AISD Sustainability Updates

Darien Clary
ESAC Accomplishments

- 2004: Green Building design for new schools
- 2008: Environmental committee created
- 2010: Board passed Sustainability resolution
- 2011: Board adopted Sustainability policy
- 2013: Envi. committee becomes district advisory body (ESAC)
- 2014: 1st sustainability staff member hired
- 2015-18: Sustainability Plan Development + Community Engagement Series

2010 Outdoor Learning Specialist Hired
2015 Sustainability Conference
Sustainability Plan

AISD Sustainability: An organized approach for the school district, the city, and partner organizations to build a culture of environmental awareness and action together while enhancing educational outcomes for our most precious resource: our students.
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Sustainability Plan

Next Steps

Written update to Board of Trustees
Feedback over summer
Post final version on AISD Sustainability website
Ongoing: update & track strategies/actions
Every 2 years: update online document
Next Steps

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Other Initiatives Underway

- Austin ISD & PARD Joint Use Agreements
- Design input for construction projects
  - AISD Staff
  - EWaS Team
  - Sustainability Consultant - MEP, LEED coordination
  - Austin Energy Green Building
- Input for Project Development Manual
  - Opportunities to incorporate sustainable landscape practices, ensure space allocation for recycling/composting, OLE integration, etc.
Tree Care Standard Operating Procedures & Grounds Crew Training, August 2018
Action Area Updates

Subcommittee Leaders
Food

GOOD FOOD

PURCHASING PROGRAM

VOTE

#AISDGreeen
@AustinISDGreeen
What would it take for AISD to serve organic milk, produce? More kids eating school lunch

By Addie Broyles

As Austin-area parents and students are getting back-to-school supplies in order, local school districts are preparing menus, placing orders and preparing staff for another school year of feeding thousands of elementary, middle and high school students.

Austin ISD serves more than 80,000 meals every day, but they only serve only about half of the students who attend schools within the district.

My kids eat breakfast and lunch at school every day. Even if I weren’t a single parent, they would eat the school lunch. From having packed countless ham sandwiches and bags of chips for myself as a kid, I know that a hot meal made from whole ingredients is better than the granola bars and cheese sticks that constituted many of my own elementary and middle school meals.

But not every parent in AISD is as big a fan of the food as I am. I’ve heard from plenty of you who have said that you’d let your kids eat the school lunch if they served organic produce or grassfed beef.

RELATED: Why I made my own lunch every single school day, from second grade to graduation

AISD food services director Anneliese Tanner has heard that argument a lot.

In a profile of her in 2017, she explained that the school district has more buying power when they serve more students, so the more students who buy school lunch, the better quality food they can serve everyone.
So, what would it take for AISD to be able to make those changes to the menu? Ahead of this school year, Tanner crunched the numbers to find out how many students would have to start eating the school lunch to serve grassfed beef, organic produce and organic milk.

Here’s what she found:

- If every student not currently eating school lunch made the choice to do so once a week, all beef served in Austin ISD could be grassfed.
- If every student not currently eating lunch ate school it twice a week, AISD could serve entirely organic produce.
- If students who aren’t eating school lunch now ate it three times a week, AISD could serve organic milk at every meal.

It’s worth noting that about 45 percent of the ingredients used at AISD come from Texas suppliers, so when AISD buys more food, they are spending it with local companies and farms, including Johnson’s Backyard Garden, which supplies several seasonal vegetables to dozens of Austin schools.

You can view AISD’s menus and learn about their purchasing program at aisd.yumyummi.com.
Nature

COBOR Poster and folder of flyers/community information went to every campus
Girls Outside: Year 2

300 AISD girls connecting to nature!

Small/Metz
Austin/Mathews
Webb/Menchaca
Eastside/Brooke
Covington/Rodriguez
Energy & Water

Annual energy and water comparison
Energy & Water

Utility Dashboard

https://www.austinisd.org/sustainability/energy-water
Energy & Water

Water Signal real-time monitoring
Energy & Water

Classroom Energy Checklist

Morning Checklist
☐ Open curtains or blinds. If there is enough sunlight, keep classroom lights switched off

Lunch Checklist (or when leaving classroom for more than 15 minutes)
☐ Turn off computer monitors
☐ Turn off smart board or projector
☐ Turn off classroom lights

End of Day Checklist
☐ Turn off computers, monitors, and printers
☐ Turn off smart board or projector
☐ Unplug any electronic devices or electrical appliances
☐ Close curtains or blinds
☐ Turn off classroom lights

At all times, remember: keep doors and windows closed when heating or cooling system is running.
Austin Energy EV For Teachers

Electric vehicle charging stations installed at Travis HS, Lanier HS, Akins HS, and Kealing MS

Travis High School

Lanier High School

Save the date! Ribbon Cutting November 14, 2018 at Akins High School
Zero Waste & Procurement

- Two zero waste teacher trainings summer 2018
- 0.5 FTE Zero Waste Specialist position extended to 2018-19 SY
  - ⅔ funded by TDS in support of their EcoAcademy program
- Only 3 AISD school cafeterias implementations left to 100% AISD cafeteria composting!
## AISD 2018 Diversion Rate

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# Zero Waste & Procurement

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Transportation & Air Quality
Sustainability Plan Executive Summary

Austin ISD has embraced sustainability as a driving force behind its mission to provide a comprehensive educational experience that is high quality, challenging, and inspires students to make a positive contribution to society. Sustainability is a channel through which Austin ISD will reinvent the urban school experience.

