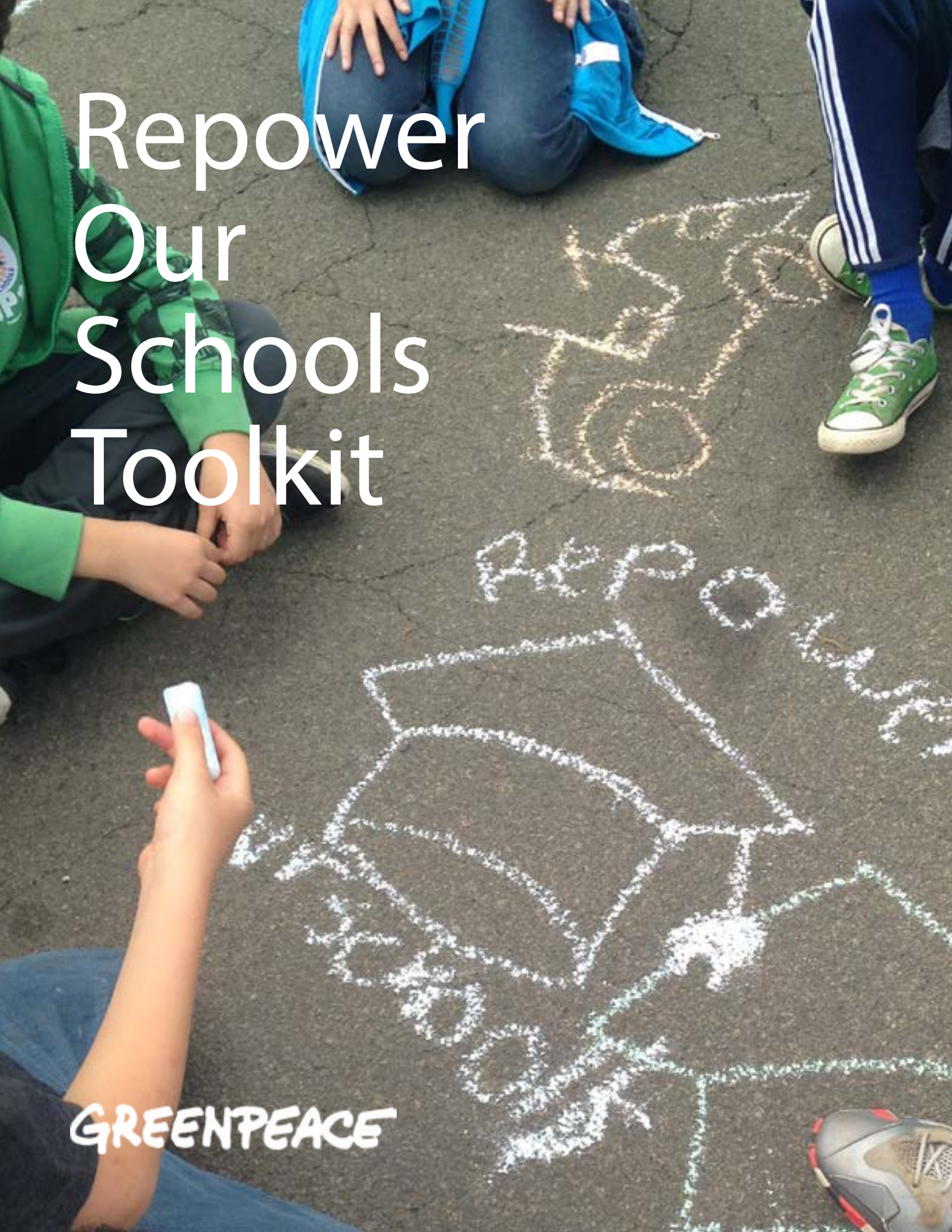


# Repower Our Schools Toolkit

**GREENPEACE**





## HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is here to help you get your school district to 100% renewable energy -- however you go about it. After providing a quick background on renewable energy and bringing it to schools, this toolkit will help you plan your campaign. You will find example talking points, tactic letters, and other resources to help guide you.

Remember that Greenwire and the Repower Our Schools group is here to support you - use Greenpeace as a resource to support your campaign, and don't be afraid to contact us or use the group to discuss ideas.



