



Youth Driven Climate Equity through California School Facilities



Y-PLAN Project 2020

Skyline High School - Green Energy Pathway, OUSD, Oakland, CA



ISSUE

Communities across the City of Oakland will be impacted by extreme weather conditions due to climate change. Oakland Unified School District students have already had first hand experience with multiple extreme weather scenarios and impacts on their school and education. Skyline students from the Green Energy Pathway, developed recommendations that can address the most pressing issues impacting young people during the school day. This project allowed 120 Oakland youth to share their insights on sustainable strategies to make Oakland schools climate ready and more resilient.

PROJECT QUESTION

How can schools be more resilient and designed to protect those most vulnerable to climate change?

PROJECT CLIENT:

- “Health in All Policies” Task Force, Deputy Director with the Public Health Institute, Lianne Dillon
- Strategic Growth Council, Governor’s Office of Planning & Research
- OUSD School Board, President of Board Jody London

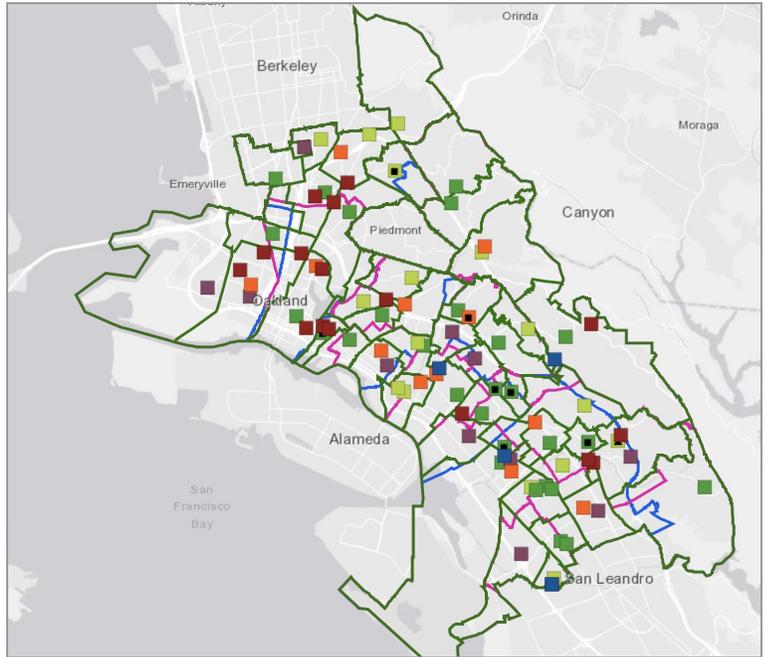
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- **Teacher:** Terri Van Hare, 10th Grade Sustainable Systems Class, 2nd yr Y-PLAN Teacher
- **Students:** 120 students across four class periods, *85 students engaged online since Shelter-in-Place Orders due to COVID-19, 54 students presented in virtual meetings*
- **Educational Partners:** Center for Cities + Schools, OUSD School Board
- **Civic + Community Partners:** CA Dept of Education, PG&E liaison and, retired NGO and energy industry professionals

YOUTH DRIVEN DATA AND INSIGHTS + RECOMMENDATIONS on next pages

YOUTH DRIVEN DATA AND INSIGHTS

Students engaged in this project researched how OUSD schools and local colleges would be impacted across crucial weather conditions happening in Oakland today. Small teams of students developed recommendations for OUSD and our state clients. Every team included demographic data for each school they researched and highlighted connections to this to their final recommendations. Students reminded adult allies that schools are safe spaces for young people and can serve as community safe spaces in sudden climate emergencies as well. Each student team included in their presentation the top climate impacts affecting the specific school they looked at, their top technology highlights to address this climate problem, and key recommendations for how to make the school more resilient. Students looked at 10 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, 5 high schools, Merritt College and Laney College (see map).



Across 21 student teams, 85 students engaged online since schools closed campuses, and 54 shared their ideas, in eight (8) video calls, with local community partners and Y-PLAN team staff and coaches. Since March 16th, students are learning from home, with new challenges:

- Caring for younger siblings and supporting family members
- Missing friends and feeling lonely or isolated. There is a lot of uncertainty in their lives.
- Limited quiet space to work at home, as well as in some cases limited technology access

RECOMMENDATIONS

Students highlighted the following five key climate impacts and focused on these for their main recommendations. Across all student teams, youth came up with over twenty climate impacts and technology strategies for their team recommendations. See below for a summary of student recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Climate Scenario	Youth insight + Impacts on Experience	Recommended Technology Strategy
Extreme heat	Classrooms get too hot, wild fires can occur in hill areas - risk for Skyline HS, playgrounds are mostly dark or concrete tops and uncomfortable for children to play on hot days	Instal AC systems with filters to trap particles and contaminants.
Air quality impacts from wildfires	Skyline students have experienced impacts from the wild fires first hand over the last two years, from unhealthy air quality to preventative power outages, Skyline campus has had to endure school closures due to climate already.	Air purifiers trap a high percentage of the airborne allergens and irritants that flow through filters. N95 masks help protect lungs from particulates and viruses, due to its multiple layers and coverage of the chin and nose.
Air pollution from traffic	Most students in Oakland attend schools near high traffic, high pollution corridors and a significant number of Oakland youth live with asthma and related illnesses.	More public transportation. AC Transit busses for example are only \$1 per ride for students, saving you money. Reduce emissions while you connect with other rides. Non-CO2 modes of transportation , such as bicycles, scooters, and walking are also good for exercise!
Intense rainstorms + droughts	Flooding and strong storms make commuting to school unsafe and unpleasant for students.	Use nature and landscape, such as bioswales and rain collectors.
Energy use + Waste reduction	School facilities should find new ways to improve their energy systems and strategies, while also reducing waste from energy usage to trash and compost.	Solar panels on school building roofs and motion sensors in each classroom will reduce energy waste. Schools should have more windows to allow for natural light to come in. UV film on windows can reduce AC costs on hot sunny days.

For more details on the Y-PLAN process this project engaged in and their detailed recommendations, check out their final slides for the [Skyline Virtual Client Roundtable presentation](#). Over 25 adults joined online to listen to students share their findings and ideas to civic partners from across the state, representatives from local agencies, as well as public officials.

LOOKING FORWARD: NEXT STEPS + SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY:

Due to COVID-19, our schools had to go online!

- Tech tools + access to internet has been a challenge across the district, and across the state
- Skyline has distributed over 400 Chromebooks to students and OUSD is connected them with wifi hotspots if needed (this is still going on in May)

OUSD Facilities Master Plan is being finalized + adopted soon! Students are excited to be involved in its implementation in the months to come.

“We hope our ideas can be used to improve how schools across the state are preparing for climate change impacts!”

- Y-PLAN Skyline Scholars 2020

Link to Field Trip Blog Series #2: [Skyline Green Buildings Field Trip](#)