The plan is intended to be used by administrators and staff to further sustainability in their own departments that are in line with the District’s goals; by schools to enhance the student experience through problem-based learning that empowers AISD students to become agents of change; and by the community to identify common goals and resources available to move the sustainability needle forward together.
Proposed 2018-2019 Goals

I. Advance strategies in the Sustainability Plan

II. Advocate for policies, practices, and awareness building in support of Sustainability within AISD

III. Give voice to the community at-large and create a space that is inclusive of people who have not traditionally been present in sustainability initiatives

IV. Leverage sustainability as a platform for improving academic achievement and the student experience

V. Create a space for community connection, network building, resource sharing, collaboration, and alignment among the members
Opportunities to Engage

How will you be a voice for AISD & the Sustainability Plan?

- Community Engagement subcommittee
- Sustainability Plan Poster Session
- ESAC Student Recruitment/Engagement
- ESAC Member Recruitment Focused on Gaps
- Letter of Endorsement for Sustainability Plan
- Represent ESAC at an Event
- Create Your Own Activation
Slack- Our new internal communication

esacgroup.slack.com
THANK YOU for all you do to help AISD be green!
FY18-19 Meeting Dates
5:30-7:30pm, Board Auditorium, Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6th Street

- September 27, 2018
- November 15, 2018
- January 31, 2019
- March 28, 2019
- May 23, 2019

Elections!
Dear Austin Independent School District School Board Members,

On behalf of the Austin ISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC), we write to express our strong support for the Austin Independent School District (AISD) Board Resolution calling for the adoption and implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP). As the fifth largest school district in the state and one of largest food purchasers in the City of Austin, AISD has a responsibility to set a high standard for the community and to ensure that district funds are spent in a manner consistent with its social and environmental values.

By adoption and implementation of the Good Food Purchasing Program, AISD can demonstrate its ongoing leadership locally and in the nationwide effort to address the impacts of the food system in low-income communities. Purchasing healthy, locally-produced food lessens the environmental impacts of food procurement practices, promotes fair treatment for food system workers and humane treatment of animals, provides improved nutrition for students during the school day, and encourages significant investment in our regional food system.

AISD, along with the Austin Convention Center and Housing and Food Service, part of the Division of Students Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin are the pilot partners to introduce the GFPP in Austin in 2016. Following the baseline food purchasing review in the five focus areas (local economies, valued workforce, environmental sustainability, nutrition and animal welfare), AISD was awarded two stars and increased to a three star rating following the 2016-17 school year. AISD is currently working toward a four star rating.

As a testament to GFPP’s success, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) School Board adopted the policy in 2012 and has already demonstrated how this model can drive significant changes. LAUSD now spends more money locally. In 2013, LAUSD purchased over $50 million from businesses within 200 miles, including about $12 million in produce coming from local growers. Increased demand for local businesses means new jobs. Local food processors and distributors are providing more food for LAUSD and therefore have been able to create over 150 new well-paying food chain jobs. LAUSD’s implementation of GFPP has also incentivized its vendors to adopt the five values into their practices, demonstrating to customers that they too are committed to local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition. One distributor—who serves over 300 school districts in the Southwest—has replaced conventional wheat with sustainably-produced wheat grown by family farms in the Central Valley. This sustainable, locally-grown wheat is used in a majority (81%) of their bread products supplied to LAUSD, and 45 million servings are now distributed to an additional 115 school districts outside of LA.

The Austin ISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) is one of ten district advisory bodies to the Superintendent. Our charge is to assist the district in being a recognized example of environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability. With over thirty members, the ESAC serves to bring professionals, community members, partner organizations, parents, and AISD staff into the conversation to provide resources and initiate actions that move the district towards solutions for sustainability that can be modeled for our students and the community. Austin ISD’s adoption of Good
Food Procurement supports the ESAC’s vision for sustainable practices at AISD and would help achieve the key strategy in the AISD Sustainability Plan to encourage sustainable foods served or sold on District property.

Implementation of the GFPP provides a framework and context to better share the work that is already being done at AISD. Participation has no financial impact and does not require the purchase of certain foods. The extensive data analysis provided by the GFPP helps develop a strategy for the district to make the necessary improvements needed to achieve a four star rating.

By adopting the Good Food Purchasing Program, AISD has the opportunity to set a national standard for institutions leveraging their purchasing power to build a regional food economy – one in which small and mid-sized farmers have sufficient demand for their products, students with the greatest need have the opportunity to access healthy, high-quality meals, and our food is produced sustainably, fairly, and humanely. The Austin ISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) asks that you support the Good Food Purchasing Program because it encourages investment in a vibrant, sustainable regional economy that benefits all Austinites.

Sincerely,

The Austin ISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC)

Represented by ESAC Tri-Chairs:

Monica Lopez Magee
Mary Priddy
Dr. Sherry Lepine

Austin ISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee
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sustainability@austinisd.org
512-414-3042