

Healthy, Safe and Green Schools For Chicago

2024 CTU Contract Proposals
Public Bargaining Session

Friday, June 14, 2024



CHICAGO
TEACHERS
UNION

Background: Why CPS needs green schools



- Many CPS buildings are run-down and unsafe (lead, asbestos, bad ventilation).
- Repair years of underinvestment in Chicago's Black and Brown Communities
- Our school communities need an equitable plan for renovating, repairing, or replacing outdated, unsafe buildings, many of which are not ADA compliant.
- CPS schools produce yearly emissions equivalent to 900 rail cars worth of coal and we agree on the need for zero-energy schools ([CPS Climate Action Plan, p. 15](#))
- Students, parents, and community members need livable wage, green, union jobs.

- World carbon emissions must be reduced by 50% by 2030 and be net-zero by 2050 to avoid the 1.5°C climate tipping point
- Buildings produce 70% of greenhouse gasses in Chicago
- US Public Schools' CO2 = 17 million cars

George Washington HS and ES facilities issues



Active construction area, Washington HS Hallway, 2022

Missing ceiling tiles in mobile classroom storage area



George Washington HS and ES facilities issues



Clinician work space in the
Library at George
Washington Elementary,
Spring 2023



Problem 1: Hazardous and unsightly buildings



The issue in our schools

- Average age of CPS school building is 84 years (nearly double the national average)
- Hot and cold classrooms, lack of ventilation
- Lack of safe drinking water
- Uncomfortable and frustrated students can't focus on learning

The 2024 Contract Solutions

- Toxins out of our schools
- Lead pipe removal/water filtration in every school
- Low energy/net zero temperature control & ventilation
- Comfortable and joyful learning spaces
- More green spaces at schools, priority for communities with the highest rates of pollution

Problem 2: Energy Efficient & Resilient Buildings



The issue in our schools

- Many of our HVAC systems are outdated and inefficient, which wastes energy.
- Most of our electricity comes from non-renewable sources
- Buildings & classrooms not prepared for more extreme heat days

The 2024 Contract Solutions

- Replace outdated and malfunctioning HVAC systems, moratorium on gas HVAC
- Install electric heat pumps at 50 schools
- Launch a Carbon Neutral Schools pilot program & utilize federal funding for decarbonizing schools
- Retrofit schools to cut energy costs by 30% by the end of the 2024-25 school year
- Create community hubs for heating and cooling during extreme weather

Problem 3: CTE and Green Jobs Pathway



The issue in our schools

- Many students are disengaged by curriculum and do not see real life connection
- Too many students do not have access to the skills training needed to enter new green economy

The 2024 Contract Solutions

- Establish a Clean Energy Jobs and Green Technology CTE Program (e.g. electric vehicle battery manufacturing, solar installation, carbon zero HVAC) in every neighborhood high school.
- Establish a joint standing committee on climate justice to implement district-wide climate justice initiatives, including curriculum and teaching materials

Problem 4: Green Community Schools



The issue in our schools

- Students need more opportunities to connect their learning to community assets and knowledge
- Parents and community members must be true partners with schools

The 2024 Contract Solutions

- Strengthen and expand existing partnerships with community organizations
- Expand community gardening programs that connect students and staff with their greater community
- Provide equity to schools most impacted by pollution

Problem 5: Healthy & Happy Lunches



The issue in our schools

- Students complain that they dislike the lunches offered and many refuse to eat lunch at school
- Hungry students can't focus on learning
- Many schools only have “warming kitchens”
- Food doesn't meet the cultural and religious needs of students

