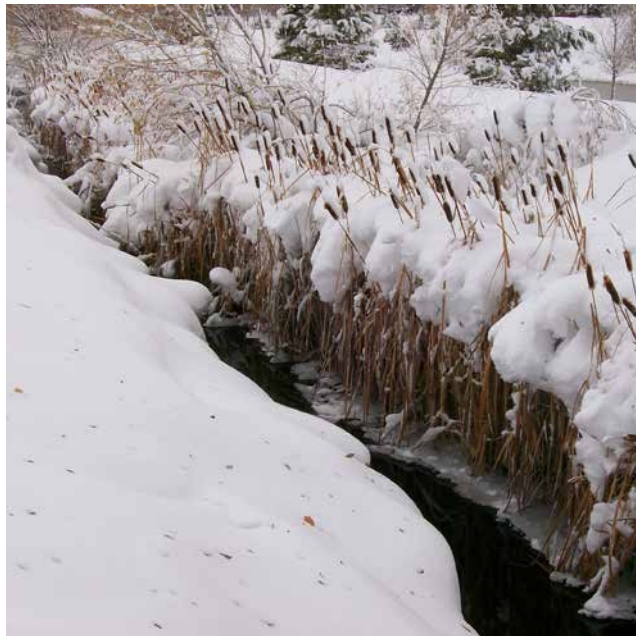




# Poudre School District



# Annual Sustainability Report

2013



# A Guide to Our Readers



This **2013 Annual Sustainability Report** shares the district's accomplishments in sustainability management practices since implementing the Sustainability Management System (SMS) in 2006. Information for this report was collected through a series of interviews with district staff and students to identify both accomplishments in 2013 and goals for 2014. This report also reaffirms the district's commitment to sustainability in five topic areas: resource conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable education, transportation, and health and wellness.

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## The District and Its Commitment to Sustainability

*“PSD is proud of its history and tradition of supporting a more sustainable community through its commitment to resource conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable education, transportation and health and wellness. In the last two decades, PSD has led the state and nation in sustainable initiatives including being home to the country’s first LEED Gold certified school, being one of three school districts invited to participate in the national Better Building Challenge and rating as a ClimateWise Platinum Level Partner for the City of Fort Collins.”*

Dr. Sandra Smyser, Superintendent of Schools

In Building Maintenance, repurposing and recycling is at the forefront of the department’s daily activities. Over the course of 2013, Building Maintenance, which includes Automated Controls; Carpentry; Electrical; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Lock Shop; Painting; Plumbing; and Theater Maintenance departments, recycled or repurposed:

- Over **three tons** of metal, including steel, aluminum, copper, and brass
- **50 pounds** of cardboard
- **875 pounds** of copper wire
- **1,240** lockers
- **7,600 pounds** of porcelain fixtures

### The following tenets embody the foundation for the district’s SMS:

- **Support** the district’s educational mission by providing spaces promoting health, productivity, and safety of students and staff.
- **Reduce** lifecycle costs by conserving energy and natural resources, further supporting the district’s educational mission through fiscal responsibility.
- **Balance** educational, financial, and environmental issues in its daily decision making.
- **Consider** and incorporate relevant aspects of sustainability into all future procedures.
- **Inspire** commitment to sustainability among district employees.
- **Serve** as a community leader in sustainability and partner with other organizations to further common goals.

## About the District

Poudre School District is the ninth largest school district in the state of Colorado, serving approximately **27,000** pre-k-12th grade students. Encompassing 1,856 square miles in northern Colorado, the district serves Fort Collins, LaPorte, Timnath, Wellington, Red Feather Lakes, Livermore, Stove Prairie, and parts of Windsor. The district owns 950 gross site acres and contains over 4 million square feet of building space. Its facilities include:

- **1** early childhood center
- **31** elementary schools
- **10** middle schools
- **7** high schools
- **2** charter schools
- **1** online school
- **23** other structures housing administrative, maintenance, information technology, warehouse, transportation, and other service departments

### Other district facts:

- Students performed **4 percent to 17 percent higher** than students around the state in all areas tested on the 2013 Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP).
- Information Technology maintains **4,300** extensions on the district’s telephone system and over **20,000** phone and data outlets district-wide.
- Early Childhood provides services for nearly **900** pre-kindergarten students.
- District students boast a **94.2 percent** average attendance rate.
- Finance maintains over **50,000** account numbers for budgeting purposes.

# Conserve

## Resource Conservation

The district will work to reduce its use of natural resources by collaborating with the community, governmental agencies, design partners, and businesses to employ common sense reuse, engage in single stream recycling, participate in energy conservation, and implement current trends in green building and operational efficiencies.

