

BLACKFEET NATION

BLACKFEET ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

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To whom it may concern,

The Blackfeet Environmental Office is pleased to support DEQ's project proposal, *Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project*, for an EPA CPRG implementation grant. This project seeks to reduce emissions and upgrade energy infrastructure in Montana schools, businesses, public institutions, transportation systems, and the power grid.

We are particularly enthusiastic about the Sustainable 21st Century Schools measure to improve energy efficiency, upgrade infrastructure, and support renewable energy systems in Montana schools with a priority for schools that serve low-income, disadvantaged and Title 1 students. This project could benefit public schools in Browning and Heart Butte by improving the learning environment and comfort for students and lower energy costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Blackfeet Nation is developing our own Priority Climate Action Plan, but the Blackfeet PCAP does not include measures for schools on the reservation that predominantly serve tribal students. That's because these are independent Montana school districts that are not subject to tribal management and control. However, we would support energy investments in these schools within the Blackfeet Nation through DEQ's project. The Blackfeet Environmental Office works with Blackfeet students in the Browning and Heart Butte school districts on educational programs related to Blackfeet culture and adaptation to climate change. If these schools receive funding support for energy upgrades, we will work with school officials to incorporate energy projects into the curriculum.

Thank you for including the school energy performance measure in DEQ's CPRG implementation grant application. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve student learning environments and outcomes, reduce energy costs, and advance Montana's transition toward a decarbonized economy.

Best regards

Gerald Wagner, Director Blackfeet Environmental Program

March 28, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. Washington DC, 20460

RE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Bozeman to express our organization's support for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's CPRG implementation grant application, "Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project." The City of Bozeman provides essential services to the Bozeman community, which includes enhancing equitable access to energy efficiency and renewable energy to advance our adopted [2020 Bozeman Climate Plan](#). Montana DEQ's grant proposal represents a meaningful opportunity to simultaneously reduce greenhouse gases and enhance resilience in Montana.

Supporting capital investments for energy efficiency and renewable energy in public schools provides benefits to all Montanans, especially in underserved communities. The building retrofits will enhance the learning environment for students, while also serving as a demonstration in the classroom of best practices in building science and technology.

In addition, investing in on-site renewable energy generation paired with energy storage systems, especially for essential services, is a wise investment for Montana where severe storms are increasing in frequency and intensity. Similarly, supporting the conversation or replacement of aging fleet vehicles, such as buses, vans, and utility service equipment will equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve local air quality.

This program is a true investment in Montana's future. The City of Bozeman is committed to working collaboratively with Montana DEQ to ensure the success of these initiatives, where appropriate. We appreciate the Department of Environmental Quality's leadership on this important initiative and fully support this application.

Sincerely,



Natalie Meyer
Sustainability Program Manager
City of Bozeman



COMMUNITY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

Development Services Division

435 RYMAN | MISSOULA, MT 59802-4297 | 406.552.6630 | FAX 406.552.6053

25 March 2024

Michael S. Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition, *DEQ's Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project Application*

Administrator Regan,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Missoula to express our support for the Department of Environmental Quality's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application to implement the Invest and Improve Electric Grid Technology subgrant program to serve the state of Montana.

Montana is rich in natural resources, including traditional energy sources like coal that allowed us to export energy for years. As we transition to renewable energy, the legacy of our transmission lines for exporting energy puts us in a prime position to harness our solar and wind resources and continue to be an energy exporter. While our renewable energy potential provides significant opportunities for our state, we also recognize that solar and wind resources are not always strongest along existing transmission lines, and their variability requires they be paired with energy storage technologies. Here at the City of Missoula, we consider transmission capacity and energy storage to be significant considerations in our work to achieve our goal of 100% clean electricity by 2030. In many cases, storage in particular is a key consideration when determining what scale of renewable energy we can develop to serve our community and municipal operations. Despite the benefits of energy storage, a primary challenge is that storage technology increases the cost of a renewable energy investment significantly.

The Department of Environmental Quality's application for a program to award subgrants for technologies like energy storage to entities across the state, like the City of Missoula, would dramatically improve our ability to develop renewable energy projects at the speed and scale necessary to meet our 2030 goal.

We appreciate the Department of Environmental Quality's leadership on this important initiative and support this application to implement an impactful Invest and Improve Electric Grid Technology subgrant program in Montana.

Sincerely,

Evora Glenn
Climate and Sustainability Specialist
City of Missoula
435 Ryman St, Missoula MT 59802



PO Box 8415
Missoula, MT, 59807
(406) 370-6848
livableclimate.org

RE: Families for a Livable Climate Letter of Support

To whom it may concern;

Families for a Livable Climate (FLC), a statewide nonprofit organization based in Missoula, is pleased to support DEQ's Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project application for an EPA CPRG implementation grant.

FLC is committed to supporting the project's measure to Incentivize School Energy Performance by supporting outreach to Montana school districts, parent organizations, and communities and ongoing community and student engagement in the project. FLC helped mobilize hundreds of public comments as DEQ developed Montana's Priority Climate Action Plan, which focused in part on the school energy performance measure. These comments, many directly from Montana school administrators and staff, documented local needs and co-benefits for emission reduction efforts in Montana's K-12 schools. A summary of these comments is attached.

FLC supported development of this measure, along with other members of the Electrify Montana Coalition, for which FLC serves as coordinator and fiscal sponsor. We will continue to support community engagement through our [Healthy Schools for Montana Kids working group](#). FLC supports a number of family-led working groups, which provide an opportunity for our volunteers to engage as leaders in events, campaigns, and advocacy.

Because FLC's vision aligns with EPA's CPRG program objective of stimulating transformation toward a decarbonized economy, we are committed to continue working closely with DEQ to engage school constituents effectively, including students, through this project. We will work with our coalition partners and members to provide this support in coordination with DEQ.

Thank you for including the school energy performance measure in DEQ's CPRG implementation grant application. We look forward to continuing to work with you to leverage a CPRG grant to help catalyze Montana's transition toward a decarbonized economy.

Best regards,

Winona Bateman, Executive Director
Families for a Livable Climate
director@livableclimate.org | (406) 370-6848

FLC LOS Addendum - Survey Responses

As mentioned above, FLC helped collect hundreds of comments on Montana's Priority Climate Action Plan's schools measure. In our survey, we heard from superintendents and staff from almost 50 schools across the state in addition to parents and community members.

Almost all the respondents expressed a high level of need and interest in using federal money to update energy efficiency systems for two reasons: to reduce prohibitive utility costs and to improve student comfort, health, and safety. Infrastructure repairs or updates needed include boilers, heating, air conditioning (some due to toxic refrigerants), plumbing, HVAC systems, food disposal, functioning windows and doors, air purification (especially during smoke season), and school buses. In addition, almost every school superintendent or staff member who filled out the survey expressed interest in installing solar, wind, or another source of renewable energy.

A common narrative, especially with rural and lower-income schools, was utility costs. Many rural schools reported inability to hire staff or fund programming due to prohibitive infrastructure and utility costs, and some schools have had to close for two months or more due to severe and hazardous infrastructure failings. New parents whose kids are approaching school age expressed being concerned for their children's safety when attending school, particularly if their child had health concerns.

Furthermore, many schools have struggled to fund these projects through other avenues due to poor insurance coverage and the difficulty in obtaining bonds or levies. One respondent noted that their child's school was unable to focus on "academic rigor" due to the extreme infrastructure needs of the school facilities. A few respondents also noted that some infrastructure in their children's schools was over 100 years old.

Here are specific comments we collected from Montana school administrators and staff:

I am writing in strong support of prioritizing funds from the EPA's Clean Power and Air Quality Program (CPAQ) to improve school infrastructure across Montana. As a concerned community member, I believe investing in healthy, energy-efficient schools should be a top priority for utilizing Montana's share of the \$27 billion in CPAQ implementation grants.