The 2024 Contract Solutions

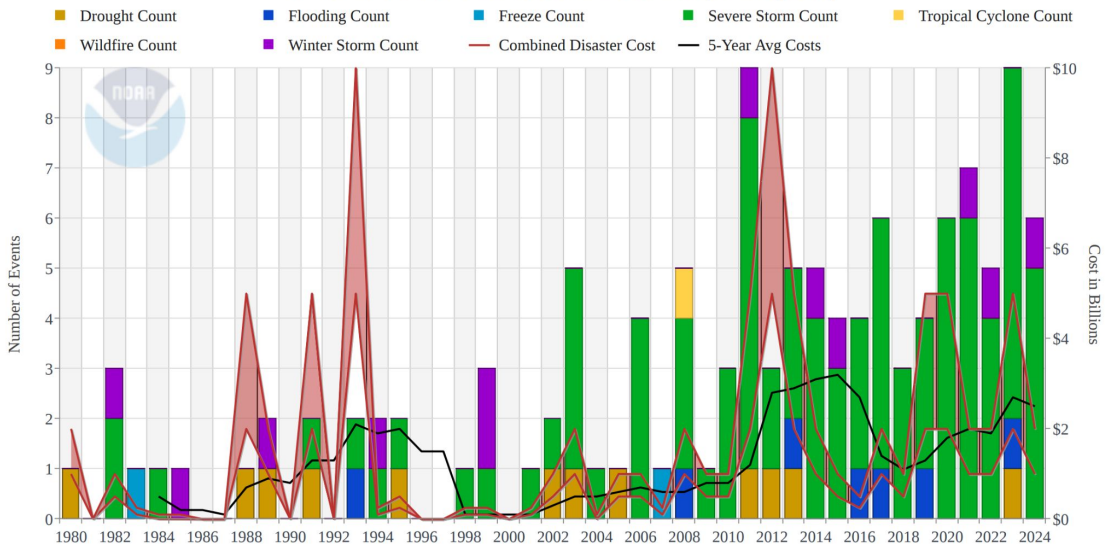
- Increase the number of scratch kitchens through a pilot program at 25 schools
- Terminate cafeteria contract with Aramark and allow networks to choose from three contractors
- Involve students in determining meal options

Extreme Weather Events Impact our Schools



Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

Illinois Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2024 (CPI-Adjusted)



Updated: June 10, 2024



United States Government Accountability Office
Report to Congressional Addressees

June 2020

K-12 EDUCATION

School Districts
Frequently Identified
Multiple Building
Systems Needing
Updates or
Replacement

Record Heat Days



Figure 1: Nationwide, there are many more school days over 80°F than in 1970

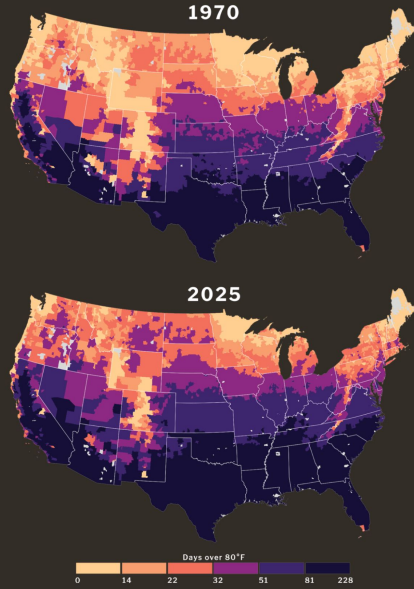
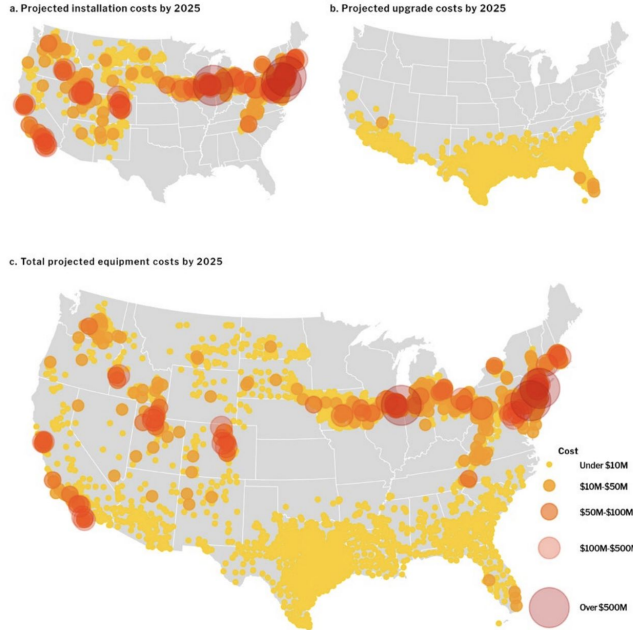


Fig. 1 Historic number of days over 80°F in 1970 (1955-1984 average) during the school year, compared to the projected number of heat days by 2025 (2010-2039 average) during the school year. Historic gridded temperature data are derived from Livneh et al. (2015). Projected temperatures are derived from LOCA (Pierce et al., 2014) and are binned based on the quantiles of the 1970 data. Both 1970 and 2025 illustrate the average number of days over 80°F by school district.