### What's Been Accomplished

- Instead of discarding control boards for building automation systems that were replaced during building renovations, the Automated Controls Department salvaged the boards and reused them on other buildings that have not yet received mechanical retrofits.
- A **75 percent diversion rate goal** was established by Planning, Design & Construction (PD&C) for major renovation projects funded by the 2010 Bond, and department project managers worked with Resource Management on strategies to achieve the goal. However, the 75 percent diversion rate goal was difficult to achieve due to contamination in the waste stream, challenges of remodel work, and the lack of downstream vendors or end users to take the materials; the total diversion rate for bond projects was approximately 60 percent.
- The Lock Shop converted **12** lever sets salvaged from other projects to a patio function lock set and installed the sets on school kitchen exterior screen doors. These sets allow for the ability to lock the screen doors and maintain the needed building security. A new lever set costs \$260 while the conversion only cost \$40, resulting in a savings of \$2,640.
- The Mentoring Department converted all documents for the release time process to electronic forms, which saved over **900** sheets of paper, as well as the amount of materials sent through school mail to the 364 active program participants. Once the forms are completed, the data is housed in a spreadsheet and information can be accessed more quickly and effectively than paper files.
- Composting programs were established at Webber Middle School and Rocky Mountain High School. Utilities & Resource Management and Custodial Services worked with both schools to get the program started, including educating the staff and students on compostable items. At Rocky Mountain High School, students monitor the program during lunch to reduce contamination.

## Reducing Computer Packaging

To reduce the amount of packaging, including cardboard, plastic wrap, and Styrofoam, used to ship annual laptop orders, the Information Technology and Purchasing & Materials Management departments requested “coffin” packaging from the vendor. In this method of shipping, up to 15 devices with minimal packaging are sent per box, instead of each device being boxed individually, resulting in an **80 percent reduction** in waste as compared to previous years. The change in packaging was free from the vendor; Information Technology specified the change in the Request for Purchase (RFP). In addition, having less packaging decreased the amount of staff time it took to unpack the boxes, as well as the storage space necessary to receive the packages.



## Resource Conservation (continued)

- The 74-page School Directory booklet and the 14-page Educational Choices booklet were combined into one document by Communications. This resulted in a paper savings of **50 percent** and allowed for a more streamlined distribution of information.
- High definition cameras with **infrared illuminators** were used by the Security Department. These cameras only run when they detect motion, so less storage space on the DVRs and servers is required for footage, and less power is used.
- Transportation Services purchased **two engine coolant recovery systems**, which helped to reduce the amount of coolant disposed of and the amount of coolant purchased. The recovery systems remove the fluids, contain the coolant, and reinstall the coolant back into the vehicle without creating air pockets in the lines. Since using the recovery system, the amount of engine rebuilds, costing \$4,000 each, has decreased.
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment contracted with a textbook reuse firm to locate a **secondhand market** for used textbooks. If a secondhand location was not identified, the textbook was recycled.
- Bennett Elementary School's annual chili supper was a **zero waste event**, including compostable cutlery and plates, and all leftover food was taken to a compost company for disposal.



## Ceiling Tile Replacement

During the past year, the Carpentry Department **diverted** ceiling tiles from the landfill by salvaging them from schools undergoing major renovations as a part of the 2010 Bond. Each salvaged tile was inspected, any stains or damaged areas were cut out, and the tiles were then repurposed in closets or low traffic areas. Additionally, new ceiling tiles were installed in hallways at Blevins Middle School, Boltz Middle School, and Fullana Early Childhood Center, which provided brighter spaces, a cleaner school environment, and decreased the need for extra lights to be on in the hallways.



## Resource Conservation (continued)

### What's on the Horizon

- An **online portal** for business card requests will be launched by the Information Technology Department. The portal will eliminate business card request forms and reduce the amount of time Graphics Services spends to process the requests.
- The junior class at Fossil Ridge High School will **adopt** the parking lots and be responsible for keeping them free of trash. This responsibility will be handed down to the next junior class and will become a sustaining responsibility.
- Outdoor Services will install mats under swing sets and slides. This will **reduce** the wood fiber replacement needs and less maintenance will be required in the impact zone.
- To allow families to complete and submit all athletic forms electronically, Athletic Services will partner with Family ID, a web development service company, to implement an **online web portal**. With this portal, all secondary schools will be able to have a paperless process and will have online access to all student athletic information instead of having to store hard copies.
- The Records Department will **build extractions** from BusinessPlus, the district's financial system, to reduce the amount of data scanned manually for Payroll and Human Resources information. Currently, Human Resources and Payroll print the information, Records scans and enters the data, and then the documents are shredded. Additional exactions will save paper and reduce the duplication of efforts.
- Students from Poudre High School's Link Club and Ambassadors Club will team up with Custodial Services as a part of a "beautify the school" campaign. During the first Saturday of each month, over **20 students** will work for two hours around the school performing tasks, such as picking up trash, cleaning the bleachers, and emptying recycling, aimed at enhancing the school environment. The program will also instill a sense of ownership in their school and an appreciation for the work it takes to keep their school clean.
- When windows are broken or need to be replaced, the Carpentry Department will work with a local glass company to **recycle** the glass and the windows will be replaced with thermal units where applicable.
- The athletic entrance at Rocky Mountain High School will be altered to find a **new location** for the recycling dumpsters, trash dumpsters, and compost bins currently at the entrance. The athletic entrance is one of the main entrances for students, and any trash, recycling, or compost spilled from the containers is tracked into the school, creating messy floors. Once a new solid waste management area has been established, the school will work with Facility Services to add signage to the area to further encourage students to recycle and compost.
- By overhauling information distributed at substitute teacher orientations, Human Resources will save **18,000 sheets**, or 36 reams, of paper. This will be accomplished by posting the 12-page Substitute Handbook, student allergy information forms, and the substitute application online. Over 1,000 copies of each document are printed annually.
- Fossil Ridge High School will hold an **electronic waste drive** for students and community members to safely dispose of their old electronic equipment. A competition between the classes will be held to see which class can bring in the most electronic waste to recycle and the event will be used as a way to educate students on recycling options for old electronics.
- Kinard Middle School will build a **mobile composting station** for the lunch room. This will allow for an increase in diversion rates.

