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The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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20 office(s), 25 location(s), and 4,262 employees in Fiscal Year 2023

[technical assistance](#) 

The Department of Education's (ED or the Department) mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

ED is committed to promoting equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st century learning environments and environmental sustainability learning. ED promotes school infrastructure and sustainability through multiple communications and outreach tools designed to share best practices and connect schools with partnerships and resources; new grant programs; and a longstanding recognition award for whole school sustainability.

Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Department of Education in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Key Highlights ([show less](#) ^)



Implementation of the Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

The Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools is the agency's signature framework to support schools in (1) reducing their environmental impacts and costs; (2) improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and (3) increasing access to effective environmental and sustainability education. More than 50% of the over 760 schools, districts, and/or postsecondary institutions named since 2012 have been in under-resourced communities.

[Learn more](#) 



School Infrastructure Programs

ED now oversees two new [School Infrastructure Programs](#) to increase the capacity of states to support high-need Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools in leveraging other available federal, state, and local resources to improve school facilities

Launch of the ED Infrastructure and Sustainability Initiative

ED's Infrastructure and Sustainability Initiative promotes equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st century school facilities, and environmental sustainability education, using meaningful engagement tools and communication to increase awareness of federal resources.

[Learn more](#) 

and environments through public school infrastructure improvements to ensure that their public school facilities are safe, healthy, sustainable, and equitable learning environments for all students.

[Learn more](#) 

Cultivation of Intentional Partnerships to Share Resources for Schools

Culminating in a White House Summit for Sustainable and Healthy Schools, held in April 2024 with critical work occurring in FY 2023, ED is now working more closely than ever before with colleagues at the White House, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other agencies to help communicate in plain language federal Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other school facilities-related grant programs, tax credits, and resources that stand to advance equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, and modern schools. For example, ED works with EPA to communicate available resources for healthy water and clean air in schools.

[Learn more](#) 

Gen180 Clean Energy Schools Symposium

ED Deputy Secretary Cindy Marten delivered a keynote address about infrastructure and sustainability, with an emphasis on clean energy in schools, to school decision-makers from 38 school districts across 16 states. These school decision-makers, having switched to clean energy in their own school communities, are supporting other schools around the country to do the same and received professional development to deepen their expertise and knowledge on how to take advantage of federal funding opportunities to support clean energy changes.

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations at the Department of Education in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October

2022 to September 2023.

ED collaborates with numerous national non-profits to promote resources that support environmental justice and equitable access to healthy, sustainable schools and environmental education.

ED shares resources, programs, webinars, and opportunities related to these areas through its monthly newsletter, with distribution of approximately 65,000, and the Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub.

Technical Assistance ([show less](#) ^)

For more information on the Department of Education's technical assistance events, please visit <https://www.greenstrides.org>

2023 Green Schools Conference

At the 2023 Green Schools Conference, ED offered multiple presentations on how to get involved with Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools.

Public Processes ([show less](#) ^)

- **Over 25** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for

information or listening sessions, including:

White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Staff from ED attended the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) public meeting in June 2023 and answered questions about the role of ED in environmental justice.

Electric School Bus Initiative Advisory Council

On May 25, 2023, ED joined a meeting of the Electric School Bus Initiative Advisory Council and addressed advisory council questions about the role of ED in electric school bus programming.

Participation in Public Meetings and Events

ED participates in meetings, conferences, and other events that center equitable access to sustainable schools and environmental learning. These range from presentations with the National Association of State Boards of Education to health symposiums.

Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Department of Education, including steps that that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

ED's Consultation and Coordination with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Governments [policy](#) allows for Tribes to request that ED consult on a specific program policy.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Department of Education including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#), in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

ED intends to provide information on how the agency is advancing environmental justice as part of its mission when it releases its new Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, as directed by Executive Order 14096. For example, as part of its [commitment](#) to advance environmental justice, ED works to expand equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, and educationally appropriate school physical environments for all students.

- **1** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **2** new or strengthened office(s) or program(s) on environmental justice



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Highlight ing Environm ental Justice

ED's
Infrastructure
and
Sustainability
Initiative
has led
innovative
communications

Advancing Environmental Justice Policy ([show less](#) ^)

- Over the past four years **is working** to create an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan pursuant to [Executive Order 14096](#)

Advancing Environmental Justice Tools or Resources ([show less](#) ^)

- **Several** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

and outreach as well as meaningful public engagement to address areas affecting environmental justice where ED has grant funding and authority. This includes an annual [recognition award](#) centered on school sustainability; a call for [private sector](#) commitments on school infrastructure and sustainability; public listening sessions on

Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub

The Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub is a website that is available for schools to access free resources on healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st learning environments and environmental sustainability education. Resources and webinars on the website are aligned with the three Pillars of the Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition award. The Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub is made possible through a partnership between ED Infrastructure and Sustainability and the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council.

[Learn more](#) 

a variety of related topics; and a nearly annual sustainable schools media [tour](#) under different related themes, including equity.

[Learn more](#) 

ED Infrastructure and Sustainability News

ED's Infrastructure and Sustainability News is a monthly roundup of news, resources, webinars, and inspiring examples of healthy, sustainable, modern schools and environmental learning.

[Learn more](#) 

National Center for School Infrastructure

The National Center for School Infrastructure, one of two new School Infrastructure Programs, will serve as a resource for equitable access to healthy, sustainable, modern learning environments.

Advancing Institutional Partnerships or Federal Advisory Committees

([show less](#) ^)

- **1** new or strengthened internal agency working group(s), committee(s), or partnership(s) to advance environmental justice, or new federal advisory committee(s) on environmental justice

Partnerships and Collaborations with Federal Agencies to Benefit Schools

ED is working more closely than ever before with colleagues at the White House, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and other agencies to help communicate in plain language federal Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other school facilities related grant programs, tax credits, and resources that stand to advance equitable access to healthy, safe, sustainable, modern schools.

Interagency Collaboration

([show less](#) ^)

ED is a leader in an interagency group focused on school infrastructure that includes other federal agency partners such as the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy. This White House Climate Policy Office-led effort supported the development of the first-ever [White House Summit](#) for Sustainable and Healthy Schools, held in April 2024 with critical work occurring in FY 2023, as well as a new federal [toolkit](#) for healthy, sustainable school infrastructure. Over 90 students, teachers, advocates, school leaders, facilities and grounds experts, and labor leaders joined the agencies to discuss the deployment of unprecedented levels of federal funding available for school infrastructure, clean energy, and healthy schools. The agencies also had the opportunity to hear from these stakeholders in focus groups on how to strengthen the deployment of these resources.

The Department of Education worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

Collaborative Presentations with Federal Agency Partners

ED has presented at various public events with the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy regarding healthy, sustainable school infrastructure, including at an American Institute of Architects and the K-12 Facilities Forum.

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More information

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