Photo By: Robert Green of Greenavations



## Background

### Overview

Imagine if every school in our country was powered by 100% clean, affordable, renewable energy.

Schools everywhere could have solar arrays on their roofs to power classrooms, provide important learning opportunities for their students, and save critical tax dollars to reinvest in teachers, textbooks and new technology.

Thousands of schools have already flipped the switch. According to the recent [Solar Schools Census](#), there are 3,752 K-12 schools with solar installations in the US, meaning nearly 2.7 million students attend schools with solar energy systems

The momentum toward solar schools is part of the larger movement of people calling for our communities to be powered with 100% renewable energy, an important shift away from our fossil fuel-dependent economy. This movement is growing with voices of everyday people coming together to build the world that they want to live in.

### Why should school districts use 100% renewable energy?

K-12 schools are big energy users but not during peak demand periods (~4-8pm). This means that if schools install solar panels, they are producing energy they need during the school day and contributing excess to other users in the evening. Also, depending on where your school is, it can make money selling the excess clean energy it does not use to the grid around them. Think about all the excess energy your school could be generating and selling during the summer when school is out!

#### Critical Cost Savings

By switching to renewable energy, schools can save critical dollars on their electricity bills. Of the 125,000 K-12 schools in the country, up to 72,000 schools (about 60%) can install solar systems cost-effectively today. The number of schools that can save by going solar will grow in the coming years with expected increases in electricity rates and additional drops in the cost of solar systems. From 2010 to 2014, the average price of commercial photovoltaic solar installations fell by more than 50 percent.

#### STEM Training for Clean Energy Jobs

Solar installations also provide critical learning opportunities that are currently lacking for students. As of 2010, less than one-third of U.S. eighth graders showed proficiency in mathematics and science. This is especially troubling because seven of the ten occupations projected to grow most rapidly over the next decade are in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Already the U.S. solar industry employs 173,000 solar workers and employs more people than coal mining.



By incorporating on-site solar installations into STEM curriculum, students will have hands on experience in today's booming clean energy economy that can bridge the education gap.

### Health & Environmental Protection

The health and environmental benefits of schools investing in renewable energy cannot be overlooked. The burning of fossil fuels in the U.S. is still a major contributor to air and water pollution and these pollutants increase cancer, heart disease, asthma and other lung diseases in children and adults. One of the main reasons children miss school is because they suffer from asthma. An estimated 7 million U.S. children have been diagnosed with asthma and more than 13 million days of school are missed each year because of the condition.

Renewable-powered schools would reduce air and water pollution in the state and therefore lower health-related absences, reduce the burden of on-site health care professionals, and allow for a healthy outdoor environment that promotes healthy physical activity before, during, and after school hours. What's more, putting solar on our schools sends a strong message to our leaders and utilities—that our electricity shouldn't come at the expense of our children's health or the environment.

### **Who at the school district makes the decision?**

There are many people who may be involved in the decision for a school district to be powered by 100% renewable energy, but it is ultimately the school board that will approve big changes to how the school district is run.

School districts function very similar to companies in terms of who is in charge. School boards are often selected via elections by taxpayers who live in the district, and the school board hires the superintendent who serves at the board's behest. The superintendent will also delegate some of their responsibilities, so electricity use is often managed by a facilities director or sometimes a sustainability director.

When a school district is considering a big change, the school board usually will seek input both from the people that the decision most affects and the people who are experts in that field. This may be an idea they came up with themselves or an idea that someone else proposed. Either way, consulting with others ensures they fully understand an issue and can make a good decision.



That's where you come in! You can explain to school boards how using 100% renewable energy will create both a better today for students and a better tomorrow for everyone.

### How would a school district get to 100% renewable electricity?

A school district can't just flip a switch and run off of 100% renewable electricity overnight - or even in the next year. Like any other big change, what's important is taking a real first step towards that goal.

For every school district this will look different.

But whatever the action, it is a real commitment on the part of the school board to being eventually powered by 100% renewable electricity.

Those steps fall into 3 broad categories:

1. Communicating a vision: public commitment to 100% renewable electricity through a resolution or statement.

*Why it's significant:* The first step towards making something happen is setting a goal. People often tell their friends about goals, like running a marathon or finding a new job, because saying you are going to do it is a powerful incentive to achieve the goal. It also means those people can help hold you accountable to doing it.