Our schools are cornerstones of our communities, but many are outdated and inefficient, with poor ventilation, excessive energy costs, and maintenance backlogs. The CPAQ program offers a unique opportunity to transform these buildings through upgrades like new HVAC systems, weatherization, renewable energy, and electric vehicle charging. Modernizing school facilities will provide cleaner air, lower utility bills, and healthier learning environments for students.

I urge the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to submit a robust \$50 million CPAQ implementation grant proposal focused on creating a Smart Schools Fund, as recommended by the Electrify Montana coalition. Upgrading schools across Montana will deliver on the goals of the CPAQ program by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs. It will also improve health and education outcomes for generations of students.

Montana has a chance to be a leader in sustainable school infrastructure, while making an impact in every community. I strongly support making schools a centerpiece of Montana's CPAQ spending plan to create jobs, support students, and secure a better future. Thank you for your consideration.

(Our) elementary school heating system was not operational for 5 months last school year and for 2+ months to start the 2023-'24 school year. Both boilers were replaced in the fall of 2023, but the plumbing for the entire site (Circa 1958) desperately needs to be replaced/upgraded. In addition, our students across the school district would benefit greatly by studying in classrooms with LED lighting. The fluorescent tube lighting puts a direct strain on people's eyes, causes headaches and thus reduces student ability to focus. The LED lighting would enable teachers to adjust the amount and brightness of the lighting and make the classroom environment more conducive to learning.

FLC LOS Addendum - Survey Responses

Our school is currently facing declining enrollment, impacting our ability to allocate funds for quality staff and meet the needs of our students. Therefore, we are unable to address the challenges that come with the necessary infrastructure needs due to financial constraints.

Like most Montana schools, we have struggled to obtain bonds/levies to improve, repair, or replace basic systems within the school building. One of our buildings does not have working heat, insulation, or windows that are effectively keeping out the cold or heat. Our three other building additions struggle to stay warm in the winter with a boiler system that does not work properly throughout the school. We are limping along with our boiler system, hoping it makes it one more year. Most all our classrooms have space heaters just to keep the rooms at a reasonable temperature. Students wear coats in classrooms because of the lack of effective output with the system.

The roof leaks and we have flooding issues due to drainage issues in the French drains outside the building. The electrical and plumbing systems have significant issues. If a space heater is running, the breakers flip in particular classrooms. The only energy savings measure that has happened is the installation of LED lights in the last 10 years. With school funding what it is, our priority is the instruction of students while infrastructure has been neglected. Please prioritize schools within the grant you are proposing. We sorely need the funding to make our school a comfortable place to learn.

Our current HVAC system is failing. There are certain parts of the building that are receiving heat from our system. We utilize space heaters and multiple layers of clothes so that we can hold class or meetings. One of the three systems that are used can not be fixed and needs a total retrofit. Due to the fact of being a small district, funding, like all schools, is very difficult. We have been working with McKinstry to do an energy audit and also to look at the current status of our HVAC Systems.

The full allotment of ESSER funding allowed us to address one issue plaguing our building, that of our aging boiler systems to provide fresh, warm air to about 2/3rds of our building. However, it was not enough to address the remaining 1/3rd of the building that has no fresh air delivery system for warm air. We do not have a cooling system to reduce carbon dioxide levels in our classrooms during warm weather. We have a section of our school that was built in the 1930's and has many old building problems, including settling and aging electrical and heating systems. We have another section of our building that was built in the 1960's that has radiant heat and no fresh air delivery. The locker rooms, coaches' room, and concession stands are built over cement pads encasing the water pipes and we have experienced multiple issues of water damage that we have not been easily able to contain. That section has suffered from some settling damage and really needs to be replaced. The boiler system drainage plugs often and needs to be re-routed to work effectively.

Our insurance does not cover these issues and the levies needed to fix these areas would be a large burden on our community that has nearly half of the school population on free and reduced lunches. The school board is increasingly hard pressed to maintain a basic quality of education and keep the infrastructure in good enough shape to house students. We pull students from a 50 mile stretch of interstate and highway and some of our students spend almost an hour on the school bus one way. If our school closes, that time will increase for our students which creates an undue hardship on our communities. We are a rural school. But our community is very supportive of our school. We passed a bond to address some of these issues, but the costs exceed the capacity we have in local funds. Part of our building is 100 years old and we want to extend its life. We have found the roof trusses are inadequate, we need ADA exits, we're so inefficient in heating, we have NO cooling, and everything that this grant speaks of, we want to do. Including solar.



Local No. 532



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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Billings, MT 59108
406-248-9119
Fax 406-248-9952
website: ibew532.com
email: office@ibew532.com

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to encourage you to strongly consider selecting the Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project as one of the recipients of your Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation grants.

Many Montana communities have been struggling to upgrade aging school infrastructure. With inflation, property taxes, and increasing energy rates, lowering costs for schools is more important than ever to make sure our kids get a quality education. As a result, we support the CPRG proposal to fund a wide-ranging energy efficiency grant program to make critical infrastructure upgrades. We see this as a win-win-win: Montana schools get much needed funding for infrastructure upgrades while also reducing their energy footprint and saving taxpayer dollars.

Montana's school infrastructure is aging and will soon reach a critical point in which upgrades will be needed. The state's 2008 K-12 Public Schools Facility Condition Assessment reads "statewide, there has not been a significant investment in new buildings, and many of the school construction projects in the last few decades have been additions." Unfortunately, the need for increased investment into school infrastructure coincides with inflation and significant increases to cost-of-living in Montana putting significant strain on families and communities.

In Montana, the annual emissions of the operation of public K-12 buildings are estimated at 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions (MTCO₂e) (see Appendix). In addition, emissions per sq. foot of schools in Montana are 11th highest in the nation. This figure underscores the significant impact and scale of emissions produced by our state's public-school facilities, and the opportunity to reduce these emissions and while simultaneously reducing the tax burden on Montanans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan DeBolt
Business Manager/F.S.
IBEW Local 532
Billings, MT



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS
LOCAL 233**

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Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

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Montana's school infrastructure is aging and will soon reach a critical point in which upgrades will be needed. The state's [2008 K-12 Public Schools Facility Condition Assessment](#) reads "statewide, there has not been a significant investment in new buildings, and many of the school construction projects in the last few decades have been additions." Unfortunately, the need for increased investment into school infrastructure coincides with inflation and significant increases to cost-of-living in Montana putting significant strain on families and communities.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie McBroom
Business Manager
IBEW L.U. 233



Date: March 25, 2024

To: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Re: Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Energy Bureau's Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project

Dear U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

The Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment in support for the Montana DEQ Energy Bureau EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application. MTSBA represents about 1,450 elected, volunteer school board trustees governing every school district serving Montana's 150,000+ public school students across the state.

Montana's Priority Climate Action Plan describes in Measure 1 in the Sustainable 21st Century Schools section titled "Incentivize School Energy Performance Measures." This program would facilitate "capital investments in facility retrofits and beneficial electrification, including but not limited to upgrading or replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, improving insulation levels, reducing air leakage, and upgrading lighting systems. Funding would also be available to support deployment of on-site renewable energy generation paired with back-up energy storage system."

A 2008 State of Montana public school facilities assessment estimated the cost to address school facility deficiencies at \$360 million. The assessment evaluated energy use, facility condition, technology infrastructure, and educational characteristics. The assessment reported that "a significant number of facilities had areas of incomplete insulation." Additionally, it found 68% of the public schools in Montana were built prior to 1970 with occasional, modest upgrades resulting in inefficient buildings and systems. Less than 10% of public schools use Building Management System and less than 30% of an HVAC System Economizer in place. This report created a roadmap for improvements for Montana's public schools, however, resources devoted to these improvements have not been sufficient to complete the vast majority of facility retrofits to improve sustainability and energy efficiency.

A Montana "School Sustainability Suite" as noted in the Montana Climate Action Plan would precipitate significant improvements in for school districts "in transitioning their buildings to reliable, emissions-free electricity or implementing significant efficiency upgrades, resulting in long-term energy savings," and "would support capital investments in building retrofits, energy efficiency upgrades, electrification, low- and no-emission buses, and renewable energy infrastructure."

We appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the Montana DEQ Energy Bureau EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application.

Sincerely,

Lance Melton
Executive Director
Montana School Boards Association
lmelton@mtsba.org

Emily Dean
Director of Advocacy
Montana School Boards Association
edean@mtsba.org

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

To whom it may concern,

Northern Plains Resource Council is a grassroots conservation and family agriculture group that organizes Montanans to protect our water quality, family farms and ranches, and unique quality of life.

We are writing to encourage you to strongly consider selecting the Montana Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Upgrade Project as one of the recipients of your Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation grants.

In November 2023, Northern Plains got a note from a concerned parent in Glendive, Montana, a rural eastern Montana community of just under 5,000 people. The note read, “My sons have had days where they were too hot or cold to get any benefit from being at school. The boiler has leaked and damaged the gym flooring. Now, it has stopped running completely causing the school to be closed for a day.” Another note from a Glendive resident read, “My community needs work on all of their schools. I have an 8th and a 6th grader and have literally contemplated moving so they can attend safer schools.”

Unfortunately, this story is not unique to Glendive. Many Montana communities have been struggling to upgrade aging school infrastructure. With inflation, property taxes, and increasing energy rates, lowering costs for schools is more important than ever to make sure our kids get a quality education. As a result Northern Plains and Electrify Montana submitted a proposal to the Montana Department of Environmental (DEQ) to fund a wide-ranging energy efficiency grant program through the CPRG program that would allow schools to make critical infrastructure upgrades. We see this as a win-win-win: Montana schools get much needed funding for infrastructure upgrades while also reducing their energy footprint and saving taxpayer dollars.

This proposal came from a grassroots effort to improve school infrastructure in rural and underserved communities. Glendive parents, caretakers, and school employees banded together to pursue this proposal. Dawson Resource Council, the eastern Montana chapter of Northern Plains received over 150 comments in support of this program.

In Montana, our K-12 public school buildings produce an estimated 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions ([see Appendix](#)). The emissions produced per square foot by Montana schools ranks 11th highest in the nation. This statistic underscores the significant impact and scale of emissions produced by our state's public school facilities, and **the opportunity this funding presents to reduce these emissions while simultaneously reducing the tax burden on Montanans.**

Please see the attached comments of support from Montanans across the state.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Barta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Edward Barta, Chair
Northern Plains Resource Council
220 S. 27th Street
Billings, MT 59101



Montana Families and Schools Want Upgrades

Everything you need to know about the Climate
Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)



Northern Plains Resource Council and Electrify Montana

January 22, 2024

In November, we got a note from a concerned parent in Glendive. The note read, “My sons have had days where they were too hot or cold to get any benefit from being at school. The boiler has leaked and damaged the gym flooring. Now, it has stopped running completely causing the school to be closed for a day.” Another note read, “My community needs work on all of their schools. Jefferson School has water issues where they can’t drink the water. Lincoln School has mold issues, asbestos, and no heat to the point where they had to bring in temporary classrooms. Washington School is always cold. Dawson County HS needs a new safer lighting system and who knows what else... I have an 8th

and a 6th grader and have literally contemplated moving so they can attend safer schools.”

Unfortunately, this story is not unique to Glendive. Many Montana communities have been struggling to upgrade aging school infrastructure. With inflation, property taxes, and increasing energy rates, lowering costs for schools is more important than ever to make sure our kids get a quality education. As a result, Dawson Resource Council members, Northern Plains, and Electrify Montana submitted a proposal to the Montana Department of Environmental (DEQ) to fund a wide-ranging energy efficiency grant program using federal money to make critical infrastructure upgrades. We see this as a win-win-win: Montana schools get much needed funding for infrastructure upgrades while also reducing their energy footprint and saving taxpayer dollars. **Ultimately, this is about giving students a safe and comfortable environment to learn in.**

Now, we are in the final stages. Thanks to you, Montana is going to apply for money to make this program a reality.

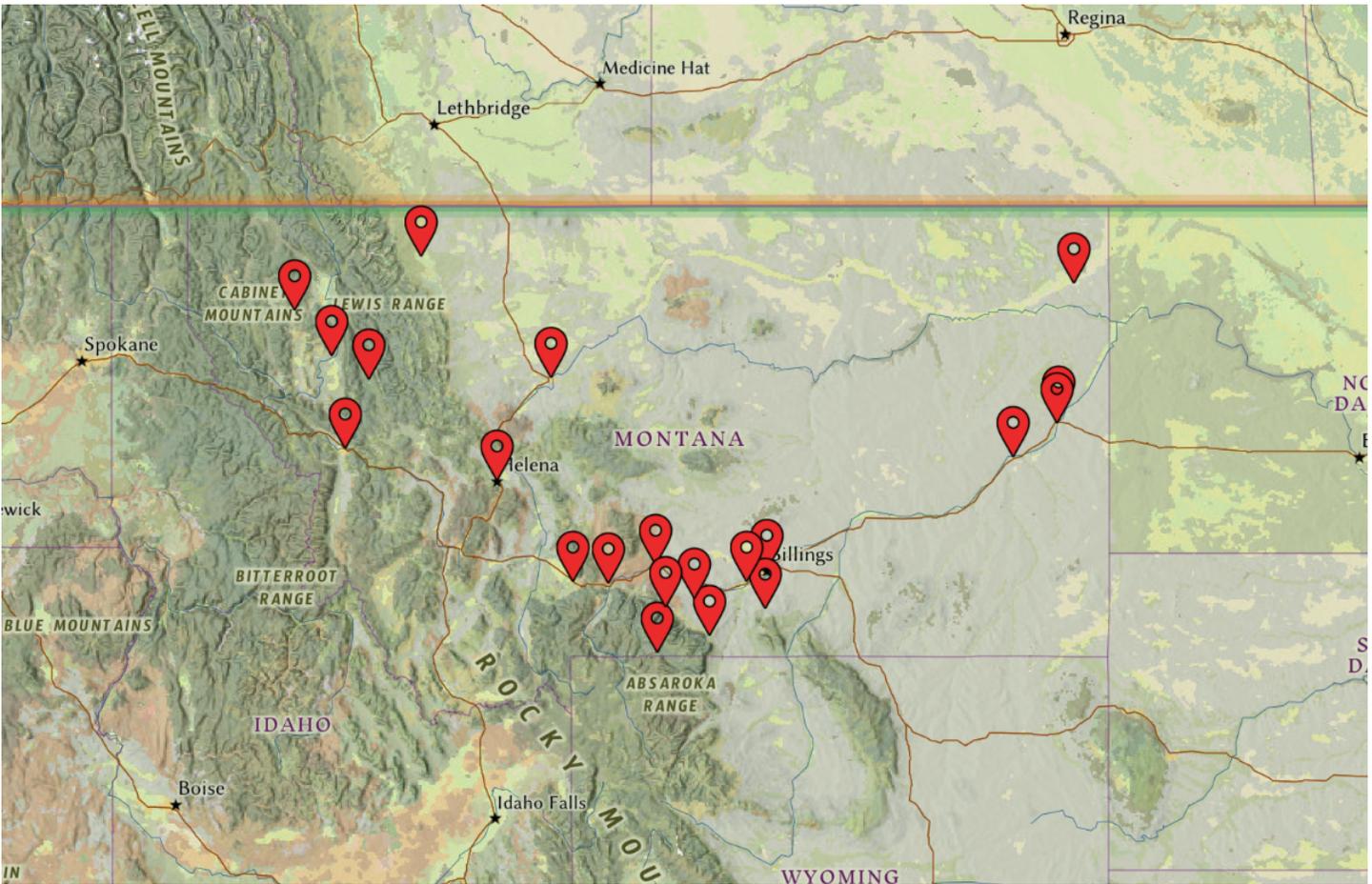
What is the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program?

