

Speaking up for Solar Schools

Generation 180 is a national nonprofit organization empowering communities nationwide to flip the switch to clean energy. This winter, we are releasing a Solar School Organizing Toolkit to encourage students, teachers, parents, and community members to get involved in helping their schools go solar.

STEPS TO LEADING A SOLAR CAMPAIGN



1. Campaign Planning

2. Building Support

3. Winning a Commitment

4. Achieving Your Goal

Student-Powered Success Story

8th grader Claire Vlases led the charge and raised the funds to bring solar to Sacajawea Middle School in Bozeman, MT. Through her campaign "Solar Makes Sense at SMS", she convinced the school board to approve the project, worked with community foundations for funding, and organized other students to get involved and fundraise.



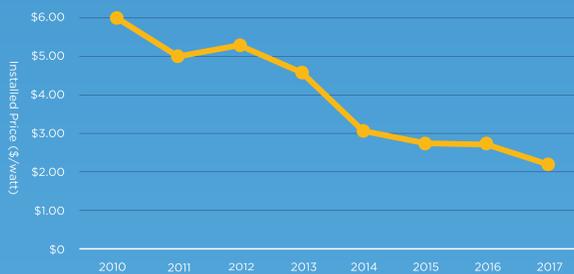
ACTIVATING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES AS CATALYSTS FOR CLEAN ENERGY CHANGE



Reasons Schools Are Going Solar

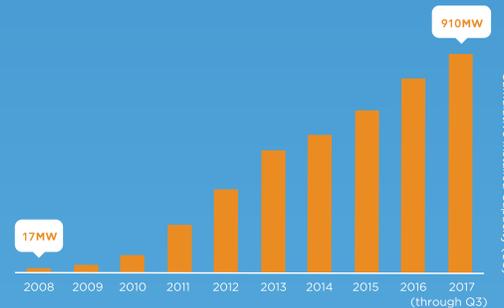
Falling Costs

The cost of installing solar in U.S. K-12 schools has decreased more than 60% over the last seven years.



Growth of Solar Schools

99% of all solar capacity of U.S. K-12 has been installed in the last ten years.



Schools Leading the Charge

Schools have the power to influence others in the community to go solar.

A study at Stanford University provided evidence that existing solar installations increase the likelihood of solar adoption on the same street and in the same zip code.¹



Impacts of Solar Schools

Solar installations in schools have a combined capacity of 910 MW and produce an estimated 1.4 million MWh of electricity annually, which is enough electricity to **power over 190,000 homes.**

If every school in the U.S. installed an average-sized school solar photovoltaic system (301 kW), they would generate **enough clean energy (over 37.8 GW) to power ~7.3 million U.S. homes.**

Solar schools offset about 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, which is **equivalent to taking 221,000 cars off the road or planting 27 million trees.**



Expanded Educational Opportunities

Access to solar technology provides real-world, project-based learning opportunities.



Cost Savings

At \$8 billion a year, energy is the second largest expense for U.S. K-12 schools. Going solar helps reduce and stabilize energy costs.

Healthier Communities & Environment

Switching to solar leads to cleaner air and improves the health of children, who are the most vulnerable to pollution.



Increased Community Adoption

Solar schools serve as models for students and their families to make clean energy choices at home.



Local Job Creation

Going solar supports the local economy. Nationwide solar jobs have grown by 168% since 2010.



Enhanced Community Resilience

Solar energy systems with onsite battery storage provides backup power for schools after natural disasters or power outages.



Learn more at GoSolarSchools.org

Download our report *Brighter Future: A Study on Solar in U.S. Schools* (Nov 2017).



¹ Bollinger, Bryan, and Kenneth Gillingham. "Peer effects in the diffusion of solar photovoltaic panels." *Marketing Science* 31.6 (2012): 900-912.