2. Beginning implementation: renewable energy pilot projects, creating a plan with interim goals, determining financing.

*Why it's significant:* This is where the rubber meets the road. There's a lot of work that will go into switching to 100% renewable electricity and these are tangible steps to seeing clean energy powering school buildings.

3. Engaging politically: public statements on policy, putting solar on their legislative agenda, lobbying local and state politicians

*Why it's significant:* There's still a lot that government can do to make renewable energy more accessible for school districts and other community entities. School boards can join other public officials in advocating for good renewable energy policy that will make it easier for the district to go 100%.





## Where You Come In

Your school or school board is not going to make the switch to renewable energy unless they know that their parents, students and teachers want it to happen. By showing that there is broad support of renewable energy at your school and keeping pressure on your school board, you can make it happen. Right now, we have campaigns starting up across the country with students like you getting their teachers and principals on board and asking school boards to commit to 100% renewable energy to their schools. With this toolkit, you can teach other students at your school about the benefits and possibilities of renewable energy and create a campaign to bring that energy and all the other benefits of it to your school.

## Developing your campaign

A solid campaign plan clearly lays out goals, strategies, tactics and a timeline. A good plan allows a team to share the workload, hold each other accountable and ensure everyone is aware of what activities are happening and when. Make sure to share the campaign plan to create ownership and confidence within your core group. Planning is a guaranteed way of getting more done and accomplishing your goals.

### How do I get started?

Step One: Find a group of students, parents and teachers who want to work on transitioning the school district's energy usage to 100% RE.

Step Two: Set goals, develop an overall strategy to achieve those goals and design tactics that fit your strategy.

Step Three: Create a timeline and Go!

### Let's dive into Step One!

#### Starting your Group

The first step to getting 100% renewable energy at your school district is creating your group, a core team of people who are excited to help you. It is OK to start out small. Your group could be a few friends meeting at your house, an official club at school, or a group of people from different schools meeting at a coffee shop or local library. Figure out what works for you and go from there.

#### What Works for Us?

**Create a School Club** -- Official clubs give you easy access to meeting space and other students. However, the process of creating a club may take up time you could be spending campaigning for your cause. Don't wait for your school to approve your club to get started!



**Join Another Club at School** - If there is already an environmental club at your school, you may be able to join them! Present the idea to them and see if they would be interested -- while you may lose some of the control you'd have with your own group, a built in group of passionate volunteers can help launch your campaign off the ground. It also lets you bounce ideas off other people instead of having to launch the campaign and recruit others on your own.

**Meet Outside of School** -- Once you have your group, get moving! Meeting outside from school lets you start right away, but a lack of transportation may prevent some interested people from joining the meetings away from school. Meeting outside of a school club really opens up your options for meeting locations: you can meet at someone's house, at lunch, during study hall, at a coffee shop, before school starts, or in a teacher's classroom. This is also a great way to get started while you wait for your official club to be approved.

## Finding Your Allies

A group of students can have a lot of power but without adult allies, they are often impeded by red tape and roadblocks. Take a minute to think about who would make the most difference at your school or in your district and who you already know may be interested. Below are a couple of groups of key people who you may want to have in your corner.

**Parents** -- Parents have a very strong voice and visible presence when it comes to decision making at your schools. Simply put, parents are usually more influential over decision makers than students -- schools listen to parents. See if a parent of someone in your group is passionate about this cause and wants to join the fight. Another great source is your school's district administrative staff -- they can talk about your campaign at Parent Teacher Association / Parent Teacher Student Association meetings and may have sway over other influential parents. Parents probably know the system at the district level better and can also support you in speaking to board of education members.

**Teachers** -- It is really important that you have a teacher on your team. Whether your clubs' Teacher Sponsor or another teacher at school, teachers can really make a big difference in your campaign. They know the school and how decision making happens in it. They have access to your principal and faculty can add credibility to your campaign. They also have access to other teachers through faculty meetings. Teachers bring resources you may not have access too like meeting rooms, art supplies, printing and other important materials for your campaign. Teachers can be a large help behind the scenes and one on one with decision makers.