The state of Montana accepted a planning grant to formulate an emissions reduction plan for the state. Governor Gianforte labeled the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the lead agency. Now that DEQ has come up with a plan, they can apply for \$500 million available for implementation.



Do Montana schools actually need help?

We received almost 200 comments from school officials, parents, and community members across the state. The map below contains a sample of those comments.



Sources: Esri, USGS | Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS

Powered by Esri



Glendive Unified School District

Dawson County is quite small and truly has a hard time passing school bonds over the years. Our schools are older and literally failing to hold our children in a safe environment.



Cascade County Schools

Most schools in our county and particularly the rural schools struggle to afford energy efficiency updates. This opportunity to supplement weatherization budgets and add clean energy shoul...



Laurel Public Schools

I am hoping you might consider funding solar instillation and upgraded insulation for the high school. Our school levies are quite high and equipment is not up to date. With savings on hea...



Nye School

Currently Absarokee is looking to upgrade their boiler, and replace their roof. Large capital expenses that will deplete our building reserve. The Nye School has been experiencing water...



Pryor Schools

Pryor district is dealing with very old energy systems. One of our four boilers continuously goes down during the winter, our windows all leak cold through them which makes it difficult to...



Terry Schools

We have an inefficient boiler system with air controls. The old boiler is getting to be outdated and we need to upgrade to another heating source.



Froid Public Schools

I would like to see a more insulated roof to lower the cost of heating during the winter. I would also like to investigate wind energy. I am looking into e-busses and to power them through wi...



Absarokee High School

The Absarokee High School is dated and in need of energy efficient windows. The brutal winter winds cut through the windows. We must take every action to improve the energy efficiency o...



Livingston Public Schools

We are Park High School students and members of the Park High Green Initiative. The four schools in our district routinely have issues with their HVAC systems, they inefficiently use ou...



Helena Public Schools

As parents of school kids it's important to us that our schools are made as energy efficient as possible so that monies can be used for programing instead of wasting energy.



Marion Public Schools

Our school drastically needs updates in windows and weatherizing. The windows and building are old, ranging from 1906 to 1970 in the older parts of the building. It is drafty and it is a...



Red Lodge Public Schools

Many school buildings in rural school districts are old with outdated heating systems, lack energy efficient windows and don't have the budget resources needed to upgrade HVAC syste...



Missoula Public Schools

Lowell School is an incredible space for learning and also meeting the everyday needs of students and their families. Upgrading the school's energy efficiency programs would enhance...



Browning Public Schools

I am a non-affiliated Blackfeet who was raised on a Hereford ranch in Whitefish MT. I can testify to the bitter cold with high velocity, sustained winds the Blackfeet and ALL Reservations...



Bozeman Public Schools

Regarding the Climate Emissions & Resilience grant, please include a program for energy efficiency upgrades in public schools. Having volunteered with an alternative high school...



Cooke City Schools

My name is Lara Belice. I am the sole teacher (sole adult) at Cooke City School - a one-room, rural, K-8 grade Montana public school, located four miles from the Northeast Entrance to...



Swan Valley Schools

Our school could really use weatherization, insulation and energy inefficiency upgrades.



Polson Public Schools

We need a new HVAC system and windows.



Billings Public Schools

We need to make sure our children are not subject to unhealthy/unclean air, water & learning spaces. They are our most vulnerable, as well as our future! We need to be better at getting...



Deer Creek School

Our school is a combination of 3 very old (100+) school building that have been pieced together. We have issues with old windows, poor insulation in areas, and old ventilation. Last...



Sweet Grass County Schools

I would like to share with you all what we have done for energy efficiency of upgrades at the high school. We're down on electrical consumption by 50% and we have lowered our cost wit...

How does the proposal work?

- 1. Energy audits and action planning** – A first round of funds would be broadly available for school districts to conduct energy audits and develop action plans that reflect school priorities and effectively, measurably reduce emissions. Action plans for new or existing school facilities could include energy efficiency upgrades, HVAC improvements, renewable energy systems, energy storage and microgrids, electrification, and acquisition of electric school buses. Action planning should include opportunities for student engagement. “Often, people responsible for making budget or resource allocation decisions know that buildings, and the systems contained therein, are deficient, but they know few details about those deficiencies.” These audits ensure that Montana schools utilize funds in the most effective manner.
- 2. Implementation** – Most of the funding would be dedicated for a grant program, primarily for capital improvements identified in the audit stage. It's important to note that while these initiatives involve significant upfront costs, many of them offer long-term savings in operational expenses saving Montana families money.
- 3. Educating students** – Energy literacy is a serious problem in the US. Across country, we are failing to educate our students on how our electric system functions. A 2001 survey conducted by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) found that only 12 percent of Americans could pass a basic energy knowledge quiz (DeWaters & Powers, 2008; NEETF, 2002). Creation of energy action plans and implementation would provide ample opportunity to include students and provide tangible experience in energy decision-making and budgeting.
- 4. Technical training and workforce development** – In addition to embedding sustainability concepts and practices in student learning activities, funding would strengthen school programs that offer technical education for critical energy trades, such as HVAC, electrification, and energy efficiency. One objective would be to expand educational bridges between high schools and

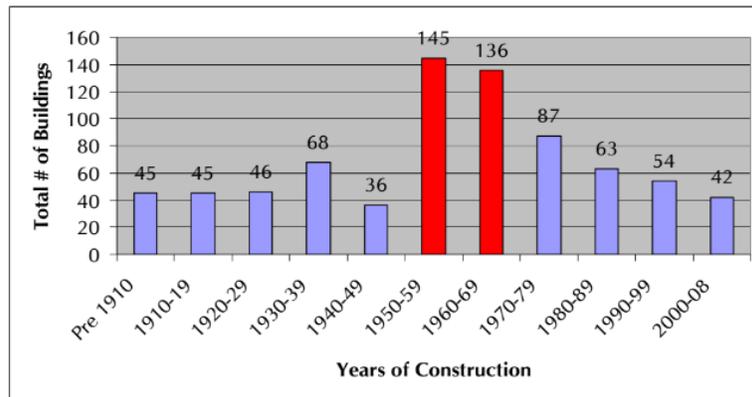
Montana’s community colleges, tribal colleges and other institutions of higher education to build a homegrown workforce.

- 5. **Increasing capacity at DEQ** – Implementing a statewide grant program is difficult and this proposal would ensure that DEQ’s Smart Schools program has the funds and capacity to administer this proposal.

Pollution Reduction Impacts

Montana’s school infrastructure is aging and will soon reach a critical point in which upgrades will be needed. The state’s 2008 K-12 Public Schools Facility Condition Assessment reads “statewide, there has not been a significant investment in new buildings, and many of the school construction projects in the last few decades have been additions.” Unfortunately, the need for increased investment into school infrastructure coincides with inflation and significant increases to cost-of-living in Montana putting significant strain on families and communities.

