

Taking Action on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

Everett PTSA Council Resolution (Adopted May 18, 2022)

Climate Change and PTA

- ▶ Climate change and environmentally damaging activities disproportionately affect children and socially vulnerable populations
- ▶ Schools are climate change contributors **and** environmental sustainability leaders
- ▶ PTA advocates for the well-being of children
- ▶ PTA advocates for equity-focused strategies

Children at Unique Risk for Impact

- Increased risk due to size and biological maturity
- Increased exposure via time outside, nature of activities



PTA Positions on Climate Change

National PTA [supports environmental sustainability laws](#), regulations, and programs.

WA State PTA is [committed to mitigating the health impacts](#) of climate change.



WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION SAY?

Rationale

- ▶ Climate change is an urgent issue, disproportionately impacting children and socially vulnerable populations
- ▶ WA state and OSPI are taking action with legislation and programs
- ▶ Everett School District has taken some actions toward sustainability
- ▶ School districts contribute to climate change and pollution, but can also be sustainability leaders
- ▶ Sustainability actions in schools can lead to cost-savings, improved health and well-being, and increased student achievement and creativity

Commitment

- ▶ Create a sustainability position at the council level, in order to:
 - Make a plan to adopt sustainability strategies
 - Support local PTAs in implementing sustainability committees and programs
- ▶ Encourage Everett School District to:
 - Establish a dedicated sustainability leadership position
 - Establish an inclusive sustainability workgroup
 - Develop a sustainability action and implementation plan
- ▶ Center communities most impacted by climate change

Why do we have a resolution?

- ⚙️ **Resolutions communicate a collective council stance**
- ⚙️ **Resolutions guide advocacy and action**
- ⚙️ **Resolutions indicate a strong level of commitment**



References

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

<https://doh.wa.gov/data-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>

<https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WSPTA-Resolution-11.28-Mitigating-Effects-of-Climate-Change-2020.pdf>

<https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WSPTA-Resolution-11.25-Mitigating-Envl-Hazards-2016.pdf>

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/Position-Statement-Environmental-Health-Remediation-Sustainability-and-Climate-Change>

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/climate-vulnerability_september-2021_508.pdf;

https://apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/topics/climate/childrens_health.ashx

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/bulletinsmemos/bulletins2021/B001-21.pdf>;

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Equity-Environmental-Justice>

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/clean-buildings-policy-brief-bill-signing.pdf>

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/science/climetime-2021%E2%80%9323>

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/environment-sustainability/environmental-and-sustainability-literacy-plan>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5722&Initiative=false&Year=2021>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2491491/>

<https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/schools> ;

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/program/documents/Clean-Schools-Handbook.pdf>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-08/documents/k-12_guide.pdf

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w25641>

http://schools.forhealth.org/Harvard.Schools_For_Health.Foundations_for_Student_Success.pdf

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/21/11/why-schools-need-look-their-own-carbon-footprint>

https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/benefits_of_connecting_children_with_nature_infosheet.pdf

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0206266>