

UPDATE: 11/8/2023

Greetings, ESAC members and friends of AISD Sustainability,

We look forward to seeing you at our **virtual ESAC meeting tomorrow evening, November 8th!** In advance of our meeting, please review the latest sustainability news and info from our AISD staff and ESAC subcommittee and working group leaders.



AISD is hiring positions that support AISD sustainability and ESAC goals. Please share widely with your networks!

- **AISD Urban Forester.** This position is being funded by the City of Austin's Planning and Development Services Department and will report to the AISD Director of Architecture in Construction Management. Links: [Application link](#) | [Job Description](#) | [Info flier to share](#)
- **Building and Environmental Scientist Foreman.** The position will report to the Director of Facilities Maintenance. Links: [Application link](#) | [Job Description](#)
- **Building and Environmental Scientist Specialist.** The position will report to the Building and Environmental Scientist Foreman in the Facilities Maintenance Department. Links: [Application link](#) | [Job Description](#)



Energy and Water
Management Department

(AISD Staff Update) Energy & Water Updates

- The Energy and Water Department received a rebate from AE for \$209K for the performance of the Demand Response Program. These funds will be set up in a revolving energy account to address metering and other needs, previously researched by the department, to more efficiently monitor power and water consumption across the K-12 facilities in the district.
- The E&W Department has initiated general repairs of irrigation systems across the district to ensure better performance of water consumption in the athletic fields and green zones of our facilities. These actions help to reduce water waste, especially after one of the most critical droughts in Central Texas, and second hottest summer on record.



(AISD Staff Update) US Department of Energy Renew America's Schools Grant

- AISD's proposed project: ~\$15M for rooftop solar and/or building automation controls at 16 schools.
- In June, we received the great news from the US Department of Energy that our proposal was recommended for funding. Since then, we have been in negotiations with the Department of Energy, which are expected to last through November. The award is not final until negotiations are complete.

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- This has been a multi-departmental initiative and we are so grateful to AISD's Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) team, Construction Management, Energy & Water Management, Operations Chief, Network Security, Procurement, Innovation & Development, and others for their hard work on this project so far!
 - Please take a peek for [more info about the Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools Grant at AISD.](#)
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(AISD Staff Update) Sustainable Food

- New options are on the way for our upcoming Winter Menu! Be sure to look for Pear Crisp, our new plant based burger by Rebellyous, and more variety on our Secondary Breakfast menus. High Schools will also feature Chicken Tikka Masala, a new Caesar Salad with homemade croutons, and bone- in Mango Jalapeno Chicken Wings.
 - Cafeterias will welcome thousands of caretakers and families into our Cafes to share a Thanksgiving meal starting this week, and continuing into next week. Check with your student's front office for more information and ticket sales.
 - Be sure to follow AISD Food Services on social media @AISDFood on all platforms to stay informed on promotions, menu highlights, and see the good work our team does making sure our district's students are fed with nutrition, sustainability, and thoughtful menu options.
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(AISD Staff Update) Nature

- We are unofficially renaming the Outdoor Learning team the **Outdoor Wonder and Learning** team, or OWL. We think it fits us well! 🦉
 - The OWL team has been working with the Brain Science team in AISD's SEL Department to collaborate on staff and student wellness activities. This includes a staff wellness day at AISD's HQ, Travis High School staff wellness day, and a guerrilla nature art creation with Travis High students. Next week, we will present at the Counselors' Symposium!
 - The OWL team is presenting to AISD's Parent Champions this week on outdoor learning across the District.
 - We celebrated [Outdoor Classroom Day](#) on November 2, hoping to go bigger next time!
 - We have been engaged in the bond modernizations that are underway and are very excited for the plethora of outdoor learning opportunities coming along.
 - ESAC members will receive an update about the AISD/City of Austin Joint Use properties during the November 8th ESAC meeting.
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(AISD Staff Updates) Zero Waste

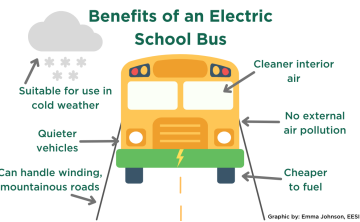
- **Training, training!** It is ***happening!*** Zero Waste sorting training has been provided consistently to AISD community. Please, feel free to request training for your school [here](#) or emailing ana.gomezcheverria@austinisd.org
- Do you know about a member of our community (student, teacher, staff, parent) who wants to take the lead and help to improve waste sorting and landfill diversion? Please email ana.gomezcheverria@austinisd.org
- [LASA](#) newspaper interviewed our department to learn more about Zero Waste at AISD. We talked about what AISD is doing to divert waste from the landfill and about Myths & Facts related to Waste Sorting. We also spoke about [all the resources our district provides](#)^[AGE1] , and the importance of [having all of our community committed](#) to AISD Zero Waste goals.

(AISD Staff Update) Transportation

- Great news! We are awarded the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program grant. We are approved for \$740,296 for electric school buses and \$1.2M for the infrastructure (charging stations and other facility modifications needed to support e-buses). That's a total of \$1.9M for this grant alone. This year, we have been awarded \$2.9M in total grant funds.
- The delivery for our 3 electric school buses is delayed by the manufacturer. We expect them to arrive in mid-November. The charging stations and related infrastructure for these buses is ready and waiting at our Southeast Terminal.
- We are encouraging recycling within our Transportation Main Office and finding ways to be consistent with zero waste and AISD recycling and compost processes.

(AISD Staff Update) Air Quality

- The AISD Facilities Maintenance Department is forming a committee to develop and implement an IAQ program by using the [EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Program](#) to help ensure that we are providing a safe and healthy indoor environment for students and staff.
- We are resharing [these indoor air quality slides](#) from a conversation with a group of ESAC members in April 2023 that provide an overview of current initiatives at AISD. You may also view these [outdoor air quality initiatives](#).
- Please see the job postings above for two positions that will help lead air quality efforts at AISD.





ESAC Membership Update

- The ESAC has 41 out of 42 member positions filled! Check out the [roster](#) to view current members.
- We are still recruiting for one AISD classroom teacher position. If you know someone who would be a good fit, please have them [apply](#)!



(ESAC Working Group Update) I-35 Air Quality & Schools

- Group leader: Eileen McGinnis
- The Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) voted unanimously on 10/18 to co-sign the ESAC's I-35 Air Quality letter to the AISD Superintendent and Board of Trustees
- The AISD Superintendent and COO have responded to our letter with some follow-up questions. At our kick-off meeting on 11/7, we'll discuss our response as well as possible next steps for the group (like helping to coordinate air-monitor distribution to schools).



(ESAC Working Group Update) Amenity Mapping

- Group leader: Melody Alcazar and Yasmine Anderson
- Kick-off meeting scheduled for 11/13



(ESAC Working Group Update) Zero Waste

- Group leader: Amanda Braziel
- Our main goal is to support the appropriate use of recycling and compost bins in addition to the landfill bins at AISD's large multi use facilities such as Burger Stadium, House Park, Nelson Field, and the PAC.
- We will have our first meeting via [Teams](#) on Nov. 7 at 4pm if you'd like to join us. ♻️

Resources: [ESAC Google Drive](#) | [ESAC Website](#) | [ESAC Subcommittees and Working Groups \(padlet\)](#) | [ESAC Working Group Notes Folders](#) | ESAC listserv: aisd_esac@googlegroups.com | [AISD Advisory Bodies Bulletin](#)

(If you need access to the ESAC Google Drive or listserv, please contact lucia.sewingcole@austinisd.org)

Kind regards,
Darien Clary & Lucia Sewing Cole