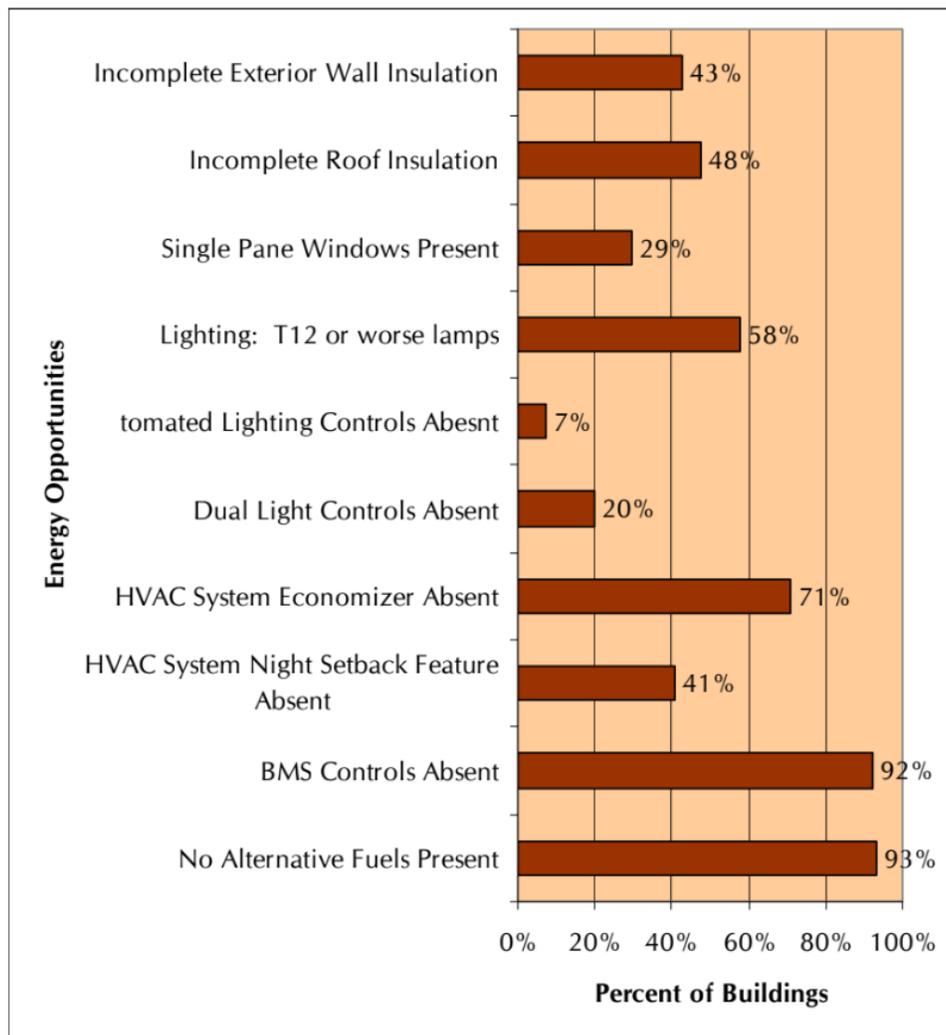
Building Age



*These figures are based on known building ages. This is approximately a 30% sampling, which is statistically indicative of the State’s trends.

Schools represent the third largest sector of commercial building energy usage in the United States. Public K-12 school buildings in the United States account for 7.8 billion square feet of building space. Approximately 17% of the U.S. population, including students and school staff, spends their day connected to a school. The annual energy expenditure for K-12 schools in the country is

\$12.5 billion. The educational sector's energy consumption exceeds 2,000 trillion BTUs per year, and district-wide energy savings could result in substantial financial resources redirected to classrooms. The average public school, covering about 60,000 square feet, emits approximately 320 MTCO_{2e} and spends over \$100,000 on electricity and gas annually. Space heating, cooling, computing, and lighting are significant contributors to energy usage. Additionally, the school bus fleet, primarily diesel-powered, represents the largest public transportation fleet in need of electrification, comprising about 480,000 buses. (Source)



The graph above from the (outdated) 2008 Montana K-12 Public Schools Facility Condition Assessment notes significant areas for improvement in Montana schools. In particular, there are opportunities for improvement in insulation, lighting, and HVAC systems. This energy survey also does not include recent

technological advances, changes in energy prices, or carbon impacts.

In Montana, the annual emissions of the operation of public K-12 buildings are estimated at 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions (MTCO₂e) (see Appendix). In addition, emissions per sq. foot of schools in Montana is 11th highest in the nation. This figure underscores the significant impact and scale of emissions produced by our state's public school facilities, and the opportunity to reduce these emissions and while simultaneously reducing the tax burden on Montanans.

Compatible funding streams:

- IIJA 40109, State Energy Program
- IIJA 40541, Grants for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements as Public School Facilities
- IIJA 71101, Clean School Bus Program
- IIJA Division J, Title VI, Pollution Prevention Grants
- IRA 60101, Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles
- IRA 60106, Funding to Address Air Pollution at Schools
- IRA 60501, Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

It is great that DEQ has included language in its action plan to do infrastructure upgrades to Montana schools. The next priority must be to fund the needed projects. We need the state of Montana to follow through apply for \$50 million in grant funds to help schools complete needed projects. These projects are a win-win for Montana taxpayers, families, and students.

I strong urge you to make it priority to pursue the grant funds.

Barbara Bryan
Billings, MT 59102

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

All Billings schools need infrastructure upgrades. Few have air conditioning, for instance, and with climate change, SD2 has decided to start school this coming fall after Labor Day when hopefully it will be somewhat cooler and students and teachers alike won't suffer in the hot schools. This seems to me to be a clear illustration of why applying for this grant would be so beneficial to the whole community including my great grandchildren, who are and will be students in these buildings with infrastructure needs.

Dee Dee Chiesa
Billings, MT 59102

2/14/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Schools are the building blocks of our state's future. Please don't put them on the back burner of Montanas future

Richard Clawson
Billings, MT 59102

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I have 2 students that attend our states largest highschool, West high in Billings. This school could use infrastructure upgrades to advance our students ability to learn and be safe. As it stands Billings has changed the school start date to avoid hot weather with the lack of a cooling system, this only puts the tail end of the year into hotter weather with the same problem. Our children should not have to choose between heat stroke or getting an education. Please apply for the available grants to help our schools, children and energy consumption.

Adelle Coombs
Billings, MT 59102

2/8/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Schools are most important in our communities. The students need a good learning environment. Schools struggle here in Montana due to a lack of funding. It is urgent that the Governor and DEQ apply for the \$50 million grant.

Mary Dostal
Billings, MT 59102

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I'm writing today to encourage the DEQ and Governor Gianforte to enthusiastically apply for the \$50 million grant to upgrade energy efficiency in Montana's schools.

This seems like a NO-BRAINER!

Brian Harrington
Billings, MT 59102

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Let's do right by our kids and our future! PLEASE prioritize our schools by applying for this federal grant \$\$ that is being allotted for us to utilize to make things better in our schools.

Thank you in advance

Katie Harrison
Billings, MT 59101

2/7/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Having had children go through school in some of the older school buildings in Billings (Senior High and the lower grades at Lockwood) I know how important it is to have "efficient" building construction with regard to heating and cooler. Especially now, when we are trying to conserve and transition to greener energy we need to do whatever is possible to modify the existing buildings to make them "greener".

Jerry Kilts
Billings, MT 59101

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Texas and other States and the schools in Big Timber use alternative energy. Wind and especial Solar on school rooftops makes since .

Robert Mackin
Billings, MT 59106

2/14/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Hello,

I am a parent in school district 2 in Billings. I urge you to apply for any and all grants that can improve the education and engagement of young people in my community. With the current overcrowding, adding AC to our High Schools could do a lot to help students focus on academics. Everything we know supports that kids who feel apart of group, belong or engaged do better and make better life choices. The infa structure at Daylis Stadium is a continuing concern. There always seems to be a shortage and alleviating that with grants rather than bringing bonds to tax payers could also do alot to alleviate the strain that families are feeling due to inflation. I personally believe improving cafeterias and closing campus during lunch would greatly improve the gap between the haves and the have nots. It would be much healthier, safer and forces students to mingle and socailize outside their immediate friend groups and we need our kids to have more face to face interactions with each other and less on line based relationships. There is a great need across the board and it would be silly and wasteful not to apply for any and all grants that we are eligible for.

Kelly Robison-Konecny
Billings, MT 59106

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

How can we walk away from money for our schools?

Dana Huschle
Bozeman, MT 50715

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

To whom It May Concern, Montana DEQ, & Governor Gianforte,

I am writing in strong support of the proposal to have the Montana DEQ follow through and apply for \$50 million to help Montana schools implement critical infrastructure upgrades. Having been part of our public schools system as a teacher, coach, adviser, negotiator and parent, I have certainly seen first hand the need of our schools systems to continually have to find ways to fund broken down buildings and infrastructure. This of course then often comes down to having to ask taxpayers to pay for these needed upgrades. This then can lead to stress on our communities, school systems, and students.

