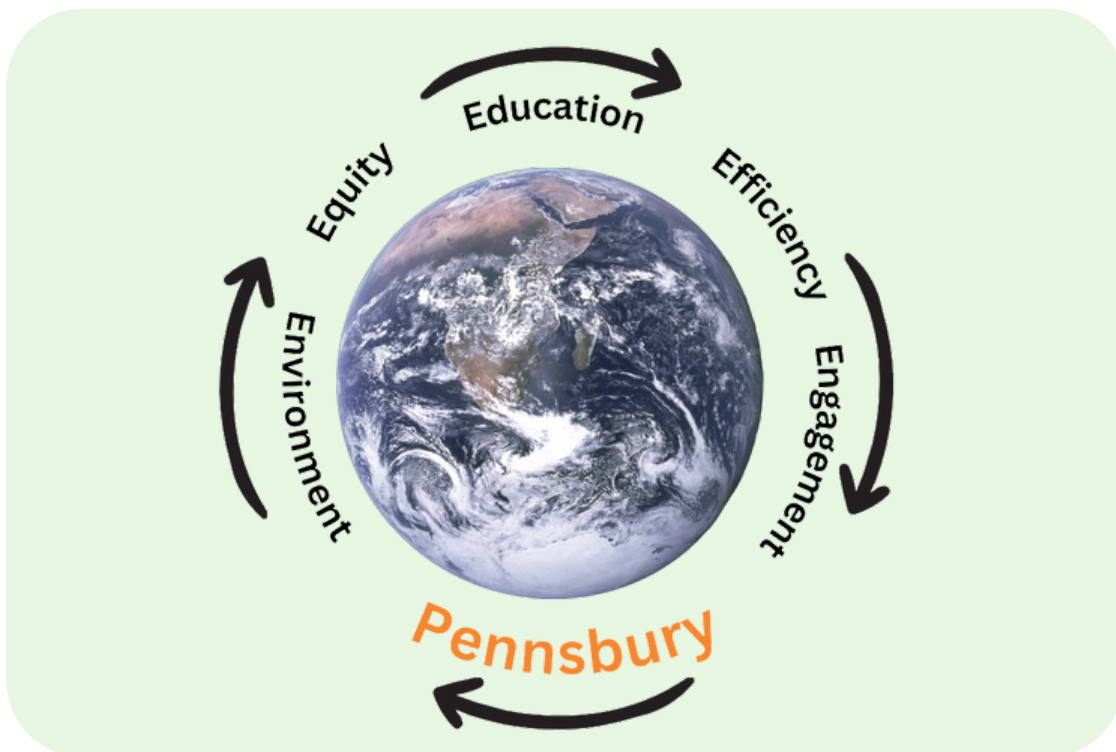


Making Pennsbury Green

A Sustainability Management Plan for the Pennsbury School District

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”
Native American Proverb



ALL SCHOOLS CAN BE GREAT. ALL SCHOOLS CAN BE GREEN.

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Pennsbury School District



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Foreword

Dear Pennsbury Community Members,

I am pleased to bring you Pennsbury School District's first Sustainability Management Plan: Making Pennsbury Green.

This plan supports Board Policy 820 to better serve our students by creating equitable access to green school resources in every neighborhood and school building. Evidence shows that green schools help to develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of science, social studies, math, reading, and writing. By implementing this Sustainability Management Plan, our charge is unchanged: **Every child can learn. Every school can be a great school.**

This three-year plan aims to reduce the District's environmental footprint, conserve resources, decrease consumption and waste, and create green school settings and healthy indoor environments. This plan connects student curriculum with facilities management and operations, teachers, students, school communities, and stakeholders. The plan encourages school students, families, and friends to participate in developing and implementing sustainability initiatives in every community. Through an annual report, the progress of the Sustainability Management Plan will be shared, and feedback will be sought.

I look forward to working to better serve our students through green schools in every Pennsbury neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Pennsbury School District



Stakeholder Committee

Dan Fagan, Office of Senator Santarsiero
Neale Dougherty, Bucks County Sustainability Director
Matthew Takita, Falls Township Manager
Erin Mullen, Falls Township Supervisor
Nelson Whitney, Falls Township Chief of Police
Ms. Linda Salvati, LMT EAC
Matt Farrell, LMT EAC
Mr. Kevin Gallen, LMT EAC
Soumya Dharmavaram, LMT EAC
Dr. Vijay S. Rajput, Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority
Judy Archibald, Waste Management, USA
Bobby Jones, Waste Management, USA
Jennifer Smith, Waste Management, USA
Tracy McCann, Waste Management, USA
Kara Rahn, Pennsylvania American Water
Jonathan Snipes, Snipes Farm & Education Center
Melanie Douty-Snipes, Snipes Farm & Education Center
Fletcher Vollmer, Nutrition Group
Ashley Dowd, Nutrition Group
Todd Gurry, Nutrition Group
Jamie Lynch, D'Huy Engineering
Elizabeth Cichonski, D'Huy Engineering
Ashley Makovsky, Student
Veronica Zadnik, Student
Megan Esmonde-Bogan, PTO member
Carolyn Fogel, PTO member
Charles Bozzo, Community member
Dr. Thomas A. Smith, Superintendent
Chris Berdnik, CFO, Pennsbury School District
Michele Spack, Director of Elementary Education
George Steill, Director of Facilities
Milagro Aleman, Director of Transportation
Tim McCleary, Director of Technology

