



Ventura Unified School District  
Healthy Green Schools Partnership  
March 15, 2018

**Welcome:**

Ann Marie Bidlingmaier, Betsy George, Hector Guerrero, Josiah Guzik, Mary Haffner, Lynn Harrison, Brandon Kaysen, Martha Macias, Dave Marshall, Peyton Reynolds, Joe Richards-Chair, Richard Saint, Jill Santos, Vineta Sondors and Sara Viscarra.



**Students reported on the initiatives/projects:**

- VHS working to plant new vegetation in the fire stricken botanical gardens and helping with Beach clean-up.
- VHS Students are partnering with the Surf Rider Foundation to plant a school ocean friendly garden at their school.
- High schools working together on “I Matter” initiatives to include city climate energy plan.
- The City Council to gather student input via survey regarding energy plan.
- FTTHS working with the Surf Rider Organization and Blue Water Task Force. Samples of ocean water taken and results posted: <http://www.surfrider.org/blue-water-task-force/chapter/55>
- FTTHS Environmental club selling T-Shirts with Club Logo as a fundraiser.
- FTTHS first dance to raise money for Hydration stations was well received, and currently working on plans for a future dance.
- Students encouraged to invite and bring other students to the Healthy Green School meeting. Purpose to simply raising awareness regarding role of the committee.

**Energy Conservation - Dave Marshall, Facilities Director:**

The energy conservation sub-committee continues on goal to reduce and save on energy consumption on every day district operations. Through new funding source of prop 39 will focus on lighting retrofit at the remaining 17 sites. Completion of heating, ventilation and air conditioning retrofit work at Buena and some at FTTHS. Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance has recognized VUSD as a leader in energy conservation.

Solar: Using Sage Renewable Energy Consulting to provide unbiased opinion report on energy audit findings on feasibility of use of solar.

**Task One Solar Feasibility (accomplished)**

- Conducted and completed survey to identify where solar is feasible
- Examined all 31 possible sites
- Determined 21 sites where solar can be built; however,



**Ventura Unified School District**  
**Healthy Green Schools Partnership**  
**March 15, 2018**

- 10 sites with 150 Kilowatts or larger, 5 of the larger sites (200 Kilowatts) identified would produce the biggest payback

**Task Two Renewable Energy Master Plan (in process)**

- Create a working plan on how the district should move forward with renewable energy as it relates to use of Solar
- Suggestion to incorporate at the solar sites educational learning projects regarding solar

**Task Three Investment Grade Feasibility Study (new task)**

- The nuts and bolts; what we have and the actual cost in construction
- Funding Sources
- Last year submitted applications for ten solar sites. Because of this; cost savings 10% to 15%, good for ten years

Mr. Marshall attended a Clean Energy 805 Workshop. SCE is proposing renewable energy and energy storage projects in Santa Barbara and Ventura County. Business, local governments, property managers where they have the opportunity to participate in solar energy storage through use of their own facilities that can reduce energy costs and at the same time earn additional revenue by selling solar energy.

**Reducing Waste/Environmental Education:**

Ms. Jill Santos, representative from the MERITO Foundation. MERITO provides professional development and outdoor field experiences for teachers and students centered on STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) for local watershed/ocean awareness. The organization is grant funded and has funding to match the district's efforts to make improvements, with support of students on school campuses to reduce environmental footprint.

Mr. Brandon Kaysen, Environmental Specialist for the City of Ventura:

- City committed to work on a Climate Action Plan (Energy portion is 70% of the Plan)
- Funding received through Ventura County Regional Alliance
- Many organizations working together on the Climate Action Plan
- Student involvement and view important to incorporate in the plan
- Brandon will schedule speaking engagements at the school Environmental Clubs to get more students involved
- Created Student Survey - What is important to them? Hopes is to have Surveys available at various places like the Street Fair, Fourth of July events, etc.,
- Finalizing video produced at Balboa related to waste audit.
- Green School Award Applications are now open. Winners will be announced at Earth Day. Volunteers to help at Earth Day welcomed.
- City interested in doing outreach and would like to take a look at VUSD Integrated Pest Management and best practices.

**Health and Wellness Update:**



**Ventura Unified School District**  
**Healthy Green Schools Partnership**  
**March 15, 2018**

Mr. Chris Massa, Food Corps Service Member, Ms. Ann Bidlingmaier, Health Coordinator and Ms. Kara Muniz, Director of Food & Nutrition Services continue to work on updating the wellness policy. Specific areas include: measurable goals, guidelines on beverages sold on school campus, policies for marketing and input from stakeholders. Currently seeking members to participate in the committee. If you are interested, contact the Chris Massa who is the Chair at (805) 641-5000. Expectation is to present a draft of the Wellness Policy at a future Healthy Green School meeting.

**Integrated Pest Management:**

Richard Saint, Operations Manager reported that the recent rain has produced grass growth and increased Gopher activity. Another issue to address is weed abatement. As a result, reminders will go out to site staff including coaches on acceptable chemicals or means that can be used to address those concerns. With assistance of Chris Massa, a new funding source has been identified for purchase of vegetation & plants for sites in need. Custodial department continues to using green products, and looking into new methods of cleaning, and staff training in various areas to include safety. The city has not lifted the ban on use of blowers.

**Environmental Preferable Purchasing:**

At this time, no new information to report in regards to preferable purchasing. New Director, Genevieve Gilmore has been hired and will provide update at a future meeting.

FUTURE Meeting Date: May 24, 2018