



School District 622

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District Sustainability Update

September 28, 2026 - School Board Meeting

Sara Guyette, Director of Operations



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Sustainability....Why?

Yes, it is...

Protecting the Planet: Sustainable habits reduce pollution, conserve energy, and slow the depletion of natural resources like water and forests.

Combating Climate Change: Using renewable energy and cutting waste helps lower carbon emissions and protects global ecosystems.

Ensuring Economic Stability: Responsible resource use prevents costly shortages, drives innovation, and builds long-term resilience.

But it is also...

Creating Efficient Processes & Financial Savings: Streamlining resource use and reducing waste minimizes operational costs while maximizing long-term budget efficiency.

Expanding Educational Opportunities: Integrating sustainable practices into the district provides students with hands-on, real-world learning experiences in environmental stewardship.

Implemented Sustainability Initiatives

- **Energy Efficient Building Systems**

- Energy Efficient Low-E Windows
- LED Lighting and Occupancy Sensors
- High Efficiency Boilers / Heating Plants

- **Water Conservation**

- Low Flow Plumbing Fixtures
- Richardson - Rainwater Storage for Irrigation

- **Energy Management**

- Rechargeable Battery Powered Custodial Equipment
- Temperature Setpoint Guidelines for Heating and Cooling
- Direct Digital Building Automation Controls
- B3 Benchmarking Program
- Rooftop Solar Arrays
- Electrical Curtailment Programs
- Castle - Reflective Roof

- **Waste & Recycling**

- Single Sort Recycling
- Kitchen Dishrooms
- Asset Disposition Plan focused on Reuse (auction and donations) & Recycling
- Furniture Purchasing Guidelines (Reuse over New)

- **Indoor Air Quality**

- Green Cleaning Products
- Rechargeable Battery Arena Equipment

- **Stormwater Management / Natural Habitat**

- Utilization of ice melt in lieu of sand
- Stormwater Retention Ponds
- Rain Gardens
- Pollinator Gardens

- **Neighborhood Air Quality / Natural Habitat**

- Electric School Buses



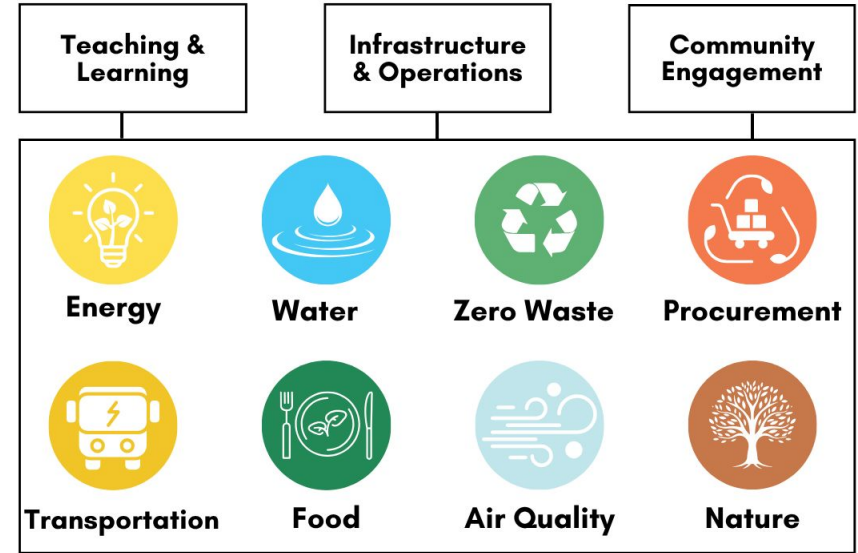
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Agenda / Focus

- Building Performance Monitoring
- Solar Energy
- Electric Vehicles
- Waste Reduction
- District Next Steps