Not only would this funding help to rebuild our aging schools. The targeted projects in this proposal would be centered around projects that are designed to improve the schools' energy efficiency. This of course would save school districts (tax payers) money, help to reduce emissions, create jobs, and most importantly provide our youth with schools that facilitate better learning environments.

Remember strong schools build strong communities. Please follow through with this DEQ application, It is good for our environment, our Montana communities, and most importantly our children.

Jamie Isaly
Bozeman, MT 59715

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

As a family physician and a mom, I know how important adequate heating and cooling is for student attentiveness. Please do what is necessary to provide safe, effective educational environment for our children. Apply for the \$50 million dollar grant to upgrade MT school infrastructure!

Ita Killeen
Bozeman, MT 59715

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Thank you to the DEQ for including our Montana Schools in your draft Action Plan. ("Bolster funding for an opt-in energy performance program for Montana schools.") I am very happy to see this important need being given a priority. Please take the next step and apply for \$50 million in federal dollars to help our MT schools implement these critical infrastructure upgrades. Our communities have been struggling to fund needed upgrades for aging school infrastructure for many years now. This will be a win-win for schools and taxpayers, and it will help with energy conservation too. Thank you for considering my comments.

Elizabeth Madden
Bozeman, MT 59715

2/9/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I am a full-time resident at Cooke City, Montana, which is one of the most remote locations to live in the lower 48 states. Finding quality, reliable, and affordable professionals to complete repairs, remodels, or new construction is not possible. The Cooke City School - a one-room school, serving grades K-8 - has experienced the same. A hole in the roof caused by a tree fall, a finicky old boiler, frozen main water line, electrical upgrades, flooring...etc. have all been completed by locals who know a few things from dealing with their own issues. Additionally, the cost of receiving propane in the winter is three to five times that of the rest of the state. An unexpected large propane bill can wipe out the tight general funds of the school.

Having money dedicated to hiring professionals to complete a survey of the school's energy efficiency and infrastructure needs and issues is well overdue. The grant money would be put to good use to maintain Cooke City School at optimal performance - the only school within a drive of 1.5 hours.

Lara Belice
Cooke City, MT 59020

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

My father went to Montana public school in the early *20th* century. Things NOW should NOT be as -
all to often - they are now for kids being COLD. This can be FIXED, and those of us doing BUSINESS in
Montana demand that you DO It! Thanks.

Paula Gordon
Eureka, MT 59917

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

As a board member of the Fort Benton public schools I know first hand how important additional funding would be, We have stretched our budget to the limit over the last few year with a total replacement of our boilers and boiler plumbing in one building. And now were faced with re plumbing of all fresh water and sewer piping and many other projects that need to be repaired. We are concerned about going to are taxpayer for more money but if we don't continue to keep the building safe and warm it will effect our children's education. I urge you to prioritize Montana Schools and apply for the grant money. Thank you.

Brant Hasbrouck
Flowerree, MT 59440

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our schools in the state need to have updated infrastructure. Unfortunately with the general funding and the other revenues that the schools have coming in there is a large deficit.

When it comes to budgets School districts are struggling to hire qualified teachers to educate or next generation of leaders. One solution would be to pay a higher wage to attract new teachers and maintain current staff so currently the decision has to be made either to maintain buildings or higher teachers. Over the last 10+ years most districts have had to increase pay just to keep and hire new teachers so the buildings have taken a backseat and it's starting to show.

We are dealing with the issue first hand in Fort Benton with the heating system. Last spring and this fall there was no heat in the school besides portable heaters due to the boilers failing.

Will Scott
Fort Benton, MT 59443

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our basic human needs must be met in order for us to learn, grow, and contribute to our communities. It's up to us to work together to identify challenges in our communities and come up with solutions for those challenges.

As a Montanan in it for the health and well-being of us all, I urge the DEQ to prioritize Montana Schools and apply for the \$50 million grant that would implement critical infrastructure upgrades to our schools.

Thank you for your time, effort, and consideration.

Lauren Swett
Gardiner, MT 59030

2/8/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I taught in Glendive Schools for several years before I retired. All the buildings were older and had wiring that did not support the new technology. We blew breakers a lot. This was years ago but mill levies were not passing so articles in the paper painted a picture that it has not improved but gotten worse!

Donna Merrill
Glendive, MT 59330

2/7/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our school is in need of updates on both heating, air conditioning and ventilation. Because my room was on the 2nd floor, I would go over during the warmer months and open windows to cool off my room. Then at 10 the administrator would get on the intercom and remind us to close windows, pull shades in order to keep rooms cool the remainder of the day. Many times when the temperature was near 100, we invariably had kids going home sick. I always shopped summer clearance rather than buying winter clothes because our rooms were so beastly hot. We have had a difficult time getting mill levies and bond issues passed because community members are overtaxed. Any assistance for our schools in the way of energy efficiency would be greatly appreciated.

Susan Peterson
Glendive, MT 59330

2/7/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I have 8th, 6th and K children - all attending Glendive Public Schools. I, too, attended Glendive Public Schools and exhibit great pride where in where I was raised and continue to raise my own children. With that said, I have sat on 3 different committees through the past 8 years who had one common goal - get a bond passed for Glendive Public Schools for the first time in 57 years. I am happy to report we passed a small one this last fall - but it's not enough. This will only bring the high school up to a "functional" level - while our elementary and middle school is SCREAMING for help! I ask that you strongly consider apply for this money and help bring back high quality Montana schools - because they are failing and no one is coming to help us; so it's time we help ourselves!

Kayla Rivas
Glendive, MT 59330

2/12/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

During this last cold snap, elementary school temporary classrooms were barely heated above freezing temperatures, and during hotter months, middle school students and teachers have uncomfortable and difficult temperatures to deal with. These conditions make learning harder, when distracted by physical temperature discomforts. Our ancestors would tell us of the experiences they had with the temps, but our children are not acclimated to such adversities. Modern amenities are expected in such public education environments, and our local communities are suffering economically due to loss of BNSF roundhouse, instability in the Bakken oil fields and lack of larger income jobs to provide strong tax revenue for the education systems.

Levvies are becoming harder and harder to pass, with everyone feeling the pains from the current economy. At the end of the day our children are suffering and very few have the financial freedom to keep their children home and homeschool. Please consider these grants as a priority for our future generations.

Victoria Shoopman
Glendive, MT 59330

2/12/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I was an educator in Glendive for 23 years. During that time I worked in Washington Middle School in both classrooms and the media center. One of my classrooms routinely reached 95 degrees in the fall and 60 degrees in the winter. The media center often had little heat during the winter because the boiler wasn't working properly. Students were too hot or too cold which interfered with their ability to focus. It was not uncommon for students and staff to be ill by the end of the day from the excessive heat. The school buildings are all old and even though there is a mighty effort to keep the HAVC systems functioning, it just isn't happening. There simply isn't enough money in the school district to keep old systems working without help. Grants are just about the only path left to help these rural communities keep building HAVC systems in repair or replacement. Please fund grants for these problems using the federal money that is available.

Sheryl Stansbury
Glendive, MT 59330

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

If the Glendive Public School system were to receive a grant to make energy efficient upgrades it would be a huge blessing to our community. Each of our 4 schools have many challenges that range from leaky steam pipes, mold, inefficient lighting and in some cases dangerous (due to the degradation of insulation) to operate lighting fixtures, and the list goes on and on. In some of our schools, students in one part of the building will be bundled up in winter gear to keep warm, while windows in the other part of the building are open to cool the room (in winter) to a temperature that is an acceptable learning environment. Tax payers in Dawson County have been generous in the recent past passing two mill levies and a bond to address some of our issues, but that money will only do the bare minimum to keep our kids in school.

