Introduction:
In the past three years Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) has made sustainability and green practices a priority for how we educate our students and do business at all levels. Sustainable philosophies are woven throughout the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, which creates buy-in at all levels and every department. The District has committed to improving learning environments for our students, while reducing utility costs and improving our community. In 2011 SCUSD was one of two school districts nationwide to receive a Center for Green Schools UTC Fellow from the U.S. Green Building Council. This fellowship supported the District’s efforts by making sustainability someone’s job, while continuing to support everyday operations.

District Stats:
- Through the 2011-2012 school year, Sacramento City Unified School District was the 12th largest school district in California serving 47,897 students at 81 K-12 schools, six independent charter schools and four adult education schools.
- The District employs over 4,345 full-time employees in the nation’s most diverse city.
- Reflects the diversity within the community with 36% Hispanic or Latino, 18% Asian, 16% African American, and 19% White.
- Our students speak more than 40 different languages and for 38% English is not the language used at home.

Timeline of Events Since 2009:
- Superintendent Raymond was hired... July 2009
- Board Policy 3511 - Grimes-Kennedy Green and Grid Neutral Model Schools Policy Initiative, was reviewed and adopted... August 2009
- Superintendent Raymond attended the “Greening America’s Schools Summit” in Sundance, UT with Mayor Kevin Johnson... September 2010
- School Board allocated $5 million of Redevelopment Funds to implement student recommended green projects... February 2011
- Healthy Foods Task Force Charter signed to began the transformation of school lunches and cafeteria cultures... March 2010
- SCUSD was selected to host one of two Center for Green Schools UTC Fellows for three years... January 2011
- The SCUSD apple was changed from red to green... April 2011
- Superintendent Raymond announced Project Green... April 2011
- First District Green Team meeting... October 2011
- District completed first green project, the Luther Burbank Sports Complex... October 2011
- District completed first high performing school renovation at The MET High School... January 2012
- Engaged students in greening schools with Project Green... April 2012
- Hired a Resource Conservation Specialist to monitor utility usage... September 2012
**Additional District Initiatives:**

**Energy Efficiency**
Over the past three years, SCUSD has conducted a lighting retrofit that included changing light bulbs within every classroom to a more efficient bulb. Through this retrofit and working with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the District received about $250,000 in energy efficiency rebates. That money, along with the savings, goes back to the District’s general fund to support student learning. The District has also installed an Energy Management Control System (EMCS) for HVAC equipment across the District. This Management System received $1.6 million in SMUD rebates for energy efficiencies. Next year an Energy Conservation Incentive Program will start District-wide that will incentivize principals, teachers and students to reduce utility consumption/costs by paying back a portion of the savings to the site.

**Audits**
The Maintenance and Operations Department worked with Siemens Industry Inc. to conduct energy audits (gas and electric) at 21 schools sites and water audits on all sites, in order to develop recommendations for upgrades that would save the District money. Many of the recommendations included upgrades to the HVAC systems and controls, along with upgrades to the lighting systems with timers and motion sensors. The recommendations to upgrade the irrigation system are anticipated to reduce utility costs by $3,000,000 over 20 years. Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) performed free utility and system audits at eight schools across the District. The energy audit was performed in January 2012 and involved walking through the selected schools to review existing conditions of the buildings, the systems, and how they were being operated and maintained. They looked at the following systems:
- Envelope – insulation, windows, overhangs, etc.
- Lighting – fixtures and controls
- HVAC systems – furnaces and boilers, heat pumps, air conditioning, etc.
- Plug and process loads – refrigeration, computers, appliances, etc.
- Other miscellaneous sources of inefficiencies in energy use
SMUD worked with Guttmann & Blaevoet Consulting Engineers to prepare a full report that provided recommendations that ranged from no/low cost operational upgrades to large-scale retrofits. Some of the opportunities identified include retrofitting windows, upgrading lighting controls, commissioning of HVAC systems, replacing end-of-life HVAC systems, fixing seals on walk-in coolers, managing computer sleep modes, and purchasing EnergyStar appliances

**Green Building design**
Since September of 2011, SCUSD has completed three major green designed projects. Luther Burbank sports complex has high efficiency lighting, recycled tire materials on the track and a synthetic field that is cooled using reused water from a holding tank. The MET High School reused an existing District building, using low-VOC materials, while daylighting and acoustics were enhanced throughout the learning spaces. Last summer six existing District owned portable classrooms were relocated and upgraded at three sites. Enhancements to the portables include the addition of solar tubes to increase daylighting, improved HVAC systems, and low-VOC materials. All future portable relocations will receive similar upgrades.

