



# ESAC & AISD SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

[austinisd.org/sustainability](http://austinisd.org/sustainability)



March 25, 2026

## AISD Sustainability, Energy, and Environment & ESAC Updates

March 25, 2026

Greetings, AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee ([ESAC](#)) members and friends of AISD Sustainability,

Please see the [March 2026 Newsletter](#) below (*also linked & attached*) for the latest highlights of sustainability news and info from our AISD staff and ESAC working group leaders.

ESAC members, thank you for joining the upcoming [3/25 virtual ESAC meeting](#). We look forward to a productive and engaging conversation!

### ESAC Meeting Reminders



#### March 25th AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) Meeting

- Meeting Details:
  - Join us [virtually](#), 3/25, 5:30-7:30pm!
  - See the [ESAC webpage](#) for the meeting agenda, upcoming meeting dates, and previous meeting materials.

### AISD Staff Updates

The below updates are from AISD staff and departments that are contributing to AISD's sustainability efforts.

[austinisd.org/sustainability](http://austinisd.org/sustainability)

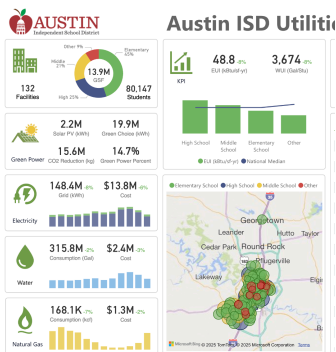


**Job alert!** We are hiring an **Irrigation Specialist** to join the AISD Grounds team. [Apply Here](#) | [Job Description](#) | Pay Range (AUX 10): \$25.330-\$31.826/hr | [AISD Compensation Manual](#). Please share! If you know someone who is interested, please refer them to [Mandi.Golman@austinisd.org](mailto:Mandi.Golman@austinisd.org).



## Sustainability, Energy, & Environment (Update from Darien Clary & Carsen Daniel)

- **Take a look:** [AISD Sustainability's first annual report!](#) Thanks to all our dedicated staff, teachers, students, and partners who contribute to this work.  
Read: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)  
Download [here](#)  
Reshare: [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)
- **AISD @ National Green Schools Conference.** Darien Clary, Director of Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, and Carsen Daniel, Sustainability Coordinator, presented at the [National Green Schools Conference](#) in February. Darien presented on designing climate and heat resilient schoolyards while Carsen presented on engaging students and teachers in solar energy. AISD's schoolyard and outdoor learning staff, Mandi Golman and Colleen Garland also attended. Participation was made possible through grant funding.
- **Host an Intern!** Support social impact and green career pathways by hosting an intern this summer through the Austin Ed Fund/Chamber of Commerce partnership. See the [bottom of this page](#) for upcoming host info sessions & FAQs. **HOST APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 30.**
- **Follow us on social media!** [LinkedIn](#), [Bluesky](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter/X](#).



## Energy & Water (Update from Reynaldo Torres, Darien Clary, & Carsen Daniel)

- **Utility Dashboard.** Reynaldo Torres, Energy & Water Manager, is updating the dashboard with the past 5 years of data. This was paused during the pandemic, and we will be excited to relaunch the dashboard. Schools can still request current data from [reynaldo.h.torres@austinisd.org](mailto:reynaldo.h.torres@austinisd.org) or [generate reports online](#). The dashboard is 90 percent finished and is expected to be live on the AISD Sustainability website for public view by May.



## Transportation (Update from Kris Hafezizadeh & Miguel Rios)

- **New Buses.** Transportation is receiving our new Bluebird buses ordered per 2022 Bond. Starting next school year, we will have a 100% air-conditioned fleet: our biggest promise to the public.
- **2022 Bond Construction.** The Nelson Bus terminal remodel per the 2022 Bond will start this summer. The design includes logistics for possible EV buses in the future. The Saegert Terminal Maintenance shop renovation per 2022 Bond design planning is in the works at this time.





programs for all students, and to keep usable materials out of the landfill.