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Building Performance



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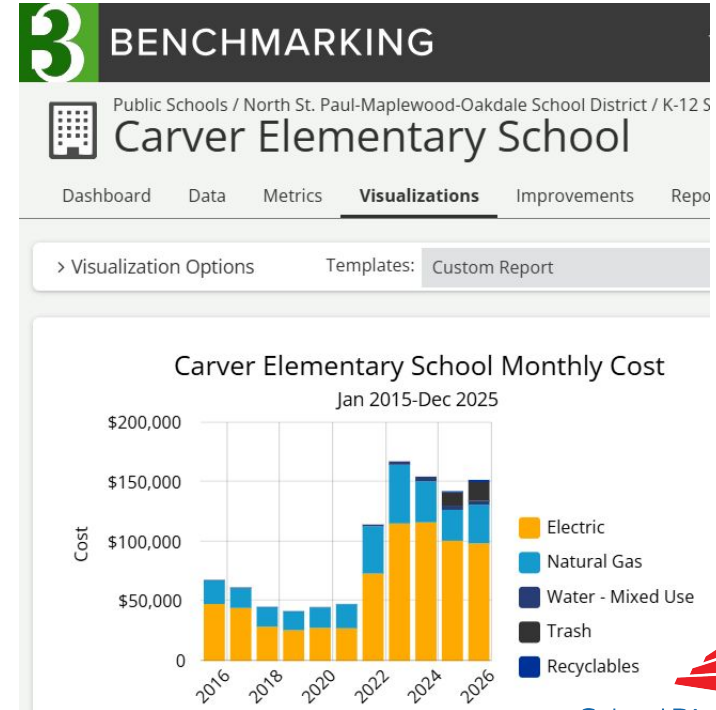
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Building Performance Monitoring

- [B3 Benchmarking Database](#)
 - Funded by the MN Departments of Commerce and Administration, B3 puts our energy data to work through benchmark energy modeling, peer comparisons, ENERGY STAR® scores, target tracking, and dynamic reporting.
- Operations team reviews data quarterly
- Buildings will receive performance reports of energy, water, and waste usage



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Monitoring Benefits

Financial & Resource

- **Cost savings:** Lowers utility bills by catching billing errors, peak-demand spikes, and equipment run-times
- **Optimized capital planning:** Uses data to help prioritize which systems to replace first and how much the improvements save after installation
- **Securing funding:** Provides the environmental data needed to qualify for grants and utility rebates

Facility & Operational

- **Maintenance alerts:** Flags abnormal energy usage for team to investigate
- **Unified data dashboards:** Consolidates electricity, gas, water, and solar metrics across multiple campus buildings into one central view.

Health & Community

- **Visible sustainability progress:** Displays verified carbon footprint reductions

Carver Elementary School

- Carver Elementary had significant building upgrades to make the building more energy efficient, including:
 - Heating, Ventilation & Cooling Systems
 - Electrical & Lighting Systems
 - Wall, Window & Roof Systems