## One Application Fertilizer

For Outdoor Services, soil condition is one of the most important elements for providing safe, well-maintained athletic fields and playing surfaces. To better maintain these ideal conditions, the department began testing a one application poly-coated fertilizer, which has a delayed release formula, at specific locations around the district. The fertilizer has a different nitrogen source than traditional fertilizer and the delayed release formula prevents it from rapidly flushing through the soil, resulting in better soil and field conditions. Outdoor Services is able to control how long of a release is needed depending on the site conditions, which eliminates the large burst of growth typical with traditional fertilizers. In addition, the poly coating helps to gradually release nutrients into the turf and soil, reducing potential effects on the environment or groundwater, and is colored to make it blend into the grass.

# Greenhouse Gas

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As a member of the [City of Fort Collins Climate Wise program](#), the district is committed to minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. The district will continue to embrace existing energy conservation procedures, recognizing that reduction in energy consumption has the largest impact on the district's greenhouse gas emission sources. The district is working to meet the 2020 reduction goal established by the City of Fort Collins and the State of Colorado, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent as compared to the 2005 benchmark year.



## Reinvesting Rebates from Electrical Retrofits

Through Energy Efficiency Team funds, the Electrical Department is able to **retrofit** electrical fixtures around the district. In 2013, eight schools received lighting retrofits for building exterior, gymnasium, flex room, or weight room lights. 185 high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps ranging from 100-watt to 400-watt were replaced with lower wattage light-emitting diode (LED) lamps, and 28 4-lamp T5 fixtures were replaced with 15 6-lamp T8 fluorescent lamps. These retrofits will reduce electrical use by 41,500 watts, decrease electrical costs and maintenance, and provide improved lighting. Savings or rebates generated from these projects are then reinvested in the Energy Efficiency Team and allocated to other energy savings projects around the district.

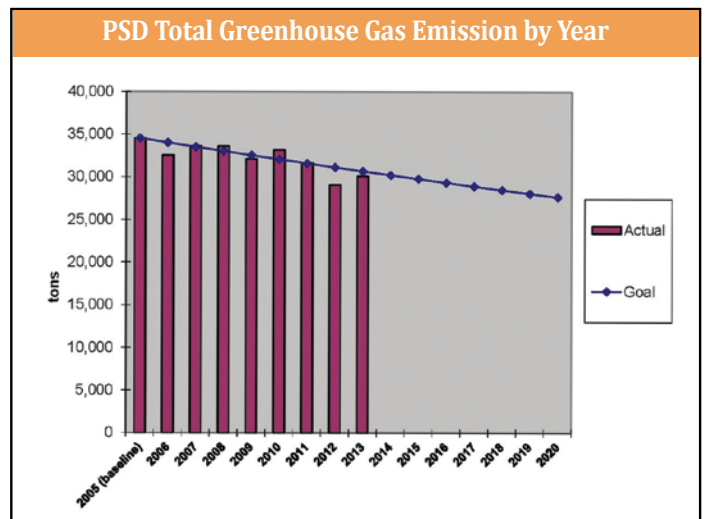


# Greenhouse Gas

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions (continued)