**Administrative Staff** -- Outside of teachers, there is another important group at your school that would make great allies: the administration. Having members of your school's administration on your team brings legitimacy to your campaign and access to information and important contacts higher up. Administrative staff know how schools in your district work better than anyone and can help you navigate the process of getting to 100% Renewable Energy. Have one on one meetings with different administrative staff to see who's interested in your cause and may want to help. Tip -- find out who in your school is in charge of its energy policy and facilities. They can give you helpful information and may have sway over decision making.



## Get started on Greenpeace Greenwire

Greenpeace Greenwire is an online community that fosters real world connections and activities and it's the place that you can meet other volunteers, activists, and groups working on Repower Our Schools all across the country.

The best thing about Greenwire is it can connect people who don't know one another but want to work towards the same goals.

If you haven't signed up already, [do it now!](#) Once you create your profile, you can join [the Repower Our Schools group](#) and see if there are other activists in your district.

If not, the best way for other activists to find you is to [create a group specially for your district or school](#). Be sure to give your group a clear name like "[Repower Winston-Salem](#)." Then set your group to be a "Local Group" with an "Open" group subscription so anyone can join.

## Step Two: Set goals, develop an overall strategy to achieve those goals and design tactics that fit your strategy.

### Developing Your Goals

The overall effort of Repower Our Schools is for all schools to run on 100% Renewable Energy, starting with public school districts. As seen in the introduction, 100% Renewable Energy can be broken into three goals:

1. Committing to a vision: publicly communicating a binding resolution or statement for 100% renewable electricity. This could also look like a public declaration or energy policy depending on your school.
2. Beginning implementation: solar pilot projects, creating a plan with interim goals, determining financing.
3. Engaging politically: public statements on state and federal level policy, advocating for better renewable energy policies on their legislative agenda, lobbying local and state politicians, writing op-eds, getting other school boards or school board members fighting for renewable energy

However, each group's goals can look different depending on their school district. Take some time to think about your school district and what you want to see change. The way we see it, one school is the starting point to commitment district wide. How are you going to start a campaign in your school to create change district-wide?





Will the aim of your campaign be to:

- Have the school board approve a visionary commitment for renewable energy in your district that will remain after you leave?
- Get solar panels installed at your school?
- Have your principal commit to a pilot solar panel project?

One way to ensure you have strong goals is to make them S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely) This will help you focus on what goals are most important (and doable).

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>S</b> | <b>pecific</b> --State exactly what you want to achieve: think who, what, when, where, why     |
| <b>M</b> | <b>asurable</b> -- How will you track your progress and measure the outcome?                   |
| <b>A</b> | <b>tainable</b> -- Your goal should be challenging, but within reach.                          |
| <b>R</b> | <b>levant</b> -- Will the goal move the idea of 100% renewable energy forward                  |
| <b>T</b> | <b>imely</b> -- Include a timeline for your goal. Can you achieve it within a reasonable time? |



## Research

The vision of getting 100% renewable energy in your school district is fairly easy to picture, but the path can be pretty complicated. In order to have a successful campaign, it's important to do some research about energy and your school district. Along with researching on the internet, you should set up meetings with teachers and faculty to talk about your school district and renewable energy.

Some things to think about:

- Has your school or district done anything with renewable energy, efficiency or sustainability in general in the past? (Sometimes having past projects or work to point to makes it easier for decision makers to buy in)
- Are there other buildings, or companies near you that are converting to solar energy?
- Where in your school would solar panels be the most effective? On a roof with a reroofing project, in a parking lot, in a field?
- Who in your school district makes the decision about energy policies?