Sarah Thorson
Glendive, MT 59330

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I am a mom to two smart, driven children in Glendive. I worry about their desire to stay in our area to raise their children after going through the public school system they have gone through. My daughter had to relocate classrooms mid year because the boiler would not support the entire school any longer. Two entire grades of children were moved into modular classrooms that were plopped down in the middle of their playground. The sacrifice was for them to have heat. This is only temporary and is just the tip of the ice berg when it comes to the necessities these schools have accumulated throughout years without proper funding. Governor Gianforte, I encourage you to apply for much needed federal funding to keep our kids' schools up to date and safe. I would like to see my children not just survive in these schools, but thrive because of them. Thank you.

Rachel Torres
Glendive, MT 59330

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I'm writing to encourage the DEQ to apply for 50 million dollar grant. if school classrooms are uncomfortable, valued learning time is wasted.

Patricia Rosenleaf
Great Falls, MT 59405

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

As a parent and grandparent of Montana natives, I urge DEQ to prioritize Montana Schools and apply for the \$50 million grant. I don't think I need to expand on the obvious benefits of investing in the future of this great state - our children and grandchildren!

Thanks.

Bob Antonick
Helena, MT 59602

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Please do the right thing for Montana's children by prioritizing Montana Schools and apply for the grant money.

Erik Brown
Helena, MT 59601

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

To the DEQ and Governor Gianforte:

I am a volunteer in the Helena Schools and the grandmother of students in elementary school, middle school, and high school. I am well acquainted with the need to address infrastructure issues in our schools. HVAC systems are old and operate poorly. We have had two light fixture fires in two different schools in the last two years. The windows in most of our schools are as energy inefficient as they can be. It is difficult for students to be their best when indoor air quality is poor and it is too cold or too hot in the classroom. Electric room heaters, which are in common use, are dangerous when young students are around.

I would welcome grant money being available to address energy issues in our schools. I am certain our school district would apply for a share of infrastructure money. We currently do not have the revenue to support the educational opportunities our students have enjoyed in the past. We are looking at damaging budget cuts for the coming year. Please do all that you can to make financial support available.

Ellen Feaver
Helena, MT 59601

2/14/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Please apply for this 50 million dollar grant to help fund Montana schools.

Steven Gores
Helena, MT 59602

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

We have taken the first step to improving school infrastructure, now it is time to apply for the \$50 million federal grant that would help pay for long needed repairs for our local schools.

I urge you to apply for this grant.

Linda Gryczan
Helena, MT 59601

2/14/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

At our school board meeting last night we discussed how much money we will need to cut from our school district budget by closing schools, reducing custodial staff and declining to pay raises to teachers. This is because we don't have enough money to do the deferred maintenance on our school buildings and they are beginning to fail. Please prioritize Montana schools and apply for this infrastructure grant!

Carrie Jones
Helena, MT 59601

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I work at Boulder Elementary in Boulder, MT. Depending on the time of year many classrooms are exceedingly hot which is distracting to students and teachers. Winters can be cold again depending on the weather. I am sure the school would benefit from new windows and doors that are more energy efficient for both cold and heat.

Please apply for the grant!

Colleen Murphy
Helena, MT 59601

2/8/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

In all Montana cities and towns, schools play a critical community role. Besides being a center of learning for reading, writing and arithmetic, schools have libraries full of books; computer labs for learning computer skills; gyms for BB and other sports; speech therapists, nurses, counselors, play ground and classroom aids; serve nutritious meals; have playgrounds; and much more. Schools are a community resource for music concerts and theaters; for sports events; a meeting space for local community groups; and a safe place during extreme weather events.

By supporting infrastructure upgrades for schools, the entire community is being supported.

Ruth Swenson
Helena, MT 59602

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our children represent our future. Why is it constantly necessary for us to repeatedly emphasize the importance of making our children a top priority at all levels of government in Montana?

Dr. Gregory Thomas
Helena, MT 59624

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Dear D.E.Q. and Gov. Gianforte,

NOW is the time to step up for YOUR/OUR Montana communities! I urge you to be pro-active and apply for the \$50 million grant to upgrade our schools. many rural buildings haven't seen an upgrade since they were built. Property taxes have soared for the regular working family; so this grant money to upgrade the schools is critical.

Our community uses the old school for community events. The windows are not efficient, the lights are fluorescent, the heating is propane ,very costly and inefficient. NOW is the time.

Thank-you,

Colleen Hinds
Heron, MT 59844

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Governor, PLEASE:

Please prioritize MT schools!

Sandy Schott
Kalispell, MT 59901

2/9/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would very much be interested in the Livingston schools receiving funding for energy efficiency and clean energy upgrades. Our local government right now is proposing a Mill Levy to fund school upkeep, as it is badly needed, but if we could instead receive outside money to pay for these upgrades it would benefit our school district, the children it serves, and me as a tax payer in Park County. I encourage you to put forward the school clean energy package and request that it be funded for the State of Montana.

Kathryn Eklund
Livingston, MT 59047

2/14/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I support this initiative. It is a no brainer for our kids in schools and the communities at large. Make it happen.

Tony Noble
Livingston, MT 59047

2/13/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Please urge DEQ to prioritize Montana Schools and apply for the \$50 million grant.

Heather Sheffield
Livingston, MT 59047

2/6/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Dear DEQ:

People in Montana pay taxes in order to receive services from the U.S. government. It should be an absolute priority for DEQ to apply for the \$50 million federal grant to enable Montana's aging school infrastructure and facilities to be upgraded to energy efficient and less polluting forms of heating and cooling. Doing this type of upgrade will also provide much needed construction jobs in Montana communities -- especially in the rural part of this huge (4th largest) state.

Please do not miss this opportunity to improve Montana's schools. Thank you.

Mary Catherine Dunphy
Miles City, MT 59301

2/22/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

How in the name of God can the Gianforte administration keep leaving free Federal money on the table, when it can help Montana children!?

First it was a failure to fund school lunches, now we have to urge the Governor to even apply for GRANTS!

This is so basic, apply for the money already! Our schools deserve better.

Carl Raymond
Miles City, MT 59301

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Please apply for available grant money to support energy efficiency and infrastructure issues for our schools. As a teacher, parent, and taxpayer, I see local schools struggling with energy increases not covered by State funding. Better efficiency and updated infrastructure is important to keeping our schools running smoothly. Thank you.

Rebecca Dupre
Missoula, MT 59803

2/9/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

This is a good proposal to help make improvements for all MT schools and help prepare for future energy needs. It is a wise use of our tax dollars for positive outcomes in the future. Please prioritize our schools and apply for this grant.

Michael Hathaway
Missoula, MT 59801

2/5/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I'm getting tired of Montana leaving federal funds on the table to prove a point. So many of our schools are hot and smoky in September and cold inside for half the school year. Let's use some common sense and use federal dollars to make some improvements!

Brent Hildebrand
Missoula, MT 59801

2/21/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Dear Decision Makers,

Please do the right thing for education and all our kids by implementing a strategic move to energy @greening” of our schools. Now with budgets in the red we need to do the transition to green affordable energy to save hearts, lungs and minds in our great state. Apply for these funds and renew our schools energy platform now!

Steve McArthur
Missoula, MT 59804

2/8/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our children are the future. Please do all that you can to protect their health. DEQ and Governor Gianforte: Help our children and families prioritize schools and apply for the \$50 million grant!

Catherine Nolan
Missoula, MT 59803

2/14/2024

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Good day,

I strongly urge the DEQ to prioritize school energy efficiency and upgrade programs with the 50 Million in grant funding available. Our school infrastructure is always a good investment, and focusing on efficiency and clean energy is critical. With consonantly worsening fire and smoke seasons, lead in pipes and budget shortfalls, investing in school infrastructure is the right thing to do.

Here in Missoula and everywhere across the state districts are facing looming budget shortfalls in the millions of dollars. Energy efficiency and clean energy projects can put real money back into school budgets.

Solar panels, electric school buses, etc, can make a real difference in school budgets and therefore the quality of education for Montana's students.

Thank you.

Norman Singley
Missoula, MT 59801

2/5/2024

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

My wife and I have worked in all of the 6 school districts in Carbon County. At this time only one of them has air conditioning (a new high school). Kids and staff are scheduled to start school and be in those classrooms in mid to late August when the heat is on...yep real hot outdoors and indoors.

