

# Sustainability Advisory Council 2023-24

## Meeting 4

Decision-making processes, partnerships,  
and monitor and communicate





## Welcome to Meeting 4 of the Sustainability Advisory Council!

## The Everett Public Schools Commitment to Sustainability

- K-12 education
- Operations
- Decision-making processes
- Partnerships
- Monitor and communicate

June 13, 2023



### Everett Public Schools Commitment to Sustainability

*The Board of Directors of the Everett Public Schools hereby commits the district to sustainability in decision-making, operations, programs, curriculum and culture.*

In Everett Public Schools sustainability means finding a way to develop and thrive while preserving natural and manufactured resources without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This includes the following:

Modeling for and equipping students with the knowledge, skills, behaviors, stewardship and continued learning about sustainability;

A district, school and individual-level focus on increasing the use of renewable energy, recycling, compostable packaging and reuse of materials;

Reducing the amount of harmful emissions we generate and the amount of water, energy and other resources we use;

An appropriate, achievable and equitable balance along with other needs in decision-making and management of our fiscal resources and consideration of sustainability implications in purchasing, sourcing and supply chain choices;

Developing a culture of collaboration, learning and partnerships around sustainability within the district as well as across the community with other school districts, agencies and companies; and

Setting expectations, establishing accountability, monitoring progress and regularly communicating status.



## Meetings 2, 3 and 4

- District staff will provide information and slides responsive to topic items/ questions raised in their areas
- This information will be sent to SAC members for review ahead of the next meeting
- About one-half of each meeting will be presentations and Q&A, and the other half will be SAC discussions and deliberations
- SAC will be asked to provide consensus-driven advice or guidance to district staff
- SAC will not provide directions to district staff or make decisions about sustainability issues
- District leaders will consider what actions to take in response to SAC advice and guidance
- Updates on process will be provided to school board in January and May



## Operational Staff

District staff presenting decision-making processes, partnerships, and monitor and communicate topics

- Andi Tress                      Executive Director, Finance and Business Services
- Dr. Chad Golden            Executive Director, Human Resources
- Kathy Reeves                Director, Communications





## Decision-Making Processes

An appropriate, achievable and equitable balance along with other needs in decision-making and management of our fiscal resources and consideration of sustainability implications in purchasing, sourcing and supply chain choices;