## Develop a Strategy

### Choose Your Target and Scope:

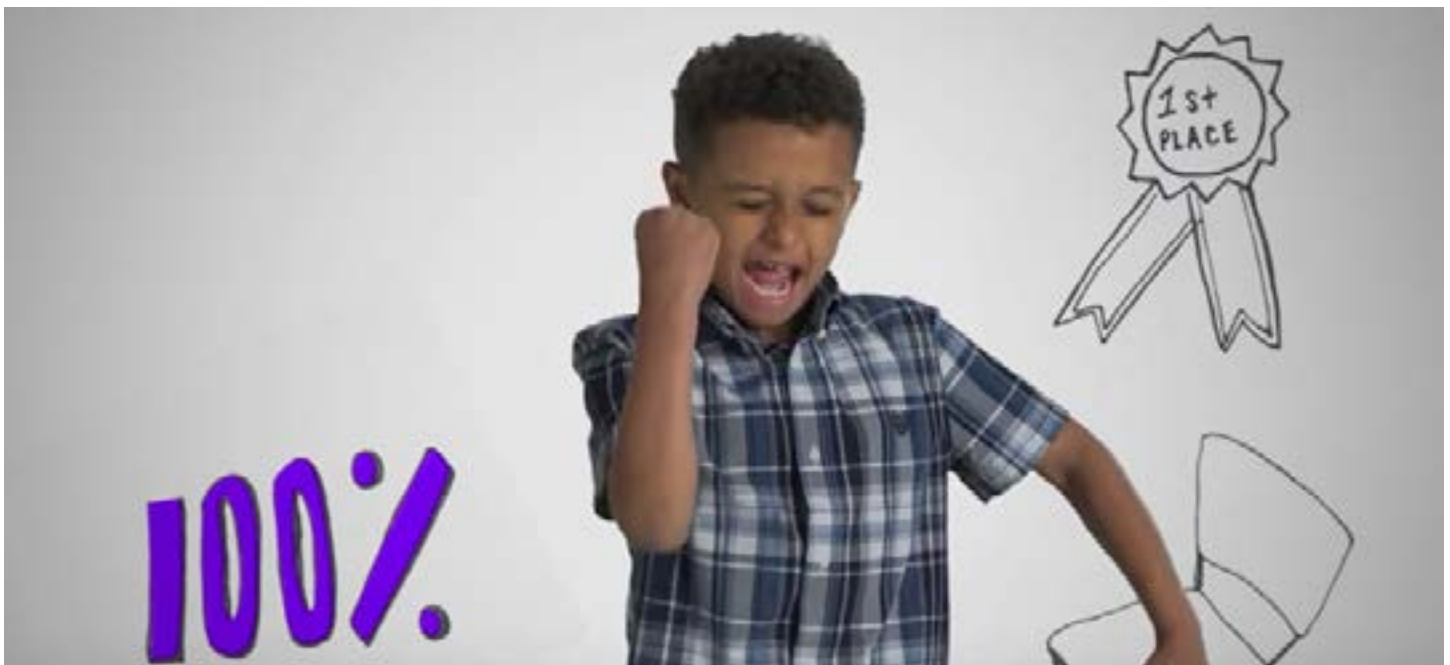
Your end goal is to have 100% renewable energy in your entire school district. As seen in the background part of this toolkit, that decision falls on the school board. However, for many student groups the first step in their efforts is aiming to get solar panels or other renewable energy at their school as a pilot project that's a visible example for the community of what is possible now. Think outside of the box when it comes to renewable energy -- schools across the country are installing pilot wind turbines at their schools. So think about your goal and who the primary target and influencers are for that goal.

A Primary Target is the person or people who can give you what you want. An influencer on the other hand is the person who has more sway over that target than you and who you have greater access and influence over than over the primary target.

Map out who on your school board is the decision maker you need to target and who at school can influence that decision maker. Brainstorm who else at your school would be interested in the campaign. Start off small and choose a small number of the options below to target at the beginning of your campaign.



|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Decision-makers</b> | i.e. School board, Principal, Facilities or Sustainability Director   |
| <b>Influencers</b>     | i.e. Teachers, Parents, Media -- local and school based, traditional (a newspaper) and new (digital media, like a blog) , Faculty, Events, Students (through petitions) |
| <b>Allies</b>          | i.e. Student government, Other progressive clubs, students at other schools, community members, local Renewable Energy businesses and organizations.                    |





## Brainstorm Tactics

Brainstorm fun ways to engage and build influence around this issue. Remember that Renewable Energy can be complicated and foreign for many people at your school. Tactics can range from petition tabling, speaking at PTSA and faculty meetings, to presenting to the school board, photo petitions and art installations. Think about what will help raise awareness and make real changes at your school.