### What's Been Accomplished

- Carpentry added two inches of spray foam to the soffitted areas in the ceiling around the Early Childhood classroom and art classroom at Tavelli Elementary School, providing an **increase in R value**, a measure of thermal resistance, from R-11 to R-25.
- Channel 10, the district's cable access television channel, purchased **LED field lights**, which stay cooler than their old lights and have rechargeable batteries, and worked with Building Maintenance to upgrade the lighting above the Board of Education directors' platform at the district's Support Services Center to LED lights.
- Concession stands at French Field were **remodeled** by Athletics Services and Facility Services and now include Energy Star-rated equipment and appliances, including an insta-hot system to provide efficient heating and to reduce electrical costs.
- Bacon Elementary School **audited small appliances** and students presented the cost to run the appliances and potential savings at a staff meeting.
- The Automated Controls and HVAC departments collaborated on the installation of a **Building Automation System (BAS)** at Red Feather Elementary School to allow for the HVAC system to be programmed and controlled remotely, resulting in ongoing utility cost savings. In addition, the furnaces were replaced with units that improved efficiency from 60 percent to 80 percent.
- Wellington Middle School participated in the **"Caught with your Lights Off"** and **"Computers Off"** campaigns which encourage staff to turn off their lights and computers when not in use.
- All new district computers are automatically set by Information Technology to hibernate when not in use, which reduces the power use by **50 percent** as compared to normal use. At night and on weekends, all computers are set to run at an additional 25 percent less power.
- Theater Maintenance converted the lights for the collapsible auditorium seating at Fossil Ridge High School from incandescent to LED, which will save **2,688 watts** annually.
- The Lock Shop continually maintained weather stripping on exterior doors to ensure strong building envelopes district wide, and replaced the weather stripping on **80** openings to provide a better seal.
- Utilities & Resource Management received approximately **\$80,000** in rebates through the City of Fort Collins, Platte River Power Authority, and Xcel Energy for energy projects completed through the Energy Efficiency Team. This money was then reinvested in additional energy efficiency projects, including lighting and plumbing fixture retrofits.



[Find out more about the district's greenhouse gas inventory methodology](#)

## Security Server Upgrades

Through the 2010 Bond, the Security Department will upgrade digital video recorders (DVRs) and servers used to store security camera footage captured at every district site. The new DVRs and servers will have increased storage capabilities, which will allow the department to reduce the number of servers needed from 32 to 6, saving hardware costs, physical storage space, and electrical use. Instead of having all security cameras record on to one server, the footage will be divided between the six new servers to reduce the demand on the district's network. In addition, Security Department staff will be able to access live camera footage remotely, reducing the need for staff to travel to schools to adjust the cameras.

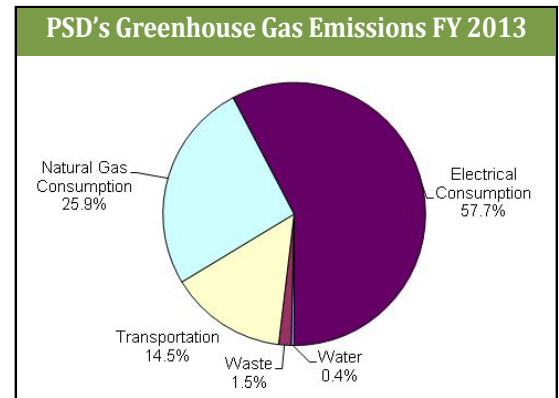


# Greenhouse Gas

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions (continued)

### What's on the Horizon

- At Putnam Elementary, the HVAC Department will work with Planning, Design & Construction to **retrofit** existing units instead of replacing the entire unit during the upcoming bond-funded major renovation during the summer of 2014. New motors and drives will be added to the existing units, and the envelope of the unit will be improved, saving the cost of new units.
- Partnerships & Volunteers will install a **motion sensor** in the back hallway of the Partnership Center to ensure the lights are only on when needed. Currently, the lights are on most of the day.
- Outdoor Services will investigate using **electric-powered** hedge clippers, chainsaws, blowers, and truck-mounted salt spreaders instead of gas-powered equipment.
- Staff members at Poudre High School will be encouraged to remove microwaves and refrigerators from classrooms and work rooms and use the **shared appliances** in the break room instead.
- The Plumbing Department will replace the domestic water heaters at Fort Collins High School with high efficiency units, intended to increase efficiencies from 73 percent to **98.9 percent**.
- Laptop carts will be replaced with **"smart carts"** by Information Technology. These carts, which store 30 laptops computers, have the ability to sense when a laptop needs charging, and will only charge the laptops when needed instead of continually charging the devices. Currently, 1,500 of these carts are in service; all remaining non-smart carts will be replaced with the new technology.
- A **light switch will be added** on the south side of the small gym at Poudre High School to make it easier to turn off the lights in the gym when they are not needed. Currently, there is only one light switch on the north side, which is opposite of the entrance to the gym, so the lights are frequently left on.
- The City of Fort Collins Utilities Department will **implement meters and web portals** through the Advanced Meter Fort Collins project, which will allow residents to access real time data on their energy use and environmental impact.



## Kinard Green Ribbon School Award

The **United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools** program honors schools with exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote healthy living, and pursue environmental education. In 2013, Kinard Middle School was among 64 schools from 32 states to earn the Green Ribbon School award. To earn this distinction, representatives from Kinard completed a rigorous application process that included a 17-page written application reviewed by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and area experts, a site visit by CDE representatives, and a final federal review. In the press release announcing the recipients, Kinard was recognized for its efforts in solid waste management, its environmental leadership program, and its commitment to health and wellness.



## Sustainable Education

With student achievement as its first priority, schools and departments will continue to: recognize the intergenerational nature of sustainability; work collaboratively and establish learning opportunities that are brought to life by its teachers and students; and be supported by physical spaces and operations throughout the district.



