



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Section No. 0800: Operations
Title	Conservation and Sustainability
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**REGULATION No. 08:
OPERATION**

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Through this regulation and any associated documents outlining day-to-day operations, the Carson City School District ("District") is committed to improving the environment within the schools and associated buildings for all students, staff, and visitors through conservation, smart construction, effective energy usage, efficient building operations, and responsible purchasing. This regulation reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns with the governing documents of the District and established board policies, resolutions, and protocols. All District schools and facilities shall implement a waste reduction, reuse, recycle, energy and water conservation plan, a site sustainability plan (SSP). The SSP will provide, at minimum (1 page), information and procedures on the sites recycling and waste reduction efforts and energy and water consumption. Information can be obtained through classroom projects, site Eco Teams, the District energy dashboard and the office of Operation Services ("Operations"). The Director of Operations or designee will support and assist the sites in drafting a plan which is specific to their school/site and use the information collected to submit for the District Sustainability report that will be presented to the Carson City School District Board of Trustees ("Board") every other year.

This regulation follows the governing principal areas of concern in Board policy 830.

I. Air Pollution and Climate Change

- a. Clean Fuel Vehicles – The District shall, when feasible, purchase buses that run on alternative fuels rather than diesel, which results in lower emissions to the environment, and long run cost savings to the District.
- b. Reducing Vehicle Emissions through Idle Free Zones – The District, when possible, will institute Idle Free Zones at school and other District properties. Unnecessary idling wastes fuel, pollutes the air, and increases noise levels.
- c. The District is aware of the health threats to students and staff due to outdoor air pollution. The District shall follow the guidance of the Carson City Health Department and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Air Quality Index (AQI) when scheduling and participating in outdoor activities during wildfire season and shall develop and communicate a threshold for participating in outside educational in-person activities.

The Board has already passed a student sponsored resolution supporting measures to reduce the effects of Climate Change regionally and communicating this support to other school districts. See Board Resolution dated February 26, 2019.

II. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- a. The District has retrofitted, commissioned, and will continue to operate energy efficient learning and working spaces. The District will incorporate energy efficiency measures in all major renovations and new construction with a goal of lowering energy use (EUI) and reducing the District's carbon footprint. (See Operations Energy Guide.)
- b. Operations will continue to pursue Energy Star Certification for all buildings with the assistance from students and staff. The purchase or use of Energy Star certified equipment and appliances is required.
- c. The District has installed solar energy systems and supports the expansion and maintenance of these systems, as well as state initiatives to expand and accelerate the development of a renewable energy industry. Operations will continue to

educate students and staff on renewable energy sources, operated within the District.

- d. The District may incorporate geothermal ground source heat pump systems in new construction and major renovations, whenever practical.

III. Student Achievement and Education for Sustainability (Efs)

- a. Students may be introduced to curriculum to allow them to understand the variety of sustainability and environmental health issues encountered in schools. Student involvement will enhance their knowledge of the issues that affect them, and will give them a sense of ownership, stewardship and accountability.
- b. Through community partnerships and district resources, students will have the opportunity to learn about environmentally friendly actions and sustainable practices. (Empower Carson City Strategic Plan refresh), lessons around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are encouraged.
- c. A successful conservation and environmental practices program relies on the active participation of all persons involved. All District staff have a role in protecting the community's environmental health. Through the sustainability action team (SAT), the District's sustainability website, and various science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) nights at schools, information will be available for staff and district families on conservation and sustainability so that they understand their roles and how they contribute to the success of the sustainability program.
- d. Operations will work with their community partners, vendors, and consultants to create opportunities in work-based learning, presentations, and facility tours so students can access and use facilities as 3-D textbooks.

IV. Chemical Safety and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

a. The District seeks to reduce the possible exposure of students, staff, and visitors to District property to potentially hazardous chemicals and substances which are used in the cleaning and maintenance of District facilities. The District shall use "green", environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products to clean all schools and facilities whenever possible. (See Operation's Process Cleaning Manual for Clean, Healthy Educational Environments - C.H.E.E.)

b. Poor indoor air quality can also impact the comfort and health of students and staff, which can in turn affect concentration, attendance, and classroom performance. The District shall strive to provide clean air to all learning spaces and use low volatile organic compound ("VOC") materials in construction, maintenance, and renovation.

V. Recycling and Waste Reduction

- a. The District will continue recycling and waste reduction practices to reduce the amount of waste disposed in the land fill that can otherwise be recycled, reused or repurposed.
- b. Minimizing waste would also reduce the fiscal burden of landfill disposal and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste hauling, landfill emissions, and emissions from manufacturing of replacement materials.
- c. The District shall continue to refine policies and procedures for Single Stream recycling of materials as provided by the local sanitary and recycling contractor for Carson City. (See CCSD Recycling Guide)
- d. The purchase of recycled or partially recycled products is encouraged when the product meets applicable standards, can be substituted for non-recycled product, and costs are comparable.

VI. Water Quality and Conservation

- a. Where students and staff consume a significant amount of their daily water while at school, it is vital the District provide safe drinking water. Through a partnership with Carson City, Operations will complete water tests every 5 years. Each school will have at least 2 filtered bottle filler hydration stations on campus. (See District Building Standards)
- b. Operations will ensure that water systems are properly maintained. Leaking pipes can lead to water loss, which could lead to property damage and high water bills. Operations will investigate unusually high usage.
- c. Low flow fixtures, efficient programmable irrigation systems and zero-scape landscape shall be encouraged at all facilities.

VII. Health and Wellness

- a. Students shall be empowered to achieve a lifestyle that is physically and emotionally healthy and socially responsible. (CSD Strategic Plan)
- b. The District shall identify healthy and safe routes to schools for students, and encourage walking and riding bikes to school.
- c. Healthy and educating food programs that utilize locally sourced and whole foods are encouraged. (See District Wellness Policy)

VIII. Landscapes, Gardens and Outdoor Learning Spaces

- a. The District will promote and support school gardens and the planting of trees to connect students and staff with nature and encourage healthy lifestyle choices. This will also help to shrink heat islands in our region.
- b. Outdoor Learning Spaces will be encouraged and supported by Operations so that students can experience Place Based Learning and learn about, from and in nature.
- c. The District Grounds team will work to keep a neat, vibrant appearance of our facilities by maintaining proper schedules and completing work safely and efficiently. (See District Grounds Manual)

IX. Facility Condition and Assessment; Capital Construction

- a. The District shall incorporate green building standards, when practical, and proper building commissioning to achieve the goals outlined herein, in all major renovation and new construction to create healthy, efficient, learning environments which also reduces the facilities carbon footprint.
- b. Facility and Building Health – Sustainability programs that encourage environmental health are important for maintaining safe, healthy, and long-lasting school facilities. Routine maintenance and well-designed upgrades and improvements can extend the life of a school building, improve the health of the learning environment, and generate cost savings through increased energy and resource efficiency. (See District Building Standards)

Cross References

Reference Material - Contact Operations Dept. (775-283-2175)