Choose tactics that you think will gain the attention of the decision-makers and influencers at your school and in your school district. Be prepared that this will not happen overnight and even after you've gained their attention, you may still have work to do until your school agrees to do something to move towards 100% renewable energy.

Next, develop a timeline in which you can use some of these tactics to build support and influence. Your tactics should escalate over time and work to build more power and sway over your target. What this timeline looks like is up to you and your goals and targets. If you're targeting the school board, you may want to build your timeline around a few school board meetings. A helpful thing to do is work backwards from a key day or meeting. Start from that date and think about what needs to happen to build power so you make the biggest impact by that date. If you need help, advice, or ideas, contact us. Don't forget to share ideas on Greenwire and on the Repower Our Schools group.



## Repower Our Schools Sample Timeline

### 1st Month

Build core group and have your first meeting  
 Create a campaign plan  
 Use a tactic to announce your campaign to the school  
 Research school board meetings and dates

### 2nd Month

Start Class Raps to collect signatures and recruit for your team  
 Create a fun event to engage new volunteers  
 Attend a PTSA meeting for petition signatures or a sign on letter

### 3rd Month

Continue collecting petitions -- Table around school and Lunch Storm  
 Attend a faculty meeting for petition signatures or sign on letter  
 Speak to your principal about the campaign and see if they will support you

### 4th Month

Do a photo petition drive at lunch, post them online, and tag your Superintendent in each post  
 Write an opinion piece in your local or student newspaper about your campaign  
 Contact school board to set up a presentation at your School Board meeting



## Key Date: School Board Meeting

### Summer

Your campaign doesn't have to end just because school does! One of the great things about solar panels is that they keep on creating energy while students are away for the summer -- so should you. Your school board and faculty are still working and meeting during the summer. It's a great time to get access to decision makers who may be busy during the school year. You can also meet with your core team throughout the summer to brainstorm tactics and events so when school goes back in session you are ready to hit the ground running.

### Tactics

#### Get Creative

Below are some tactics you can use to get your school or district to 100% renewable energy. The most important thing to keep in mind though is to be creative! Do a photo petition with people holding signs stating why they want renewable energy in their school. Ask art students to create murals and art in support of a school powered by solar panels. The more creative your tactics are, the more attention they will get.



### Petitions

Petitions are an easy and powerful way to tell your school that there is support behind your ask for switching to renewable energy. Not only does petitioning show your decision-maker that everyone at your school want renewable energy, it also helps build your base of supporters. Each student who signs your petition is another person you can call upon for future actions.



There are many ways to get petition signatures, the more creative you are the more likely people will be to sign them. Here are a few petition tactics that you can use at your school:

### ***Example Petition on page 21***

#### **Class / Group Rap**

Class / Group raps are quick presentations about your campaign and are a great way to gain more petition signatures, get the word out about the campaign in general, and advertise upcoming events. Instead of asking the students to come to you, you are going to them. A class rap is simply a quick presentation to a class, talking about your campaign and asking them to join or sign the petition.

Class rap tips:

- Contact your teachers at least one week before giving the class rap to see if you could speak to the class. If your school allows it, you can also see if teachers are ok with you speaking to their other classes. Stopping by a teacher's classroom in person is best, followed by writing them an email.
- When asking other teachers if you can give a class rap, first focus on teachers of environmental subjects and teachers you have a relationship with. Don't forget to cast a wide net -- ask everybody!
- See if other clubs and teams at your school would be OK with having you come to speak to them
- While you're speaking, either circle around the petitions or have other volunteers pass them around.
- Give clear instructions about signing the petition -- make sure to encourage people to give their contact information. Ask folks to pass them to the front when complete.
- Being excited, passionate and making eye contact with students is helpful.

### ***EXAMPLE CLASS RAP on page 23***

#### **Tabling**

Another great way to collect petition signatures is to set up a table somewhere at school. See if you can set up a table in your cafeteria or somewhere else in your school to get petition signatures. This is where it is really helpful to have a teacher ally/partner who can help you get space and permission to table. Tabling enables you to recruit volunteers, distribute literature, build visibility, and gather support.



### Tabling TIPS:

- Set a goal. Maybe 30 petitions an hour. Adjust your technique and tactics to increase this hourly rate.
- If you're setting up a table, stand in front of the table, not behind it. You're more approachable in front of the table and it is easier to grab peoples attention
- Think of high traffic areas at your school and make sure your table stands out. Candy is a great way to get people to your table
- Be friendly, make eye contact, smile, and wave at people inviting them to speak with you. Confidence is key!