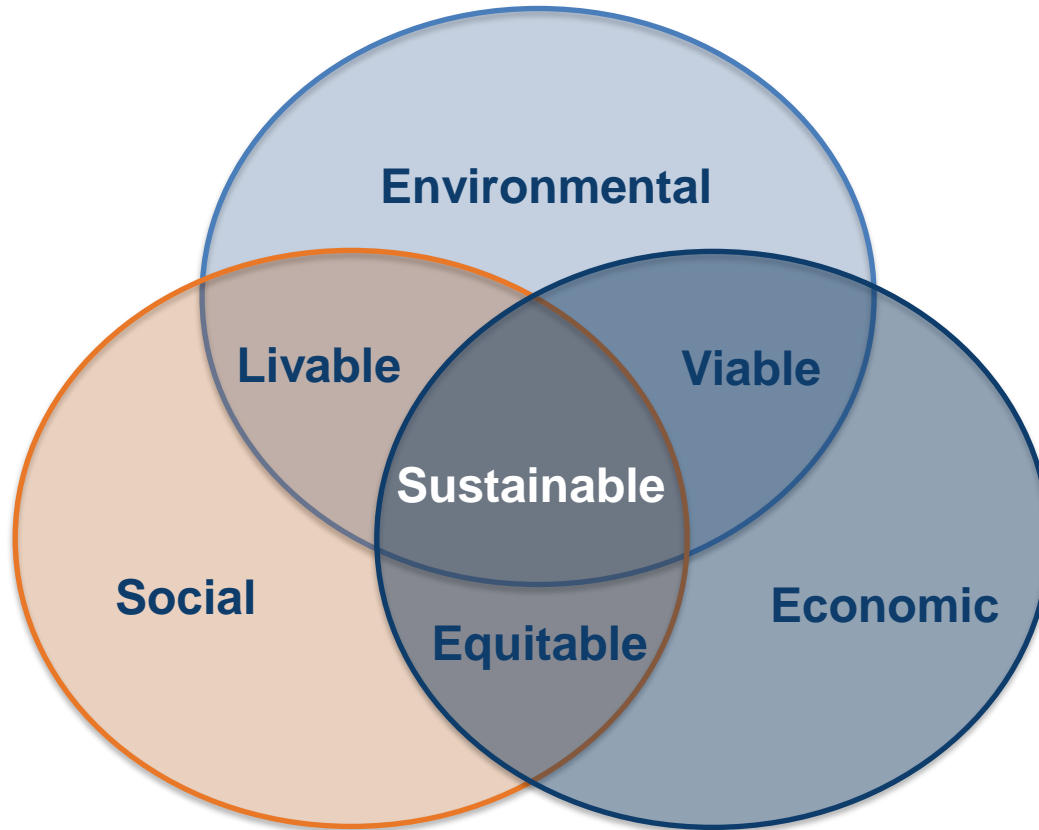


## Decision-Making Processes

A sustainability decision-making process involves systematically evaluating options and making choices that maximize social, environmental, and economic benefits while minimizing adverse effects. Here are key aspects of such a process:

- Design according to sustainability topics
- Robust decision-making processes
- Integrate social, environmental, and economic consequences
- Transparency and collaboration

# DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES





## Sustainable Decision-Making for Procurement

### Benefits

- Cost savings
- Reduction of waste and environmental impact
- Integration of sustainability into MSOCs
- Positive community engagement
- Improved health and well-being
- Support for local and ethical suppliers

### Drawbacks

- Understanding requirements
- Human capital
- Supply chain complexity
- Cost estimation
- Upfront investment
- Consumer perception





## Current Practices

- Facilities & Planning
  - Tracking state and federal requirements
  - Reviewing regulations and code
  - Upgrading buildings
- Food & Nutrition
  - Elementary silverware
  - Farm to school programs
  - Buying locally
- Transportation
  - Electric buses
  - Propane buses





## Current Practices

- Learning & Information Technology Services
  - Energy conservation
  - Recycling
  - Selling of qualified technology items
- Procurement
  - Surplus technology practices
  - Paperless purchasing processes
  - Digital signing





## Next Steps

- Reviewing request for proposal language to include sustainability language as a scoring mechanism
- Reviewing common consumable purchases for sustainability practices
- Consider including sustainability requirements in contracts
- Consider developing and partnering with outside experts to develop a sustainability purchasing plan





## Partnerships

Developing a culture of collaboration, learning and partnerships around sustainability within the district as well as across the community with other school districts, agencies and companies





## Education

- Snohomish PUD
  - Education resources
- EarthGen
  - Science education and environmental action
- US Environmental Protection Agency
  - Resources for educators
- Efficient and Healthy Schools
  - Partnership with US Department of Education and US Environmental Protection Agency
- Green Strides
  - Education resources





## Practices

- US Department of Education Green Schools
  - Green Schools – WA sustainable schools
- Everett PTSA Council
  - PTSA school partners for sustainability practices
- Center for Green Schools
  - Global leader in advancing green schools & providing resources
- Department of Ecology, State of Washington
  - Solid waste management (Waste Not Washington Schools)
- Green Strides
  - Tools to green your school





## Grant Funding

- US Department of Education
  - Green Schools
- e3 Washington/Professional Association
  - Green Schools & outdoor education
- Pacific Education Institute
  - Community-based science outdoors
- US Environmental Protection Agency
  - School funding opportunities
- Snohomish PUD
  - Rebates & incentives for businesses
- The Russell Family Foundation
- Everett Public Schools Foundation
  - Classroom grants







## Monitor and Communicate

- Setting expectations
- Establishing accountability
- Monitoring progress and
- Regularly communicating status







## Monitor and Communicate

- Setting expectations and establishing accountability
  - Every department knows what parameters they can work within and how best to move forward
  - At the very least, all legal and regulatory requirements must be met
    - That is not a low-bar either
- Monitoring progress
  - State regulatory dashboards on legal requirements
  - Quarterly ask for stories to share





## Communication Ideas

Things we can do to develop cheerleaders and create buy-in for the work

- Website Frequently Asked Questions
- Tell our sustainability story (ask for new information quarterly)
- Celebrate and communicate what we have already done and what we are doing
- Run a “Did you know” social media campaign around sustainability





## Decision-Making Processes, Partnerships, Monitor and Communicate

- Small group discussions to surface key ideas
- Large group share out and discussion
- Filtering ideas and feedback
- Consensus driven guidance and advice to department administrators





## Closing comments and next steps

Sustainability update to school board – May 7, 2024

- P-12 education
- Decision-making processes
- Partnerships
- Monitor and communicate

Continuation of SAC in 2024-25



Thank you all for your energy and passion for this work!



# THANK YOU!

