WHAT IS CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS AIR CONDITIONING?

A key strategy to reduce these emissions is to eliminate the use of natural gas in DPS buildings.

In our region, electricity continues to transition toward renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, which reduce emissions and carbon pollution.

Natural gas is non-renewable, produces harmful emissions, and is a financially volatile fuel source when compared with electricity, making utility budgeting unpredictable.

For DPS, the primary opportunity to significantly reduce the use of natural gas and make system-wide climate-conscious upgrades is when we add air conditioning (A/C), because some of the same technology that provides cooling can also provide efficient electric heating.

Many of our schools receive cooling from A/C units that are very similar to those you might have in your home, but those A/C units can be run in reverse to deliver heat instead of cooling. Equipment with this capability is called a "heat pump." DPS is pursuing this strategy of A/C with electrified heating when economically feasible.

Delaying the climate-conscious option puts DPS at risk for not reaching its climate action goals and increased costs down the road.

The DPS Climate Action Plan has a goal to reduce DPS’ overall greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2050 from 2010 levels.