

# **Delaware Valley School District**

# **Sustainability Program**



**2019**

# Introduction

At Delaware Valley, we are implementing many programs and strategies for the wise use of natural resources to ensure their availability for future generations. With more than 650 employees and approximately 4,500 students, our sustainability efforts are important in keeping Pike County clean, green and beautiful. Many of these efforts are also cost-effective which means we don't waste another important resource - our community's money.

As an educational institution, it is incumbent upon us to teach our students about environmental sustainability. This education can run the gamut from global issues down to daily issues such as turning off lights, turning off water and creating less waste.

Our sustainability program focuses on six major categories:



**Energy**



**Emissions**



**Water**



**Building Construction**



**Waste**



**Education**

# ENERGY



- We are in the process of converting all schools to digital controls for the HVAC system. This creates significant savings because we are able to remotely (via computer or Smartphone) lower and raise temperatures as needed.
- The new DVES is a LEED certified silver environmentally-friendly building.
- DVES as well as the DVHS/DVMS complex are heated using natural gas. This is cleaner and cheaper than other fuel options available to us.
- The 1970 DVHS boilers and 1982 DDES boilers were replaced in the summer of 2019. It is estimated that the efficiency of the new boilers will be at more than 95% versus an estimated 65-70% for these older boilers that were in our two oldest schools.
- All computers across the district are programmed to automatically shut-off every evening. It is estimated that 80% of a computer's energy is caused simply by leaving the monitor on. Thus, if someone leaves a computer on it won't stay on all night long or all weekend long.
- The parking lots at DVES and in front of DVHS have LED lighting. The plan is to convert all existing exterior lighting on all campuses to LED over the next few years.
- Internally, the hallway and classroom lighting is the most-efficient form of fluorescent so it isn't cost-effective to replace them with LED lighting at this time.
- We are exploring solar power - both on the ground and on rooftops - at this time to see if it is economically feasible.

# EMISSIONS



 Transportation software has helped us reconfigure bus routes and eliminate several bus runs resulting in less emissions and less fuel usage.

 Rohrer Bus, our bus contractor, is required to replace all buses that are more than seven years old. This means the buses in use are far more efficient than in other districts where the buses could be older. Smaller buses and vans are used instead of full-size buses whenever possible to reduce energy usage and emissions.

 Keeping tires properly inflated is an often overlooked way to improve gas mileage. Our buses travel more than one million miles per year so even small changes can add up.

 Our staff has started using Zoom videoconferencing software to hold meetings and reduce travel between schools.

 TREES! Trees consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. All of our campuses are fortunate to have many trees to assist in this way. We also have a 330+ acre property in Dingmans that was purchased for future development purposes that is currently undeveloped. In addition, we own 50 acres behind Wal-Mart in Westfall Township and 18 acres on the DVES campus that are tree-lined and will stay natural as they are in the flood plain and are undevelopable.



We have reduced our waste by 20% thanks to our recycling program!



Reusable hard plastic lunch trays instead of disposable Styrofoam trays are used in all cafeterias. This adds up because we serve more than 400,000 meals per year.



Hand dryers have replaced paper towels across the district to reduce the amount of paper used.



Progress reports are no longer printed in the middle of a marking period thanks to online reporting via PowerSchool. This means almost 20,000 pieces of paper less per school year.



All newly-installed water fountains have an attachment for the use of refillable bottles in an effort to reduce the amount of plastic bottles being used only once.



- 💧 A 10,000 gallon water tank at DVES collects rooftop rain that can be used to water the grass playing fields.
- 💧 Synthetic turf field in Warrior Stadium requires no water
- 💧 Automatic flush toilets and automatic water faucets reduce water usage
- 💧 Waterless urinals in boys' bathrooms saves thousands of flushes per day.
- 💧 Rain gardens on all campuses capture rain water to avoid runoff and replenish our soil.



## BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ Effective space utilization strategies help us maximize usage of our current space and avoids any unnecessary construction of new spaces.
- ❖ Any new construction is completed meeting the highest standards such as the LEED silver certified new DVES.
- ❖ The extensive use of natural light in construction projects has helped reduce electrical costs during construction and energy costs once the spaces have been occupied.

## EDUCATION

Last but certainly not least is the education of our students and staff on the daily habits that can make a difference such as:

- ❖ Turn off the lights when leaving a room
- ❖ Turn off the computer monitor when done using
- ❖ Turn off running water
- ❖ Unplug items that are not used often
- ❖ Recycle anything possible
- ❖ Take only what you will eat to avoid food waste

# SUMMARY



At DV, we believe in doing our part to conserve natural resources and teaching our students to do the same. Over time, many Americans have developed a mentality to “throw it away and get a new one” and our landfills are proof of that thinking. We want to do our part to show our students how to conserve things like energy, food and water, and create less waste. The old slogan “reduce, reuse and recycle” is as valid today as it ever was.

If you have ideas to help improve our sustainability program, please email us at: [AskDV@dvsd.org](mailto:AskDV@dvsd.org). This is an ever-evolving process and we'd love to hear from you.