Carver Elementary: 2020

67,691 SF

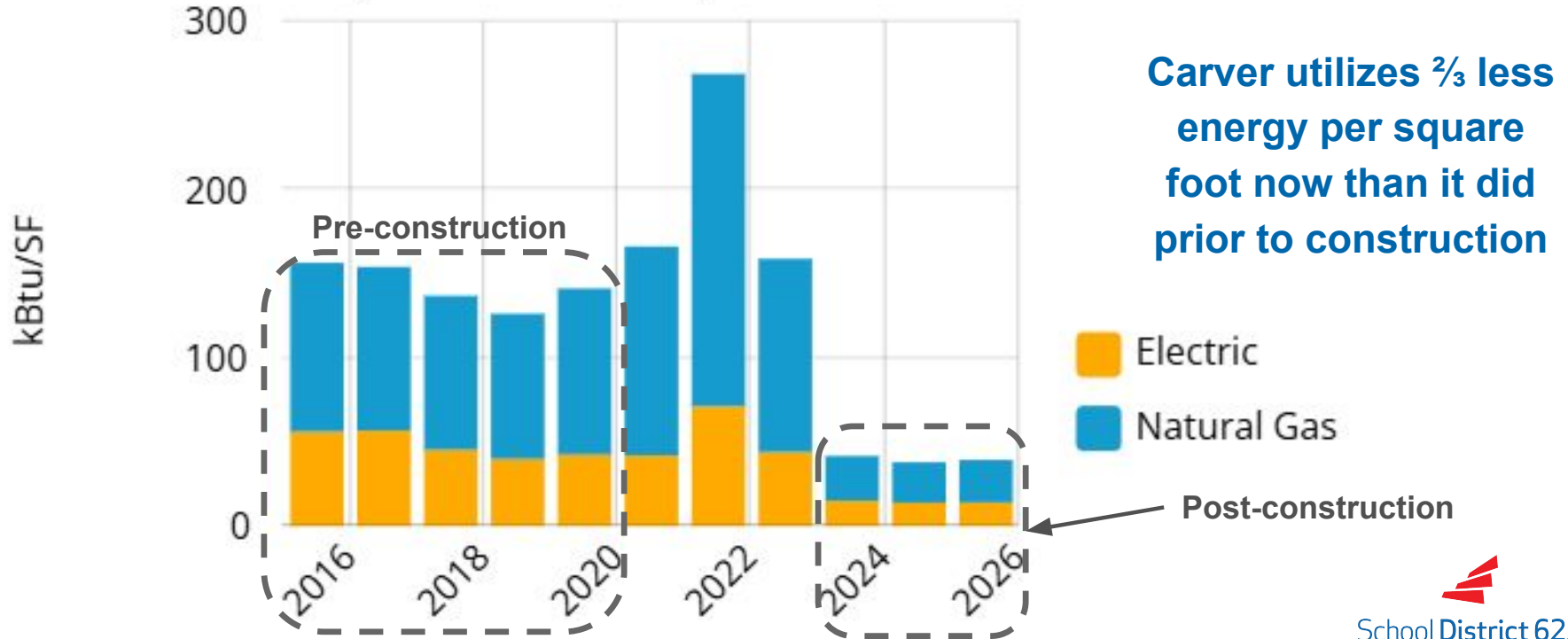


Carver Elementary: 2022 - Today

145,642 SF

Carver Elementary School Monthly Usage

Jan 2015-Dec 2025, Weather Normalized*



Solar Energy



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[622 Solar Program](https://isd622.org/about/622-solar-program)
isd622.org/about/622-solar-program



District Rooftop Solar Arrays

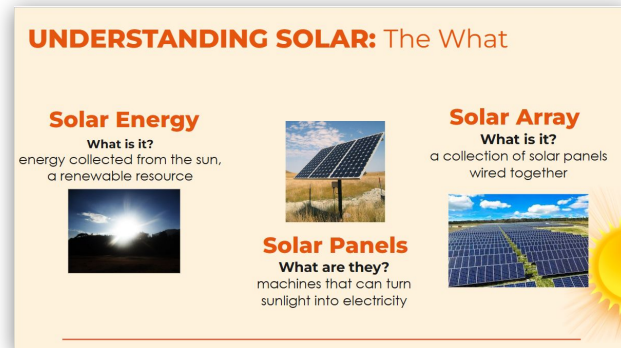
- **Fully Operational - (9)**
 - *Carver ES **
 - Castle ES
 - Eagle Point ES
 - *Justice Alan Page ES **
 - *Richardson ES **
 - John Glenn MS
 - Skyview MS
 - Tartan HS
 - Tartan Arena
- **Under Construction - (3)**
 - Beaver Lake
 - Gladstone
 - Harmony
- **In Planning - (1)**
 - Weaver ES



Eagle Point Elementary - 3,930 kW array

Learning

- Solar mini-unit implemented in 4th grade science
- Real-time production data and dashboards for educator use



Community Celebrations!



Elementary PowerUP! Celebrations!



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Measured Impact

- Energy Generated: **5.03 GWh**
- Carbon Offset:
 - **91,000** tree seedlings planted
 - **8,937,000** miles not driven by gasoline vehicle
 - **819** gasoline vehicles removed from the road
- Estimated Savings 2026 (9 locations):
\$250,000



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Electric Vehicles



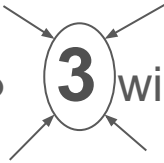
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Electric School Buses (ESBs)

-  will be ARRIVING any day!!!
- Routes prioritized on multiple factors:
 - Those previously served by diesel buses
 - Areas of high hospitalization or ED visit rate for persons with asthma
 - A calculation comparing taxable parcels to Adjusted Pupil Units
 - US Environmental Justice Area*

*Minnesota Statute 116.065 defines environmental justice areas as census tracts:

- in which at least 40% of the population is people of color
- in which at least 35 percent of households have income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level
- in which at least 40 percent of the population has limited proficiency in English
- that are located within Indian Country, which is defined as federally recognized reservations and other Indigenous lands



Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations



- 3 Locations:
 - North HS
 - Tartan HS
 - District Education Center
- Available for public use
 - \$0.35/kWh and \$5 station fee
- District staff can register to access up to four (4) hours of free charging