## Sustainable Education in Custodial Services

During 2013, Custodial Services worked to **integrate sustainability** into their daily practices and focused on sustainable education with all department staff members. To do so, information on the district's Sustainability Management System, as well as the Annual Sustainability Report, was shared during orientation for new Custodial employees; supervisors teach and encourage sustainable practices with custodians while on-site; and information about green cleaning products was listed on the department website. To further increase knowledge and spread awareness, the department intends to share the Annual Sustainability Report while out in the schools; use different methods to deploy information and encourage interest in sustainability, such as holding presentations during department staff meetings or sending periodic emails about sustainability; and encourage better solid waste management by finding ways to assist with the program at schools with lower diversion rates.

## Sustainable Education (continued)

### What's Been Accomplished

- At Bacon Elementary School, older students teach younger students about sustainability through the **Bacon Energy Savings Team (BEST)**. Over 40 third, fourth, and fifth grade students participate in BEST and three teachers serve as leaders.
- Utilities & Resource Management created a **School Energy Reports** website to house energy and solid waste use reports for every school and district building. Schools can now access their data electronically, which has streamlined the distribution of the information.
- A classroom **aquaponics growing system** was created at Kinard Middle School to use as a tool to educate students on different types of gardening.
- Child Nutrition encouraged schools to use **vegetables grown in school gardens** in classrooms for use in demonstrations or lessons about healthy eating.
- Carpentry **provided wood scraps** to Cache La Poudre Middle School's wood shop for use in student projects.
- The City of Fort Collins hosted the **Children's Water Festival** in the spring. Over 1,700 third grade students from 22 district schools attended the event, which featured activities to educate students on various water topics including aquatic wildlife, water chemistry, and water conservation.
- The office manager at Poudre High School **shared best practices** among colleagues from other high schools during high school office manager meetings.
- Bennett Elementary School worked to **increase communication** to students, staff, parents, and community members about sustainable efforts to encourage these groups to think about why they should care about it and what they can do to help.
- Leshner Middle School **collaborated** with Kinard Middle School to share best practices around building sustainability, including tours of the school, in preparation for applying for the 2014 Green Ribbon School Award.

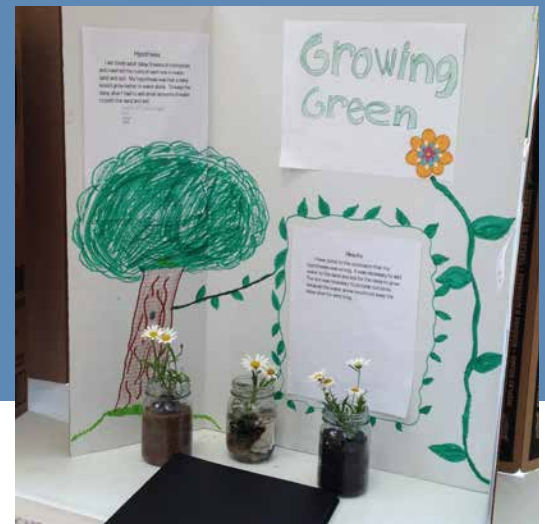
## Channel 10 Sustainability Videos

Channel 10, the district's educational cable access television station, worked with Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; Child Nutrition; and Wellness departments to produce several sustainability-themed videos throughout the year.

The **PWR (Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness) Talk series** featured 15-minute presentations by local professionals, educators, and industry leaders about their careers and learning opportunities in their fields.

Child Nutrition staff members hosted the monthly **"What's Cooking in PSD" series**, which highlights a healthy menu item, as well as tips for getting children to try new foods.

For the 2014-2015 school year, Channel 10 will produce a monthly climate show where students analyze climate data and tie the information into irrigation or heating and cooling themes; will finalize the "School Works" segments, which demonstrate how building systems work and why they are energy efficient; and will produce "Soups with the Sup't", a healthy cooking series featuring the district's superintendent.