**Center for Green School UTC Fellow**
In an effort to effectively and rapidly transform the environments in which our children learn, USGBC has launched the Center for Green Schools Fellowship program, which began placing full-time sustainability
In Project officers process Technologies recommendations, initiatives to improve resources, throughout contracts School of Pillar 2012, Project implementation. through community of gardens April the month, the Superintendent hired to, Project of Green: two years, $5 million was allocated for projects at fifteen schools. In November 2012, with the passing of two bond measure, another $1 million per year, for five years, will go to support Project Green.

School Gardens
School and community gardens are supported across the District through the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, under Pillar II: Family and Community Engagement. Gardens help make the school a center of community activity and give families opportunities to volunteer at the school. At the end of the 2011-12 school year, school or community gardens were established at 36 of our 92 school sites had actively maintained gardens. A majority of the gardens produced edible fruits and vegetables that the students helped to plant, maintain, and harvest throughout the school year, while others have chosen to focus on different flower species, instead of edible plants. Most gardens incorporate an outdoor learning space for garden based lessons. Currently, many of the gardens are maintained through extra-curricular clubs; however teachers at some schools are bringing the garden lessons into the classroom through lessons that meet required state standards.

Project Green:
In April of 2011, Superintendent Raymond introduced Project Green as a way to engage students in the process of greening their schools. Project Green asks student-led teams to conduct green school audits, make recommendations, and help to implement the chosen projects utilizing redevelopment funds. Green teams, eco clubs, student councils and other student-led groups perform green school audits to see what capital improvements are needed at their schools. From these observations, they will be developing project proposals to be presented to, and evaluated by, a panel of local community professionals. The students are involved throughout the entire process, from the initial research and audits to the formal presentation and project implementation. Project Green gives students a voice to make real and lasting changes across the District and throughout the community. In 2012, $5 million was allocated for projects at fifteen schools. In November 2012, with the passing of two bond measure, another $1 million per year, for five years, will go to support Project Green.
Being a school district, education is our number one priority; therefore by providing additional learning opportunities for our students we are able to engage the students and surrounding community in sustainability. Schools across SCUSD are engaging students through Green Teams, gardens, and Project Green. Each program gives the students a voice and helps them to become leaders, while creating a better planet.

During the 2011-12 school year, SCUSD launched Project Green add a real-world application to classroom instruction about the environment and sustainable living. Campuses across the district were encouraged to form student “green teams” to conduct green school audits of the school facilities. With the help of teachers, parents and staff, the teams then drafted recommendations for green improvements ranging from replacing outdated windows to installing water-wise plumbing fixtures.

Students presented their recommendations to a panel of local experts from the fields of architecture, engineering, energy, land-use planning and water management in April. The panel judged the exhibits, using scoring rubrics, and helped to determine funding allocations to implement the recommended projects. The team from Washington Elementary School scored highest for its presentation and report, which included a rationale for providing the school with automatic hand dryers, rain barrels, a “restorative justice circle” (which incorporates social sustainability), along with upgrades to irrigation, air conditioning and heating systems. The judging panel voted to allocate up to $550,000 for these projects.
Other allocations to potential projects were as follows:

- O.W. Erlewine – up to $500,000 (automatic hand dryers, Energy Star refrigerators, Energy Star water heater, solar tubes, upgraded irrigation, rain barrels, low-flow plumbing fixtures, dual flush toilets and dual pane windows)
- Rosemont High School – up to $500,000 (new pool pump, permanent recycling stations, recycling signage, upgraded irrigation, low-flow fixtures and dual flush toilets, solar tubes, synthetic turf)
- Theodore Judah – up to $400,000 (rain barrels, solar tubes, xeriscaping, replacement of blacktop with permeable paving)
- George Washington Carver – up to $400,000 (rainwater catchment system)
- Isador Cohen – up to $400,000 (rain barrels, solar tubes, interior LED lights, faucet aerators)
- Luther Burbank – up to $300,000 (new bathroom flooring, low-flow fixtures and dual flush toilets, upgraded exterior lighting)
- Alice Birney – up to $300,000 (new bike racks, solar tubes)
- Will C. Wood – up to $300,000 (replacement of windows)
- John Sloat – up to $200,000 (upgraded irrigation, xeriscaping)
- School of Engineering and Science – up to $200,000 (removal and relocation of trees, xeriscaping)
- Maple – up to $200,000 (upgraded irrigation)
- Sutterville – up to $200,000 (automatic hand dryers, replacement of bathroom flooring, solar tubes, low-flow fixtures and dual flush toilets)
- Camellia – up to $200,000 (replacement of windows)

In addition, five schools were allocated an additional $50,000 each for winning the following awards: Most Student-Centered Project (Camellia); Most Creative Presentation (Alice Birney); Most Creative Audit Process (Will C. Wood); and Best Use of Professional Resources (Cohen and Judah).

The 2012 Project Green recommendations are underway, while the 2013 Project Green Audits have begun! Currently green teams at fourteen schools are taking a closer look at their school facility, in order to make recommendations for needed improvements. This is a one of a kind program that will make lasting impacts at the schools, and on the students.