### Lunch Storm

A Lunch Storm is an exciting way to reach out to a lot of people at once -- by creating a petition storm at lunch. It is where you and your team swarm all of the tables in the cafeteria at lunch -- instead of waiting for them to come to your table, you go to them! Go to each table with a petition and a prepared pitch. In a short amount of time, you can build support for renewable energy, get petition signatures and really build buzz around your school. A great tip is to dress the part -- have you and your team dress in matching colours or costumes so you stand out in the cafeteria!

### Resolutions

Student Government resolutions are an effective way to demonstrate broad student support for bringing renewable energy to your school. Get in contact with your SGA and see if you can present at one of their meetings. Using the talking points or class rap to explain the benefits of renewable energy, ask them to vote on a resolution in of support renewable energy at your school. We have included a sample Student Government Resolution you can bring them, but feel free to work on it with the group to make it your own.

### Example Resolution on page 25 - 26

### Sign on Letters

Engaging other groups or associations at your school to sign on in support of your campaign is an effective way to show broad support for your campaign. Take some time to see which groups at your school would be most powerful. This a great time to use your allies' influence to get into the meeting and have them present to their peers. Join a parent and present at a PTSA meeting, asking the PTSA and the PTSA president to sign a letter of support or pass around petitions for them to sign. Join a teacher (or have them go alone) to present at a faculty meeting -- ask the other teachers to sign your petition or add their name to a sign on letter that comes from just teachers or other adults. Think outside the box -- if there is another group at school or in the community whose support would help your campaign, reach out to them and see if you can talk to them.





## Meeting Presentations

Your most effective tactic could likely be meeting with your target. Whether scheduling a meeting with your principal or school board member or presenting to the entire board at a school board meeting, this is where you ask your target to make the change. Make sure to come prepared -- know your school, your subject and your ask. If you have been collecting petitions, this could be a good time deliver it to your target. Consider what kind of impact giving them to your decision maker now could have versus giving them to a decision maker later. Show them the broad support you have for getting renewable energy in your school district and what you want to see happen. Remember, meeting or presenting for the first time is the beginning of your relationship with them. Make sure to schedule the meeting or presentation in advance and find a time that works for both of you. While speaking with them, make eye contact, be polite and be confident! Once you've met, thank them and continue the conversation afterwards --following up is key! If they don't agree the first time, schedule a follow up meeting (especially if you are presenting to the school board).



## **Other Tactics You Can Do AT School!**

**Chalking** - Chalk your school parking lot or the path to school with slogans and pictures representing renewable energy

**Morning Announcements** -- If your school has them, let your school know about your campaign on the morning announcements. For most impact, do it on a day you are tabling so you can let them know where to find you.

**Challenge between grades** -- Come up with a Renewable Energy themed challenge between the grades. Have each class compete -- who can get the most petition signatures, who can write the most letters to the school board, etc. This gets the word out and gets you school excited about Renewable Energy.

**Photo Petitions** -- Create signs that people can fill out and say why Renewable Energy is important to them. Have students fill it out and take a picture of themselves holding the sign. Make sure to post them online and tag the pictures #repowerschools.

## **Campaign Talking Points**

These are sample talking points. Use the information in this toolkit and our reports to choose the talking points that work best for your campus and your community.

The three main things to focus on are that renewable energy will: save money, offer educational STEM opportunities, and help protect the health of students.

## **Investing in affordable solar power now means more funding for students and teachers later**

Investing in solar is truly an investment in students. Schools across the country are repeatedly faced with budget cuts. By switching to renewable energy like solar, schools can focus on hiring more teachers and providing us the resources they need to succeed. School boards and administrators are attracted to solar's ability to deliver cost savings. As utility rates rise and the costs of solar energy fall, it is more practical than ever to switch to renewables. In fact, the average price for a commercial solar installation has fallen 45% in just the last two years. Across the nation, more than 3,700 schools have installed solar, capable of producing \$77.8 million worth of electricity.