## Sustainable Education (continued)

### What's on the Horizon

- Partnerships & Volunteers will work with the Customer Support Center to include a note on **facility use permits** to remind renters of the Partnership Center conference room to turn off the lights when the meeting concludes.
- Olander Elementary School wants to develop an **outdoor classroom** on school grounds and use the classroom to teach students an array of subjects in context, engage in a broader community, and develop civic skills.
- Professional Development will investigate ways to **incorporate sustainability** into training events, including a slideshow at classified training days to display sustainable tips or reminders.
- Students at Fossil Ridge High School will create **sustainable commercials** to air during their school film festival, on Ridge TV, and insert them into the broadcast of live sporting events.
- The Mentoring Department will provide all teachers attending New Teacher Orientation with **recyclable tote bags**. The department will work with a local company to provide the bags, which will be made of 80 percent recycled materials, and imprint the bags with the district logo. After orientation, the bag can be reused by recipients and it will serve as a conversation piece while out in the community.
- Purchasing & Materials Management will redesign their warehouse catalog to be more user friendly and highlight the **93 green products** currently stocked in the warehouse in order to encourage schools and departments to purchase those products.
- Child Nutrition will host a **department farm expo** in August. During the expo, visitors can sample menu items, fruit and vegetable trays will be displayed, families can apply for free and reduced lunch electronically on computer kiosks, and carnival games will be set up for kids.
- **Concepts of sustainability** will be integrated into content curriculum, such as agriculture education, by Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment. Poudre High School will team up with Colorado State University to add an agriculture class for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Rice Elementary School's **Garden Club** will work with Outdoor Services to expand their school garden. In addition, the school will "grow" the Garden Club to include students from all grade levels, integrate the WASABI Environmental Club into the Garden Club, and garden lessons will be incorporated into instruction at all grade levels.
- Fossil Ridge High School will complete their **greenhouse project**. Students will work to establish the garden and grow vegetables then work with farmer's markets to sell the vegetables. As a part of a school project, the students will develop a business plan for selling the vegetables, and present the plan to local businesses around town to help sponsor the greenhouse program.



## Shred When Necessary

The Purchasing & Materials Management Department worked to educate district staff members on the benefits of only shredding paper when needed – **paper that has not been shredded can be recycled more times than paper that has been shredded**. When paper is shredded, the fibers within the paper are cut into very short pieces and the paper becomes lower in grade, which makes recycling the shredded paper difficult. The department found that often times an entire folder of information would be shredded when only a few pages were required to be shredded. A vendor comes to the department office once per week to shred documents and an email reminder is sent out twice per year to remind staff members to only send in the confidential items for shredding.

# Transportation

## Transportation

The district will continue to implement strategies designed to increase busing efficiency; encourage alternative transportation, including walking and bike riding; and reduce transportation demands, including vehicle miles traveled (VMTs).



## Transportation GPS

To improve student safety and enhance operational efficiencies, Transportation Services will implement a **GPS tracking system** for all school buses. As a part of the system, the department will be able to track idle times and driving habits of each bus driver, which can be used as a teaching tool to educate drivers on ways to cut idle times, decrease emissions, and reduce maintenance on buses. Mileage can be tracked through a handheld scanner instead of tracked by hand, which will reduce paper, decrease staff time needed to process the current “bubble sheets”, and reduce errors; five mileages are tracked per route per day. Additionally, parents will be able to track students through a parent portal and notifications can be sent out when a bus is late or when the bus is nearing a stop.



## Transportation (Continued)

### What's Been Accomplished

- The Paint Department began leaving buckets of **touch up paint** at district buildings to reduce the amount of deliveries that have to be made to the site when the custodian needs paint.
- Purchasing & Materials Management encouraged department staff to **carpool, bike, or walk to work**. Currently, two employees bike to work three times per week and two employees carpool daily.
- New buses purchased by Transportation Services were outfitted with **disc brakes** on all four wheels instead of traditional drum brake systems. In addition to lasting longer than drum brakes, the disc brakes have smaller and lighter parts which makes maintenance easier on the mechanics and reduces the potential for injury.
- Fourth graders at Olander Elementary School had an **all-day bike field trip** around Fort Collins. During the field trip, 85 students, staff, and volunteers biked from Olander to the Aggie Stadium Disc Course to Spring Kite Farm and back to Olander while learning about bicycle safety and bicycling etiquette.
- The City of Fort Collins worked with Webber Middle School to host a **winter Bike-to-School Day**. Snacks and drinks were purchased from local food vendors and distributed to the 47 students who biked to school despite freezing temperatures.
- Larimer County Sheriff's Department reports are sent to the Security Department by **email** instead of having to be printed and picked up at the Sheriff's Department. Reports were picked up 2-3 times per month.
- The Transportation Department **reduced their routes** by one bus, saving 9,000 VMTs annually.
- Students at Poudre High School were **encouraged to walk, bike, or ride Transfort**, the City of Fort Collins' mass transit system, to school.
- Through a grant from Safe Routes to School, Leshar Middle School installed eleven **11-bike capacity bike racks** with thermoplastic coating, a bicycle aid station, an air pump, and two 8-skateboard capacity racks.
- A **bike rodeo** was held at Johnson Elementary School, which included classroom presentations on bike safety and educated students on hazard avoidance and proper signaling.



## Clean Diesel Buses

At the start of the 2013-2014 school year, Transportation Services evaluated adding additional **propane buses** to their fleet; however, with rising propane costs and other limitations it was no longer a viable option. Instead, buses with clean diesel technology were purchased. This technology enables diesel engines to reduce emissions by 99 percent for nitrogen oxides, an ozone precursor, and 98 percent for particulate emissions. With the introduction of these buses, fleet emissions have been reduced by an estimated 11 percent, and this number will increase as more new buses are added. The clean diesel buses also had the unanticipated benefit of decreasing noise pollution – the new engines are much quieter than their predecessors.