Hotter Days, Higher Costs: The Cooling Crisis in America's Classrooms Report 2021

FIGURE 3. SCHOOLS FACE BILLIONS IN CLIMATE-DRIVEN HVAC EQUIPMENT COSTS BY 2025

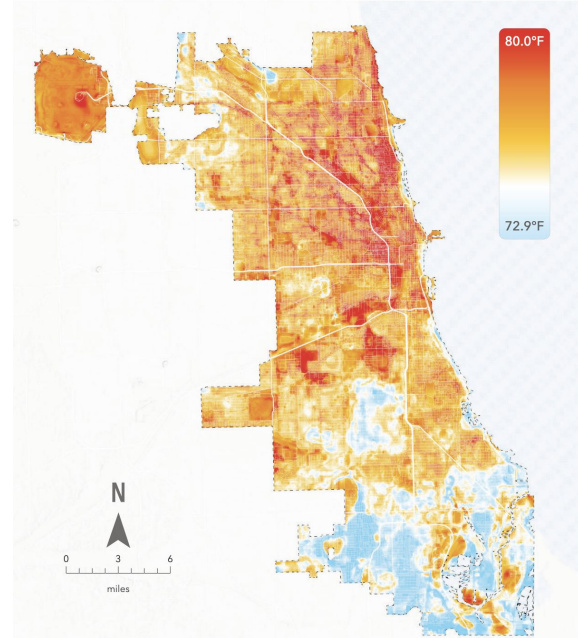


Projected costs of new HVAC installations (a), necessary upgrades (b), and total installations and upgrades (c).

Hotter Days, Higher Costs: The Cooling Crisis in America's Classrooms Report 2021



Morning Area-Wide Models Temperature (6 - 7 am)



Chicago Heat Watch Report

Opportunities for Common Ground: Climate Action



CPS Climate Action Plan 2021-2023

Climate Goals

- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Renewable Energy
- Waste Management

Commitments

What We Believe



Conserve

Reducing the amount of energy we consume can help to make our district more efficient and environmentally responsible.



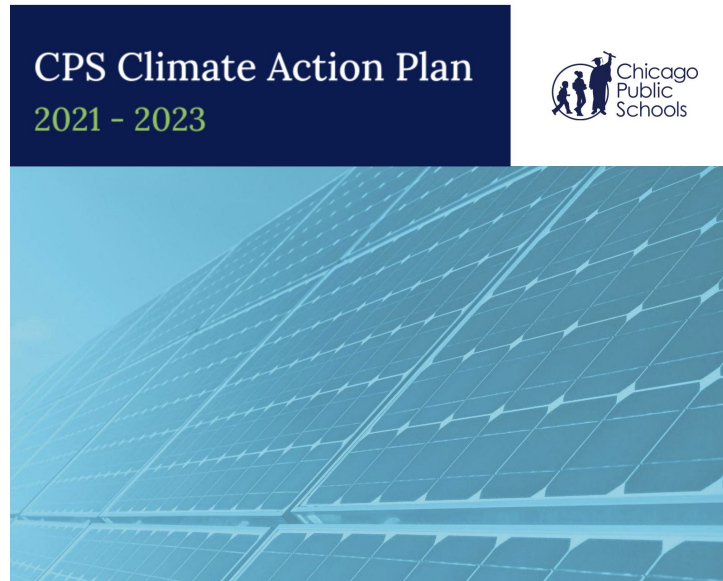
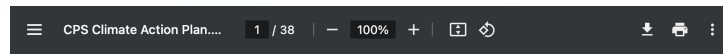
Protect

Maintaining, implementing and recovering healthy natural environments and delivering long-term equitable solutions will benefit current and future generations.



Sustain

Investing in sustainable energy sources to power our district means a cleaner, better future for our students, staff and community.



State and Federal Funds for Green Schools



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal

- \$500 million over 5 years for grants to schools and nonprofits to improve energy efficiency
- \$200 million over 5 years for clean drinking water, including the removal of lead contamination in schools



The Inflation Reduction Act

- \$50 million to address air pollution at schools; unlimited amount of tax credits to fund up to 70% of solar panel and electric heat pump installations

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act

- All Illinois public schools to be assessed for green retrofitting through Carbon Free Schools Reports
- The district can earn Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) through IL Shines from solar panels

State and Federal Funds for Green Schools



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Grants to address indoor air quality
- Climate Production Reduction Grant (CPRG)
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

Department of Energy (DOE)

- Renew America's Schools Grant



Solution: CTU & CPS Joint Committees



A need for a joint Climate Justice Committee

- Collaborate, share, develop & implement district-wide climate justice initiatives
- Collaborate and develop curriculum & teaching materials

A need for a joint Climate, Safety and Facility Preparedness Committee

- Consistent monthly meetings
- Proactive & Emergency Bases
 - Addressing frequent & extreme weather events
 - Extreme heat days
- Members of committee appointed by both the Union and Board



Creating the Healthy, Safe, Green Schools our Students Deserve