

Porterville Energy Sustainability Program

MARCH 2025



Porterville Unified School District's (PUSD) Energy & Sustainability Program is aimed at increasing energy efficiency, saving money, and preparing students for college and their future careers. Through strategic partnerships and clean energy initiatives, PUSD is transforming its infrastructure and creating valuable learning opportunities for students, while supporting the local economy.

RESULTS

Cost Savings

In the first two years of our program, we achieved \$850,000 in electric and natural gas savings, a 25% cost reduction for the district.

Leveraged Investments

Working collaborating with the business community, government, and nonprofits PUSD has secured over \$25M in state and federal funding to support projects.

Student Outcomes

Paid internships have provided 60 students with opportunities to develop professional and technical skills, including data collection, management, and analysis, contributing to efforts to secure funding and support project implementation.



BACKGROUND

PUSD's commitment to sustainability is intertwined with fiscal responsibility. Focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and workforce development, PUSD implements initiatives like electric bus fleet transitions, solar energy installations, and HVAC upgrades. These efforts not only create healthier learning environments for students but also realize significant cost savings.

The district is deeply committed to providing students with real-world learning experiences. Partnerships with industry leaders, community-based organizations, and dual enrollment programs offer students hands-on training in renewable energy and electric vehicle technologies, and preparing them for careers in the growing clean energy sector.



PORTERVILLE IS COUNTING ON ~\$2.26 MILLION FROM ELECTIVE PAY & ENERGY TAX CREDITS TO ADVANCE THE DISTRICT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND LEARNING.

PORTERVILLE AT A GLANCE School District

- School over 14,000 students in K-12
- 83% of students eligible for free or reduced meals
- 22 school sites
- Annual energy costs of buildings: \$1,805,000

Community Demographics:

- Population: 62,623
Rural, agricultural
- 88.9% socioeconomically disadvantaged
- 83% Hispanic, 25% English learners
- Top 3% in CA for fine particulate matter and top 18% in CA for ground-level ozone

"I plan to study architecture and civil engineering in college, and I hope to combine energy conservation and efficiency into building and designing more environmentally-friendly buildings. I'll always have that green consideration now because I am aware of how large an impact it can have."

~ Student Intern



Elective Pay Tax Credits

Elective Pay funding plays a critical role in advancing Porterville USD's clean energy and sustainability initiatives, including projects like the EPA-funded electric bus transition and the DOE-supported energy efficiency upgrades across multiple school sites. By leveraging Elective Pay for solar, storage, and EV charging infrastructure, the District will significantly reduce project costs, maximize long-term energy savings, and ensure the successful deployment of clean energy technologies that will produce further cost savings.

Estimated Direct Pay & Project Costs (EV Charging + Solar + Storage)

Site	167 W Poplar Ave
Total Estimated Cost (\$)	\$11,201,602
Total Estimated Est. Sec. 48E Credit (Solar + Storage) \$	\$1,717,210
Total Est. Sec. 30C Credit (EV Charging) \$	\$543,493
Total Est. Cost After Energy Tax Credits (via Direct Pay)	\$8,940,898

Estimated Project Savings (Solar + Storage)

Site	Total Estimated Project Cost (\$)	Solar System Size (kW)	Storage System Size (kW)	Y1 Production (kWh)	% Energy Offset	Estimated SCE Bill for Electric Bus Charging (\$)	YR1 SCE Savings (\$)	10YR SCE Savings (\$)
167 W Poplar	\$11,201,602	1,000	979	1,881,923	106%	\$296,382	\$244,663	\$2,804,787

FEDERAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EPA Clean School Bus Program

PUSD has been awarded a \$13.18 million EPA grant to transition its bus fleet. This project includes the purchase of 35 electric buses, the installation of 40 charging stations, and the deployment of a 1-megawatt battery storage system and solar array. This transition will significantly improve air quality for students and the community, while fueling job creation.

DOE Renew America's Schools

PUSD has been awarded a \$5.8 million grant through the DOE's Renew America's Schools program to implement comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades across eight schools. These funds will support the installation of high-efficiency lighting, district-wide Building Automation Systems, and fully electric HVAC system replacements.