## **Renewable energy creates STEM and educational opportunities for students and prepares them for the future**

As solar becomes increasingly important to our economy, there is an opportunity to educate students on its benefits now, while preparing them for the jobs of today and tomorrow. At school, teachers could incorporate solar into the STEM curriculum — while we witness its advantages first-hand. Nationally, more people are employed as solar workers than coal miners. And in the first half of 2014, solar and wind collectively outpaced natural gas in new power construction.

The new economy will be run by renewable sources, and we want to be prepared for it. Powering our schools with solar energy gives us direct access to a rising technology, and puts the jobs of tomorrow into the classroom today.

## **Renewable energy protects both our environment AND student's health**

More than 6.3 million children in America suffer from asthma, making it the leading cause of missed schools days for children with chronic diseases. Pollution from coal plants also fuels climate change, damaging the world we will inherit.

Solar energy is a solution to these problems. Installing solar on our schools sends a strong message to our leaders and utilities: our electricity shouldn't come at the expense of our health.



# Example Petition





# EXAMPLE CLASS RAP



## Repower Our Schools Class Rap

### Introduction (30 seconds)

- Thank your teacher and if he or she says that it's okay, write your contact information on the black-board
- Introduce yourself and your group -- for example ""Hi! I'm [your name] with [group name].

### About Repower Our Schools

- "Imagine if every school in our country was powered by 100% clean, affordable, renewable energy.
- Schools everywhere could have solar arrays on their roofs to power classrooms, provide important learning opportunities for their students, and save critical tax dollars to reinvest in teachers, text-books and new technology. Thousands of schools have already flipped the switch."
- We have the potential to do the same here at [School]
- Tell them about your campaign -- "We are running a campaign to get 100% Renewable Energy into our our school district [or your more specific goal]
- Go over the talking points that are found in the tactics section of this toolkit and use them to show how Renewable Energy will benefit your school and school district
- "In order to get renewable energy into our school, we need your help."

### Involvement

- There are a lot of ways to get involved with Repower Our Schools. The easiest way is to help us show the school board that there is broad support for Renewable Energy throughout the school by signing the petition that is going around the class. You can also help volunteer or join our group by checking the volunteer box on the petition.

### Personal Story

- I got involved because...

### Wrap Up

- Thank you \_\_\_\_, for the time. Please pass up the petition over the aisles so I can collect them on my way out. Thanks a lot!

# Example Resolution





\_\_\_\_\_ High School

Student Government Resolution

Date:

### **Resolution in Support of 100% Renewable Electricity**

Our student government will support the school's efforts to increase its use of renewable energy sources, such as solar electricity, with the long-term goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity in school buildings.

We commit to:

- Spreading knowledge and awareness of the benefits of renewable energy among the student body.
- Advocating the use of renewable electricity to the administration.
- Supporting the use of renewable and energy-efficient technology, as well as the discussion of this technology in the curriculum.

By adopting renewable electricity, as well as increasing energy efficiency, our school can save money in the long term by reducing energy costs. It can also improve the health of our student body by reducing the pollution that comes from burning fossil fuels. Finally, it can help protect the environment by reducing our dependence on "dirty energy."

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WHEREAS, Across the nation, the need to shift away from dirty fossil fuels has become more urgent, driven by the threat of climate change and the necessity to act, therefore more than 3,700 schools have installed rooftop solar, capable of producing \$77.8 million worth of electricity. By switching to solar, \_\_\_\_\_ can reinvest savings back into teachers, facilities, and students,

WHEREAS, the United States is powered by using more than 83% dirty fossil fuels and nuclear power plants that are often disproportionately located besides low-income communities and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, air and water pollution from fossil fuel power plants are linked to negative health impacts including asthma, heart diseases and cancers; and

WHEREAS, solar power is a clean source of energy which can power homes, businesses, schools, government buildings and cars to achieve better air quality, water quality and reduce carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, the students of this high school recognize the above assets of solar power and desires to renew its commitment to this important clean energy solution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_ High School in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is the first school to officially set its own goal of being powered with 100% renewable electricity the by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the student body commits to take this step in an effort towards 100% clean, renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Student Government calls on our local leaders at the school board, city, county and State level to follow our lead a leader in solar power and to set a goal of having using 33% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable energy by 2050.

