

## **Policy 6810 Natural Resources Conservation, Superintendent's Procedures and Associated Resolutions**

November 7, 2019

Seattle Public Schools sustainability and resource conservation efforts are governed by policy, superintendent procedures and resolutions. A brief synopsis of the documents, includes:

- Natural Resources Conservation [Policy 6810](#) requires the District to wisely manage the use of natural resources and maintain programs that support the conservation of energy and other natural resources. The goal of the policy is to create and sustain healthy environments through a resource conservation management plan. The policy requires the District to: reduce energy and water consumption; reduce waste production; increase recycling measures and educate staff and students to lessen the impact to the environment.
- Superintendent's Procedure [SP6810](#) strives to create a healthy learning and work environment for students, staff and community. The focus is long-term, sustainable measures that reduce natural resource consumption by providing specific actions concerning: heating, cooling and ventilation (HVAC) and mechanical equipment; indoor and exterior lighting usage; composting, recycling, waste reduction and waste disposal; new construction and remodels; on-going maintenance operations and procurement; conservation outreach and training; occupants of offices and classroom – equipment operating responsibilities; school grounds and gardens; and anti-idling of vehicles.
- Resolution [2006/2007-18](#) – Climate Change commits the District to a long range plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and natural resource consumption; authorizes the District to join the Seattle Climate Partnership; and discusses greenhouse gas emission reduction, requiring each department to develop an action plan and from those departments responsible for large emissions (school bus transportation, building utility use, building construction, transportation of goods and services, District motor pool and other District vehicles) provide an annual report to the Board Operations Committee on greenhouse gas reduction progress; and, educate staff and students on behavioral changes.
- Resolution [2012/13-12](#) – Green Resolution encourages the use of applying passive design and sound environmental standards in the construction and renovation of buildings and campuses through furthering the development of sustainable building criteria to ensure that every major capital project: meets high environmental standards, that reduce operating costs without exceeding project budgets; strives to meet the Living Building Challenge; employs the use of an eco-charette to identify and develop a range of sustainable building strategies in concert with SPS building criteria; creates visual teaching points in school facilities to support green policies and practices; emphasizes native and draught resistant plants; applies sustainable strategies when making improvements to existing buildings; and, pursues outside funding partners and leverages available incentive programs.

When reviewing the District's existing policy, superintendent's procedures and resolutions with the BEX/BTA Oversight Committee October 2019 they noted that these documents provide sufficient clear direction for Capital Projects and Planning. Many of the expressed goals had been accomplished with recent projects implemented as part of either the Building Excellence (BEX) IV or Building, Technology and Academics (BTA) IV capital levies as demonstrated by the measurement and verification analysis performed by Hargis Engineers in 2018 and presented to the BEX/BTA Oversight Committee January 2019 concerning Arbor Heights ES, Cascadia ES, Genesee Hill ES, Olympic Hills ES, Thornton Creek ES, and Hazel Wolf K-8 which documented sustainable measure employed and an energy use index (EUI) in the low 20's or upper teens when most new elementary schools throughout western Washington have an EUI in the high 30's or low 40's. In addition, Hargis Engineers provided an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions noting that those schools (Arbor Heights ES and Genesee Hill ES) that relied upon natural gas in lieu of electricity for their heating plant, produced in excess of six time the amount of greenhouse gas as an all-electric school (Olympic Hills ES). The current policy, superintendent's procedure and resolutions establish aspirational goals, however, are silent on fuel selection. Schools operating natural gas for their heating plant are approximately \$18,000/year less expensive to operate than all-electric schools.