## Transportation (Continued)

### What's on the Horizon

- Professional Development and Benefits Services will record their New Employee Orientation classes so that new employees can watch the orientations **online** and not have to travel to the classes, saving VMTs.
- The Wellness Department will participate in the **Bike Share program** through the City of Fort Collins Bike Library and establish a Bike Share location on near the district's administrative office for employees to use for short commutes around town or between Transfort stations.
- For upcoming computer deployments, Information Technology will arrange with vendors to **pre-image the devices and ship the orders directly to the school**. In previous years, the devices were delivered to the district warehouse, transported to the Information Technology offices, imaged by district staff, and then deployed to the schools, totaling 60 days of work.
- The Planning, Design & Construction Department will encourage staff to use **alternative modes of transportation**, including carpooling, biking, walking, or using public transportation, to get to work or while traveling to school sites during the day. The department will track how much is saved by using these alternative modes of transportation.
- In conjunction with the Safe Routes to Schools program, **bike repair stations** will be installed by the Wellness Department at each high school for students and staff to use. Safe Routes to Schools will recruit a "bike ambassador" at each high school to help oversee the program and provide education to students and staff on how to use the repair station.
- The **5th annual Bike-to-School Week** will be held at Leshar Middle School in May. During the week, 300 students and staff members will ride their bikes to school and participate in various activities, including a bicycle parade, bicycle maintenance seminars, and presentations by guest speakers. Throughout the week, it is anticipated that participants will bike over 4,000 miles.
- During the spring, Johnson Elementary School will work with Safe Routes to School to establish a **walking school bus**. Once per week, students will gather at two points and, with the supervision of parent volunteers, they will walk or bike to school together. This program will reduce VMTs and reduce the number of cars at the school during drop off and pick up times.

## Child Nutrition Fun in the Summer

Though kids may not be in class during the summer, Child Nutrition hosts an annual **summer lunch program** to ensure students continue to have access to a nutritious meal. Child Nutrition will work with Transportation Services to bring the lunches, which will be prepared in-house at Lincoln Middle School, directly to neighborhoods around town. A bus will be repurposed and altered to allow for easier food distribution, a wrap will be added to the exterior of the bus, and the bus will be used to deliver food to the neighborhoods. Previous summer lunch programs hosted by Child Nutrition did not receive high participation, but it is anticipated that participation will greatly increase when the food is delivered directly to neighborhoods.

## Health and Wellness

The district will work to make health and wellness an accepted and celebrated part of its culture by integrating student and staff wellness, supporting mental health, and recognizing how district facilities influence student and staff wellness.

### What's Been Accomplished

- Students at Olander Elementary School engage in at least 150 minutes of **school-supervised physical education** and/or outdoor time per week.
- Purchasing & Materials Management added **plants** to their break room to help clean the air; one plant per 100 square feet reduces air pollution.
- The Plumbing Department replaced old drinking fountains with **bottle fillers and hydration stations**, which have a 10 percent to 12 percent savings in water, reduce the time by half per student to operate, and encourage students to drink more water. In addition, the stations reduce the amount of water spilled onto tile, carpet, and wood floors.
- Transportation Services purchased 50 pairs of **ice cleats** for bus drivers to wear during inclement weather to help prevent slips and falls.
- Custodial Services installed **polished concrete** in two science rooms and a storage room at Cache La Poudre Middle School and **resilient rubber flooring** in the gym at Linton Elementary School. These surfaces do not require annual refinishing and require less maintenance than other surfaces.
- The Wellness Department provided **increased outreach** to all district employees on wellness opportunities and classes by improving and expanding their website, launching the employee wellness portal, establishing a wellness Blackboard online classroom site, and distributing a school wellness newsletter.
- Child Nutrition participated in **National School Lunch and Breakfast Week** in March. During the week, athletes from Colorado State University visited students during lunch to encourage healthy eating.
- Staff members at Poudre High School formed a **softball team** and used a wellness grant to fund the entry fees. In addition to encouraging wellness, participation on the team also encouraged teambuilding by bringing together staff members who do not normally interact and served as a morale booster.
- Leshler Middle School worked with Child Nutrition to purchase seasonal fruits and vegetables from local **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** farms as a part of a Farm to School program. The fruits and vegetables were used in the school cafeteria and helped to promote healthy lunch menu items.
- Seven volunteers from the City of Fort Collins provided **locally grown herbs** to 30 restaurants around the city to thank them for using locally grown produce in their kitchens. The containers for the herbs were made by students in Webber Middle School's Sustainability Club.

## Schools on the Move

Child Nutrition and Wellness departments teamed up to encourage schools to participate in the **Schools on the Move Challenge**, a collaborative effort between Poudre Valley Hospital, Poudre School District, and Healthy Kids Club. Schools on the Move is an annual month-long event in which students and staff are encouraged to track their daily fitness levels and participate in other good habits, including healthy nutrition, that are a part of a healthy lifestyle. Healthy Kids Club produced several tools for the schools to use during the challenge, including a "Be Your Healthy Best" poster series and "Minds in Motion" activity cards. At the end of the challenge, participants turned in their activity logs for a chance to compete for prizes; the top five schools received stipends to fund school wellness initiatives.



