

2.5.18

This is the monthly Schools for Climate Action campaign update and action sheet. Schools for Climate Action is a non-partisan, grassroots, volunteer campaign with a mission to empower school boards to speak up for and take climate action in order to protect current and future students.

1. [Monthly Virtual Meeting](#): This will be a Zoom Meeting on Thursday, 2.8 at from 5:30 to 6:30 PT. Please register for our monthly virtual meeting. We will go over SCA basics and check-in with efforts in different districts.

2. Exciting Updates:

- a. [The Sonoma County Office of Education Commitment to Climate Change Action Resolution](#) passed on 2.1.18. This was two months earlier than we had expected.

3 of my favorite lines are:

- i. "National, state, and local elected leaders working in a bi-partisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could substantially reduce or eliminate net human-made greenhouse gas emissions, thereby protecting our current and future students."
- ii. "Addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions, and all elected leaders."
- iii. "Resolved that the Sonoma County Office of Education shall encourage local school districts to engage in non-partisan advocacy and engagement with local, state, and federal jurisdictions advocating for reducing the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions."

If 1,000 school boards across the country, adopted legislation like this, it would go a long way towards breaking the climate legislation log-jam in Washington, DC.

- b. [Ross Valley Union School District passed a Climate Change Resolution on 1.25.18](#). The creation of a district Climate Change committee provides an opportunity for on-going study and implementation of a variety of initiatives related to climate change. In addition, since there are now 2 local school districts with Climate Change committees, there is opportunity for peer learning and support related to school district responses to climate change.

c. Existing efforts:

- i. Efforts are underway in 5 more Sonoma County districts and a similar cluster in Marin County. In addition, individuals or teams are planning meetings about climate action resolutions with board members or district personnel in Colorado, Ohio, and in at least 3 independent schools.

3. **Actions:** Please consider doing the following actions over the next month. All four actions should take less than 1 hour and could be done in 15 minutes depending on how fast you type.

a. [Complete the Schools for Climate Action Monthly Survey](#). This will help us learn about and summarize existing efforts in preparation for our monthly virtual meeting.

b. Post Schools for Climate Action links on your social media accounts:

- i. [Schools for Climate Action Website](#)
- ii. [Schools for Climate Action Mailing List](#)
- iii. [SCA Facebook Page](#)
- iv. [SCA Twitter](#)
- v. [Sonoma County Office of Education Commitment to Climate Change Action Resolution](#)

c. Email your local school board members sharing news of recent climate change resolutions. Here is a template you can use:

"Dear _____

Thanks so much for your service on the _____ school board. I really believe strong public schools are vital to our democracy, so I appreciate your work and leadership. I believe climate change is one of the greatest challenges this generation of young people will face.

I was excited to learn that [Sebastopol Union School District passed this Climate Change Resolution](#) in December. In January, Ross Valley School District in Marin passed the same resolution: [RVSD Climate Change resolution](#). On 2.1, the Sonoma County Office of Education passed this [Commitment to Climate Change Action Resolution](#). I know many other school districts are considering passing similar resolutions as a way to speak up for climate action to protect current and future students. Here's a link to the [Schools for Climate Action campaign website](#). Would you consider such a resolution for our district?

Thanks again for your time and energy making great schools for kids in our community.

Sincerely,"

d. Engage one other fellow school stakeholder in discussion about starting (or joining) a youth-adult team to advocate for a climate change resolution in your district. Bonus points if this person is in a different school stakeholder category (ie if you are a parent, you engage a teacher).

Thanks so much for reading and for your support of this campaign. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there is any way I can support your local work.

Cheers,
Park Guthrie
Lead Volunteer and Co-Founder