### **Grounds, Schoolyards, and Urban Forestry** (Update from Mandi Golman, Sydnie Levell, & Darien Clary)

- **Tree Plantings & Maintenance.** The Texas Conservation corps completed tree planting and tree care activities at 3 campuses (Govalle, Bedichek, Eastside) in January. The conservation Corps will return this summer to continue to partner with the AISD Urban Forester to maintain trees at campuses! This summer, Heritage Tree Care will complete comprehensive tree pruning at seven AISD Campuses thanks to a Texas A&M Forest Service Grant.
- **Outdoor Amenity GIS Maps.** Grounds is working to create a GIS map of all our outdoor amenities. Hoping for an update this Fall 2026.
- **Schoolyard Signage.** We are working on new signage at our campuses with Standard Schoolyard Use signs on public access gates, Athletics Use signs on our new turf fields, and Educational Use signs on our outdoor learning amenities.
- **Schoolyard Public Access Coordination.** We continue to work with our partners, Austin Watershed, Bark Rangers, and Austin Parks & Rec, and Austin ISD police to address pet waste and off leash dogs on our schoolyards.
- **Safety Training & Appreciation.** The Grounds Dept is now hosting monthly staff safety training and appreciation days to support best practices as we maintain AISD's 2,220 acres throughout the city.

## **ESAC Updates**

This section includes news and updates from AISD Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee Working Groups.

[austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/esac](https://austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/esac)



### Upcoming ESAC Meetings:

- Remaining meeting dates for the 2025-26 school year:
  - March 25, 2026 (virtual)
  - May 20, 2026 (in-person, location TBD)
- You can always check the [ESAC website](#) for meeting dates, agendas, and materials.



### Construction & Demolition Materials Salvaging

Group Leader: Mary Petrovich

- Our ESAC Subcommittee exercised a great group effort to map as many Outdoor learning amenities as possible at consolidating and receiving campuses. We met with campus admin and reached out to program partners to identify priorities. Mandi, Nia, and Carsen helped to make a move plan document that Mandi presented to the move coordinators.



### Energy & Water Engagement

Group Leaders: Rey Torres & Tamera Tate & Aubrey Lethbridge

- Tamara's team has been receiving many career day requests for Austin Energy.



### Student Civic Engagement

Group Leader: Catherine Martinez

- Opportunity for 6-8 high school students to volunteer with **Water, Texas Film Festival** at check-in, stage management, and raffle operations.
- Texas Capitol Tour on March 28th at 12pm please complete [interest form](#) for more details and calendar invite.
- Students and teachers are invited to reach out to Austin Community College's [Center for Government and Civic Service](#) to participate in unique simulations at their campus or participate in their Open Governance Partnership with the City of Austin.



## Walk & Roll to School

**Group Leaders:** Julie Gutierrez & Bobby Quindlen Sandoval

- The City is piloting Daily Bike Bus leaders through a regional approach. The selected schools are Blanton ES, Govalle ES, Marshall MS, Doss ES, Murchison MS, Lamar MS, Rielly ES, Blazier Primary, Rodriguez, Clayton ES, Kiker ES, Mills ES, and Covington MS.
  - Subject to change, if you are a part of one of the listed school community and would like to get involved email: [GetThereATX@austintexas.gov](mailto:GetThereATX@austintexas.gov)
- Travis Heights' Bike Bus had their first ride on March 4th and had over 35 students and parents ride to school.
- Bike Bus Bash at Odom Park this Saturday (3/28), free family friendly bike fueled fun, breakfast tacos, and community ride.
  - [RSVP: Bike Bus Bash at Odom – Fill out form!](#)
- **Join Austin's Second Annual Kidical Mass Bike Ride!**
  - Join [The Parents' Climate Community](#), in partnership with [Ghisallo Cycling](#) and [Get There ATX](#), for Austin's second annual Kidical Mass bike ride on Sunday 4/26, 9 am at General Marshall Middle School! Be a part of this epic all-ages group ride to bring awareness to kids' mobility, clean air, and climate rights. Stay for the post-ride party featuring live music, crafts, icy treats, and more! Event details & RSVP [here](#).

**Resources:** [AISD Sustainability Website](#) | [Sustainability Resources for Schools Flyer](#)  
[ESAC Google Drive](#) | [ESAC Website](#) | [ESAC Working Group Notes Folders](#) | ESAC listserv:  
[aisd\\_esac@googlegroups.com](mailto:aisd_esac@googlegroups.com)

(If you need access to the ESAC Google Drive or listserv, please contact  
[nia.nickens@austinisd.org](mailto:nia.nickens@austinisd.org))

Kind regards,  
 AISD Department of Sustainability, Energy, & Environment

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