

Draft PSB Sustainability Policy 3.24.22

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) values sustainability and is committed to practices that support a healthy environment for present and future generations, and inspire students to be good stewards of the Earth and its people. The District will prioritize conservation of resources, carbon neutrality, and environmental education in concert with fiscal responsibility, health, and safety including:

Education & Engagement: The District will cultivate an understanding of environmentally sustainable practices and their urgency in units of study and courses, pedagogies, and through extracurricular organizations, clubs and teams.

Energy Conservation: The District will seek out opportunities for energy conservation, energy efficiency, and deployment of renewable energy technologies to capture both cost savings and reduced carbon emissions for the District.

Food Services: The District will promote student health; sustainable agriculture; environmental restoration through gardening, recycling, and composting; and the well-being of food chain workers across all food services activities. The District will promote sustainable food consumption by moving away from unsustainable foods, including but not limited to meat, poultry, and fish. The district will instead move towards and promote plant-based food options. Nutritious vegetarian entrees shall be available at every meal.

High Performance School Buildings: The District will provide a healthy and safe environment for students and staff to support an excellent education through best practices in management of high performance buildings, including protection of indoor air quality (IAQ), green cleaning, and integrated pest management (IPM).

Local Resources: The District will promote consumption of local water and other goods, minimizing the importation of resources already available to the community. The District will encourage students to do the same through example and outreach.

Resource Conservation: The District will promote resource conservation and efficient use of resources, including waste reduction for water, food, paper and other resources (e.g. not distributing single use water bottles at events). The District will establish business procedures that give priority to environmentally preferable products and practices, and that consider environmental and social costs as well as short-term financial costs.

Transportation: The District will promote and explore measures supporting transport sustainability, such as expanding its electric vehicle fleet, retrofitting existing vehicles with technologies that reduce emissions, reducing idling time, adjusting bus schedules and routes to improve travel efficiency, reducing unnecessary trips, reducing solo automobile trips to shared destinations, promoting use of public transportation, and encouraging walking, cycling, and use of human powered vehicles or other pedestrian conveyances where appropriate. The District will collaborate with town and state partners to maintain a transportation infrastructure at or near school properties that supports sustainable modes of travel.