Jamie Swanson, Science Curriculum Coordinator
Donna Abrescia, Bus Driver
Sherri Cohoon, Teacher
Kristen Realdine, Teacher
Kristin Slota, Teacher
Oksana Cheeseman, Teacher
TR Kannan, School Board
Linda Palsky, School Board
Dr. Jeannine Delwiche, School Board
James Prokopiak, School Board
Lois Lambing, School Board
Dr. Joanna, Steere, School Board
Chip Taylor, School Board
Josh Waldorf, School Board
Gary Sanderson, School Board
Chris Becker, Building Principal
Travis Bloom, Building Principal
Terri Salvucci, Building Principal
Ann DiCampello, Parent
Aleksandra Cheeseman, Student



Making Pennsbury Green

Vision Statement

Our vision is for all children to have a great school close to where they live. This includes providing well-resourced, clean, comfortable, healthy, and safe school environments conducive to teaching and learning.

Guiding Principles

1. Education - Children learn better in green schools and can be global citizens.
2. Efficiency - Schools can be operated more efficiently to save money and resources.
3. Engagement - The Pennsbury community cares about sustainability and wants the District to be greener.
4. Environment - Schools are present in every community with hundreds of acres of land, buildings, buses, and food, all of which impact our environment.
5. Equity - Every student in every community deserves a green school.

Expectations

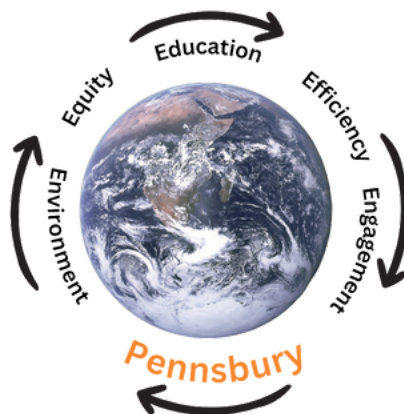
1. Practical Time Frame – Implemented over three years.
2. Revenue Neutral – Cost efficiency is a priority of the School Board.
3. Reflects the Pennsbury School Board's mission statement and the District's Comprehensive Plan.



Making Pennsbury Green

The Approach

Making Pennsbury Green is an innovative Sustainability Management Plan with five guiding principles: **education**, **efficiencies**, **engagement**, **environment**, and **equity**. The plan was crafted by School Board members, staff, and stakeholders with a common desire to make our District schools great **and** green. These principles guide each of the six focus areas of the plan with measurable objectives (action items) and outcomes set over a three-year period. Each focus area is defined by key initiatives that will help the district attain very specific targets. These initiatives are dependent upon partners and stakeholders to be successful. Four subcommittees were formed to include staff from district departments, including curriculum, technology, facilities, transportation, food services, and financial services. Additional subcommittee members include representatives from local government, nonprofit and private industry. The diverse background, wealth of knowledge, and combined years of experience that each committee offered is key to identifying and implementing best management practices and fostering innovation. The subcommittees first met to develop a vision statement and targets for each focus area, as well as the action items required to attain them. They will continue to meet periodically over the next three years to monitor and track progress.





Making Pennsbury Green

Education for Sustainability

Mission:

The District will create a shared understanding and commitment toward contributing to sustainability through teaching, learning, and our actions. The district will strive to infuse Education for Sustainability (EfS) into school curriculum, administrative practices, and family and community engagement; integrate K-12 curriculum, instruction, and assessment with EfS standards; strengthen and expand school, family, and community engagement to enrich EfS. The EfS focus area includes tools for teachers to incorporate sustainability principles into their lessons. Two evidence-based models accomplish this: Project Learning and Project-Based Learning.

Education for Sustainability Defined:

Children flourish when they attend and learn in green and healthy schools. EfS is a holistic framework to equip students, schools, administrators, families, and the community with the skills, knowledge, and habits of mind that will prepare them to create and contribute to a world where economic prosperity, social justice, and responsible citizenship may be strengthened while restoring our health and that of the living systems upon which our lives depend.

