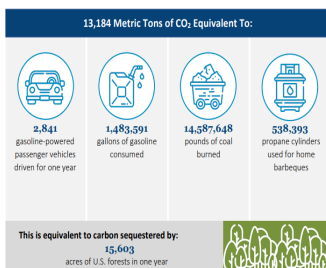
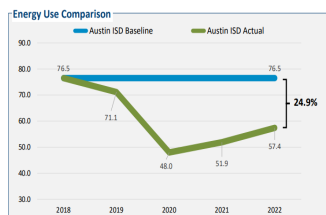


### AISD Earth Week!

- AISD celebrated Earth Week April 17-22nd! Check out the [Earth Week photos](#) and view even more on our social media ([Twitter/Instagram](#)).
- In the weeks before Earth Week, every AISD school received an Earth Week toolkit that included a [Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights poster](#) and a full set of [EcoRise’s Environmental Justice posters](#) to display.
- AISD staff participated in several fun Earth Week activities, including an Earth Week potluck sponsored by Texas Disposal Systems, a yoga and zumba session led by our own ESAC members (thanks, Mike, Jacqui, and Rica), a volunteer opportunity to help students sort their lunch waste (thanks to Diane and the rest of the Food Services Team and ESAC volunteers), a grounds cleanup at the Central Office, a “Dim the Lights” day (energy conservation, thanks to Rey!), and a plant and seed swap! It was a huge hit, and we can’t wait to do it again next year.
- The [AISD Earth Week webpage](#) will stay up all year, so you can continue to find sustainability-related resources and activities all in one place. Huge thank you to all of our partners that contributed content to the website!

### Energy & Water Updates

- The Energy Use Index (EUI), referred to generally as “energy intensity,” demonstrates the volume of energy consumed per square foot at a set of facilities over the course of a year. Before 2018, the AISD facilities included in this project scored a combined EUI of 76.5. After adoption of the AISD Energy Leadership program, equipment upgrades and Four-Season Optimization, the EUI of these facilities is now 57.4, a 24.9% reduction in energy intensity.
- Austin ISD’s initiative to reduce energy consumption has far-reaching impacts. [This table](#) shows the environmental impact of Austin ISD’s energy conservation efforts and is sourced from the [EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#). In the first full year following equipment upgrades, Four-Season Optimization, and adoption of the Energy Leadership program, Austin ISD offset 13,184 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.





## Food Updates

- The AISD Food Services Department celebrated Earth Week in a big way this year!
- Cafes competed in a [sustainability-based Bingo competition](#), taking small steps towards goals in waste reduction, plant based eating, energy-savings, and more.
- In collaboration with Juiceland, we offered Green Smoothie Samples at all of our schools and gave out thousands of Juiceland Stickers and Discount Keychains to promote eating green.
- We hosted AISD staff and ESAC members to help in a very hands-on manner by sorting trash, recycling and compost on campus during lunch.
- We provided all 600+ members of our team with Earth Days shirts!
- We shared some Earth Day love with our Trustees with the help of garden herbs and flowers from Becker Elementary, Cunningham Elementary, and Lively Middle School.



## Nature Updates

- Sanchez Elementary Green School Park is complete! The kids say the nature play space is lots of fun, and is the perfect place for hide-and-seek. Stay tuned for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in August!
- Green School Parks Designation: 14 additional schools are under review to become Green School Parks! Signage and stewardship documents are going out to those schools who meet the designation.
- Congressman Lloyd Doggett secured just over \$2M in federal funding for outdoor learning in AISD! This will fund outdoor classrooms on 30+ campuses.
- Discovery Hill celebrated its 10 year anniversary! The same week, we hosted our last field trip there, as well as the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Heroes Showcase, where students from 10 schools got to show off the garden projects on their campuses. It is a bittersweet time for a garden full of so much love.
- We are exploring new ideas and spaces to host field trips until we have another outdoor learning center for our students. The field trips we tried at Pease Park were a hit!
- Girls+ Outside is wrapping up the final field trips to round out 25 for this year! It has been an absolute blast!
- Update on additional Outdoor Learning Specialist position: The selection process is underway, with interviews starting soon.

# ZERO WASTE

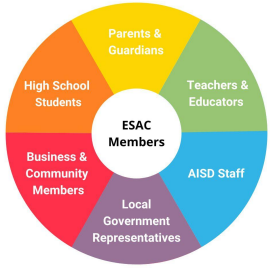
## Zero Waste Updates

- We have [updated sorting signs](#)! They are available to all teachers, staff, and students in the zero waste toolkit (see right side of [this web page](#)).
- **Assessment visits** have been performed at high schools by the zero waste lead, Ana Echeverria, to encourage, promote, and enforce waste sorting practices at the district, while engaging personnel to commit to AISD Zero Waste strategies.
- **“Reusing” has become part of the strategies promoted by Austin ISD during the 2022-2023 year.** With the help of Housekeeping Operations personnel, the Energy & Water Department, and our painting shop, AISD Zero Waste have distributed 7-gallon bins adapted for recycling at elementary schools. These bins, originally intended for landfill, were donated to the school district through National Instruments and have been repurposed, saving money to the school district and diverting resources from the landfill.



## Transportation & Air Quality Updates

- Mike and his partner Thuy had their baby! He cannot attend the May 10th meeting, but he is looking forward to our next school year with ESAC. Rica Sunga-Kwan is now participating in the ESAC as a representative from AISD Transportation, and is excited to join the team. Both Mike and Rica are avid health and wellness enthusiasts that plan to incorporate movement into the ESAC community.
- We want to thank Jacqui “Happy” Willis for serving with the ESAC team this school year. Her energy and positive aura have made a great impact and she will be missed. Gracias, Seniorita Willis!!!
- We are anticipating the arrival of our 3 electric school buses in late 2023, and will have 4 charging stations (2 fast charge, 2 standard charge) installed at our Southeast Terminal this summer. Our goal is to pilot the 3 buses (2 GenEd, 1 SpEd) next school year and learn the ins and outs of electric school buses for future electric fleet increase.
- The Transportation Department has applied for both a grant and a rebate through TCEQ for electric school buses. If awarded, we would receive a portion of the funding spent on the 3 already purchased and a percentage of the cost for future purchase of another 10 electric school buses. \*Fingers crossed\*
- We are also working with the Office of Innovation and Development to apply for the upcoming Federal EPA grant specifically for electric school buses. We are still in the early stages but will apply for both buses and infrastructure. More details to come!



## Equity & Community Engagement Updates

- ESAC Membership re-application period is OPEN! Please remember that between April 1st and June 30th all current ESAC members will need to re-apply for a new membership term starting school year 23-24. This is part of the larger change to term limits for all AISD advisory bodies. You can submit your re-application [here](#).
  - Help us recruit new members to ESAC, expanding the voices and perspectives on our committee. We are especially interested in adding new parent, teacher, and student representatives. We'd like every current ESAC member to help spread the word. We created a [toolkit](#) to help you!
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