Waste Reduction



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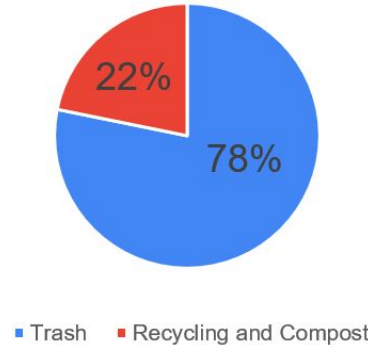
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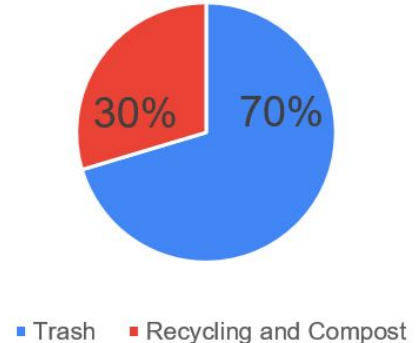
Waste Reduction & Recycling

- In 2025 the district generated **3,686,334 lbs** of trash and recycling
 - 78% Trash
 - 22% Recycling
- Received Ramsey County and Washington County grants to increase waste reduction and recycling efforts district wide
 - Technical Assistance
 - Equipment & Supplies
 - Best Practices

ISD 622 Waste Content 2025



ISD 622 Waste Diversion Goal 2026-27



Over 78% of waste material generated by schools is recyclable or compostable.

2010 School Waste study by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

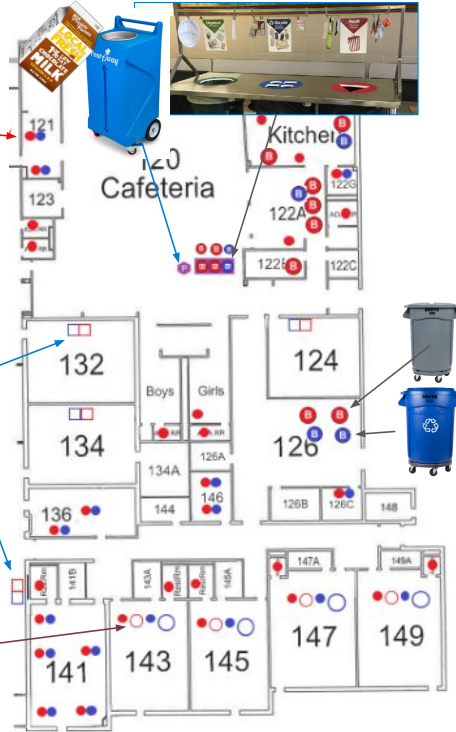


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Waste Reduction Initiative - Phase 1



- Standardized 7,500+ waste and recycling containers, labels and locations across all buildings
- Kitchen & Cafeteria Focus
 - Operational dishrooms
 - Reduces foam tray waste
 - Compostable trays where a dishroom isn't operational
 - Reduction in product packaging/waste materials:
 - Silverware dispensers

Liquid Container Recycling

- At the end of a meal, students:
 - Dump out liquids into a “PourAway” liquid receptacle
 - Recycle their milk carton, juice box, can or bottle in the blue recycling bin
 - Dump the rest of their tray waste into the trash, and
 - Stack their trays at the end of the line
- Cowern and Weaver will continue to sort food waste from trash before stacking trays at the end of the line



It Takes a Village

- **Administrators**

- Sorting trash from recyclable materials is an expectation
- Innovate, inspire, incentivize - let us know how to help you get everyone excited (grant funds to help!)

- **Staff**

- Teach and model sorting recyclable materials from waste
- Place trash and recycling bins near the door

- **Lunch Monitors**

- Reinforce proper sorting

- **Custodians**

- Implement district standards
- Collect waste
- Monitor contamination and provide feedback to building staff
- Report dumpster capacity
- Clean or replace containers as needed



Educational Resources

Search in Drive

Sustainability > Waste Reduction Initiat... >

Type People Modified Source

Name

- Athletics
- Teachers
 - Career and Tech Ed
 - Elementary Age
 - FACS
 - Middle and Senior High
 - STEM
- Transportation and Bus Drivers
- Custodians and Engineers
- Administrators and Office Staff
- Nutrition Services
- START HERE 1

Recycling and Organics - What Goes Where?

Learn about what materials are recyclable, what can be composted, and what items need to go in the trash.



Recycling Education Video

Where should your waste items go and what will they turn into? Learn the basics about recycling and composting in Minnesota.



Next Steps

- **Building Performance Monitoring**
 - Finish entering data so post construction baselines can be created
- **Solar Energy**
 - System start ups at: Harmony, Gladstone & Beaver Lake
- **Electric Vehicles**
 - Roll out the Electric School Buses
- **Waste & Recycling & Organics**
 - Phase 2 - Implement organics recycling district wide in 2027-28

Most importantly, we will be bringing it all together into the creation of district wide sustainability guidelines and goals



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Thank you!



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