Action Item:

Infuse EfS school curriculum, administrative practices, and family and community engagement. One sustainability unit will be taught per grade level in each subject area using multiple resources, including:

- Books
- Speakers
- Assemblies
- Field Trips

Target:

100% of schools and administrative offices will show evidence of EfS within three years.



Making Pennsbury Green

Waste Reduction

Mission:

The District is committed to reducing the amount of trash it sends to landfills. By embracing sustainability principles in schools such as reducing, reusing, and recycling, the District will not only lower costs, foster innovation, and good citizenship but improve the communities in which we live and work. Every student will have access to a school that incorporates waste reduction practices and diverts its waste from landfills.

Action items:

- Every school will recycle;
- School-based sustainability committees will investigate and implement a compost program;
- The District will investigate and implement a program to increase the use of biodegradable materials for serving food;
- Encourage waste-free lunches;
- The District will investigate and implement a program to reduce paper consumption;
- The District will investigate and implement a program to use Green Cleaning measures;
- The District will change all printer default settings to double-sided printing;
- The District will increase the amount of “recycled” paper it purchases;
- The District will investigate and implement a plan to supply students with reusable water bottles;
- The District will investigate and implement a plan to ensure correct chemical disposal methods are in use and reduce the amount of chemicals and waste discharged down the drain.

Target:

The District will promote practices to increase its waste diversion rate over the next three years.



Making Pennsbury Green

Energy & Water Conservation

Mission:

The District is committed to reducing spending on energy and water so that funds can be used for education. The District is dedicated to instilling and promoting a culture of energy and water conservation throughout Pennsbury.

Action Items:

The District will conserve energy and water through the following:

- Conducting energy audits for every school building;
- Establishing an educational program to change behavior to conserve energy and water;
- Making capital upgrades to improve energy efficiency when possible;
- Considering the use of renewable energy;
- Conducting capital upgrades to improve energy efficiency, including low-flow toilets, taps, showers, and auto on/off devices on taps;
- Repairing all leaky taps in a timely fashion;
- Retrofitting light fixtures and switches with high-efficiency equipment;
- Purchasing energy-efficient equipment (Energy Star);
- Using energy-saver mode on computers;
- Purchasing computers, equipment, and appliances that are Energy Star rated;
- Minimizing heating and cooling in areas that are not used throughout the day;
- Implementing a policy for temperature settings in all buildings.

Target:

The District will decrease its energy and water consumption over three years.



Making Pennsbury Green

Sustainable Transportation

Mission:

The District is dedicated to providing a sustainable transportation system that effectively and efficiently moves students throughout the District while positively impacting quality of life and preserving the natural environment. The District is committed to meeting existing transportation needs without compromising the assets of future generations.

Action Items:

- The District will investigate and implement a program to utilize alternative fuel vehicles where practicable;
- The District will investigate and institute Idle-Free Zones for all vehicles used for student pickup at every building;
- The District will investigate and implement a program that offers training to their bus drivers on how to increase fuel efficiency through changes in driving habits;
- The District will investigate and implement programs and awareness campaigns to encourage students to ride school buses instead of utilizing private transportation by optimizing bus routing and centralizing bus stops throughout the District;
- The District will investigate and implement programs and awareness campaigns that will encourage students and staff to walk or wheel to school utilizing programs, including but not limited to “Safe Routes to School” and “Walking/Bike School Buses.”

Target:

The District will reduce the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the next three years.



Making Pennsbury Green

Establishment of Sustainability Committee at each School Building

Mission:

The District will establish a Sustainability Committee at each school building. The Committee (“Green Team”) will be responsible for the implementation of the District's Sustainability Management Plan in their building. The Committee should include students, teachers, administrators, PTO members, and community members.

Action Items:

Each school building in the district will:

- Develop Building goals to help achieve the objectives of the District’s Sustainability Management Plan;
- Investigate and implement school projects that promote the District’s Sustainability Management Plan;
- Create green and healthy spaces inside and outside Pennsbury schools that connect curriculum to nature through the practical application of learning concepts.

Target:

Achieve a 100% participation rate for all school buildings.



Making Pennsbury Green

Wellness/Healthy Schools, Healthy Living

Mission:

On average, students spend over 900 hours per year in school buildings. There are a variety of elements of the school environment that we can measure to determine if a school is healthy. The District is committed to providing students and staff with a safe, healthy, clean, comfortable learning and working environment.

Action Items:

- The District will develop a survey to evaluate the baseline environmental conditions of all district buildings;
- The District will develop a Local Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for meals and other foods.

Target:

Within three years, every building will receive a healthy schools baseline report. Additionally, the District will Implement a Wellness Policy that establishes nutrient standards for meals and other foods.