## Health and Wellness (continued)

### What's on the Horizon

- Employee Assistance Services (EAS) will develop additional strategies to promote timely delivery of **mental health services** for district employees and their family members. Currently, challenges are resulting from fewer primary care physicians and a reduction in locations accepting chronic care referrals.
- The Wellness Department will work with Channel 10 to produce 10 **district-specific “brain break” videos** that will provide ideas for breaks that teachers can use in their classroom. These videos will be posted on Blackboard, the district’s online classroom website, and will be available for use by all schools.
- EAS will work with new managers on strategies for setting **performance expectations** with their employees as a way to reduce workplace conflict, reduce stress, and increase work performance.
- **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** will be installed by Risk Management in all schools that do not currently have a unit.
- Kinard Middle School will encourage students to have lunch **outside** and encourage teachers to hold classes outside when possible.
- Olander Elementary School will participate in **SunWise**, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program that provides educational resources for students on how to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun. Program participants receive free materials about sun safety, UV radiation, and ozone science.
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment will update the health curriculum and instruction to reflect current research in adolescent health and fitness, and identify a rate of fitness among students by implementing **districtwide physical fitness assessments**.
- Students in the catering program at Poudre High School will put together a **healthy eating education presentation** that will be shown at department meetings or used as a segment during weekly video news announcements.
- Leshner Middle School will establish a **school garden** as a tool to learn about healthy, local, organic farm to table food sources. Currently, students in the Sustainability Leadership classes make use of nearby Shire Farm for agriculture education.
- **Art therapy** will be held during staff collaboration days at Johnson Elementary School as a way to reduce stress.

## Child Nutrition Taste Tests

To encourage elementary school students to taste fruits and vegetables, Child Nutrition received grant money to hold **taste testings** at Bauder and Irish Elementary Schools. Each month, a fruit or vegetable is highlighted and each classroom receives samples of the featured items. As students sample the fruits and vegetables, Child Nutrition staff educate the students on healthy eating and the nutritional benefits of the highlighted fruit or vegetable.

Since starting the taste testings, the amount of food waste during lunch has decreased – students are required to have a half cup of fruit or vegetables each day, and when they know what they like and don’t like, they don’t end up throwing as much food away.



## Looking to the Future

### It is in All of Us

The students, staff, and community of Wellington Middle School are continually interested in ways to work with the district regarding sustainability. Our school, originally opened as a high school in the early 1900s, has been a model for sustainability with regard to established school buildings, not just those buildings that have been “built green”. Our message, through the National Green Ribbon Schools Program and the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program, has been that every school can do things to increase sustainable efforts, even older schools and buildings. The idea is that it is in all of us to do something that will help the environment, and, in turn, help citizens of our community.

Our “Asphalt to Learning Environments” project is focused on reclaiming unused or underused property around the building and transforming it into learning environments that are a source of pride, a place of learning, and a way to communicate the idea that going outside can affect learning. Whether it is hosting wellness activities, increasing recycling and composting within our building, or transforming our school grounds, Wellington Middle School is proud to communicate the message that if you find one school where it is possible, we can do it too! It is in all of us to embrace the sustainability model for our school, for the district, and for our entire community.

**Alicia Durand, principal**  
*Wellington Middle School*



# Acknowledgements

## Acknowledgements

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### Departments

[Athletic Services](#)  
[Automated Controls](#)  
[Benefits Services](#)  
[Carpentry](#)  
[Channel 10](#)  
[Child Nutrition](#)  
[Communications](#)  
[Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment](#)  
[Custodial Services](#)  
[Customer Support Center](#)  
[Employee Assistance Services](#)  
[Electrical](#)  
[Finance](#)  
[Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning](#)  
[Human Resources](#)  
[Information Technology](#)  
[Lock Shop](#)  
[Mentoring](#)  
[Outdoor Services](#)  
[Painting](#)  
[Partnerships & Volunteers](#)  
[Planning, Design & Construction](#)  
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[Professional Development](#)  
[Purchasing & Materials Management](#)  
[Records Center](#)  
[Risk Management](#)  
[Security](#)  
[Superintendent's Office](#)  
[Theater Maintenance](#)  
[Transportation Services](#)  
[Utilities & Resource Management](#)  
[Wellness](#)

### Schools

[Bacon Elementary School](#)  
[Bennett Elementary School](#)  
[Fossil Ridge High School](#)  
[Johnson Elementary School](#)  
[Kinard Middle School](#)  
[Leshar Middle School](#)  
[Olander Elementary School](#)  
[Polaris/Lab School](#)  
[Poudre High School](#)  
[Rice Elementary School](#)  
[Rocky Mountain High School](#)  
[Wellington Middle School](#)

### Other Partners

[City of Fort Collins Utilities](#)