Having state and/or federal money to help school districts insulate, add solar power and add air conditioning to their buildings would be a sensible thing for actual education to take place in these buildings in the heat of August and September.

Please do what you can to bring these kind of resources to our kids and communities.

Grant Barnard
Red Lodge, MT 59068

2/12/2024

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I recently attended a concert at my great granddaughter's school. I was surprised at how run down it felt. Her school isn't in Glendive but based on my experience it appears that my great granddaughter's might be next. I am confident Glendive isn't Montana's first disaster. Montana must set an example of how we value our students by teaching them in an environment that doesn't distract them with serious environmental problems. Giving a kid good and effective education will serve Montana well.

Julie Holzer
Red Lodge, MT 59068

2/6/2024

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Increased energy efficiency is a vital component in taking Montana into a smart energy future. Our children will be most impacted by the decisions we make now. Let's give them a brighter future and do what we can to increase energy efficiency in our schools, and address vital infrastructure needs.

David Lehnherr
Red Lodge, MT 59068

2/15/2024

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

We have all seen it...increasing property taxes in the state of Montana along with increasing energy rates makes lowering costs for schools more important than ever. With that in mind, I would urge the DEQ to prioritize Montana Schools and apply for the \$50 million federal grant available for energy efficient upgrades that will bring the overall costs down for our schools.

Lila Randolph-Poore
Red Lodge, MT 59068

2/7/2024

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I am just a concerned community member who worries about the amount of "homeless-couch surfing" children and kids in the foster system. Is there a way to include some of this funding to help create a "safe space" for youth to sleep and be fed within the boundaries of a school building? (Yes, there would need to be staffing.)

ML McElveen
Roundup, MT 59072

12/24/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would like to share with you all what we have done for energy efficiency of upgrades at the high school. We're down on electrical consumption by 50% and we have lowered our cost with our solar array by 62%. We have completed the HVAC upgrades I efficiency motors and lighting and I believe we can be a resource for other schools to do the same. I would love to share my expertise with other schools. I have contacts at the DEQ in the state energy department and will have worked with them in the past.

Sam Spector
I am a school official
Facility Manager
Sweet grass county high school
Big Timber, MT 59011

12/16/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

We need to make sure our children are not subject to unhealthy/unclean air, water & learning spaces. They are our most vulnerable, as well as our future! We need to be better at getting ahead of the potential problems rather than wait till they are already a hazard & harmful for our children.

Katie Harrison
I am a community member
ALL BILLINGS SCHOOLS
Billings, MT 59101

11/21/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would like them to be made aware of whatever energy efficiency upgrades might be applicable to their buildings, especially the older ones. Thanks

Jerry Kilts
I am a community member
Lockwood Schools
Billings, MT 59101

11/27/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Pryor district is dealing with very old energy systems. One of our four boilers continuously goes down during the winter, our windows all leak cold through them which makes it difficult to keep classrooms warm, and the old solar panel system stopped working over a decade ago. We could really use some energy upgrades down here on the Crow reservation.

Eric Terrill
I am a school official
Superintendent
Pryor Public School Districts #2 & #3
Billings, MT 59102

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Regarding the Climate Emissions & Resilience grant, please include a program for energy efficiency upgrades in public schools. Having volunteered with an alternative high school program, a school library, and speech and debate tournaments, I can attest from personal experience the need for weatherization, insulation, HVAC, and other infrastructure like solar generation. In winter students, teachers, support personnel, and volunteers should not need to wear coats in classrooms, meetings, cafeteria, library, and hallways! But they routinely need coats to stay warm. Part of providing an education is providing a safe environment to facilitate learning, and environmental comfort is part of a safe environment.

Anne Millbrooke
I am a community member
Bozeman High School
Bozeman, MT 59715

12/14/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

My name is Lara Belice. I am the sole teacher (sole adult) at Cooke City School - a one-room, rural, K-8 grade Montana public school, located four miles from the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. As the supervising teacher at Cooke City School, I am responsible for teaching all subjects to all grade levels, as well as the maintenance of the school buildings and many other tasks.

Cooke City School easily qualifies as one of the most remote public schools in the lower 48 states. Cooke City is a small island of buildings (3 blocks wide by 7 blocks long) surrounded by millions of combined acres of National Forest, National Park, and Wilderness. For six months of the school year, the nearest town with professional services is a 2.5 hour one-way drive (with good roads) to Livingston, MT, with a population of 8,000. The other six months of the year, residents can travel 1.5 hours to the east and south, over a mountain pass, to Cody, Wyoming, with a population of 10,000.

Due to the remote location of Cooke City, many maintenance issues are tackled by local residents. These local workers get the job done; however, many are not professionally trained in the maintenance or building project they are performing. They offer a needed service to local residents because it is outrageously expensive to hire a non-local professional to complete a Cooke City job.

The Cooke City School building is an older log structure, originally built to serve as a Catholic church. The building was purchased by the school in the late 1990s and converted into the school building. The boiler system used to heat the school functions, but it is old, and I question its efficiency. As well, the windows of the teacherage building are old and lack proper insulation. Area businesses and residents must rely on receiving propane services from the west during the winter months. These services are expensive; sometimes the propane cost for Cooke City is five times as much as other areas in the state.

With energy efficiency funding designated to schools, Cooke City School would be able to hire a trained professional to travel the distance to Cooke City to provide a quality assessment of the school building's energy use with recommendations on best upgrades to operate a more energy efficient school.

Cooke City residents value the wildness of the area and want to conserve natural resources. As a public building, the school should be a model for efficient energy use.

Lara Belice
I am a school official
supervising teacher
Cooke City School
Cooke City, MT 59020

11/17/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

More efficient insulation

Solar and wind generation for electricity

More efficient heating systems such as ground pump technology.

Wendy Kamm
I am a community member
Chouteau County public schools
Fort Benton, MT 59442

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Ground source heating or geothermal. The EPA calls it the most cost effective, energy efficient renewable energy available. Utah does not build a school without installing groundsource heating and cooling. The Indian reservations in ND have grants for ground sourcing their schools. Newtown, ND is building a community center which must be huge as 260 boreholes if you want to check it out. The payback is based on current energy costs but payback is between 5-10 years.

Our Montana schools are desperate for funding as total tax burden falls on property owners. So unfair for farmers paying for high school.

Our boiler systems are aging. Few schools have AC except in administrative offices. Groundsource will give you AC by reversing the flow in the cooling season. www.geoexchange.org

Peggy Iba
I am a community member
Glendive Public Schools
Fort Peck, MT 59223

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would like to see a more insulated roof to lower the cost of heating during the winter. I would also like to investigate wind energy. I am looking into e-busses and to power them through wind energy would be amazing.

Steven Mayhue
I am a school official
superintendent
Froid Public School
Froid, MT 59226

11/21/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Please, please include our eastern Montana schools in your Climate Emissions planning grants. With the extremes in weather and our limited populations, I think all of our eastern Montana schools are in dire need of upgrades for weatherization, HVAC systems etc. We need help to make these schools more energy efficient so they cause fewer emissions, use less expensive energy, and provide an example to our communities about doing the right thing. Schools seem to be the perfect place for these resources to be targeted, don't you think?

Thanks for reading,

Kristin Aus
I am a community member
Deer Creek Elementary, Bloomfield school, Richey schools, Glendive schools
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our schools are all in major need of help. Right now they are in the process of putting in temporary modular classrooms as we can not even turn the boiler on at lincoln school.

Amanda Buettner
I am a parent
Lincoln elementary school
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

All of our schools in Glendive need they have Boiler problems, HVAC problems, roof, etc Please help, it is really bad. Lincoln school even had to rent trailers, for temp classrooms on the street it's so bad.

Richard Burley
I am a community member
Jefferson, Lincoln, Washington Middle School and Dawson High School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I'd like to see a whole new school for K through 5 for Glendive, maybe even K through 8. If that's not possible, Lincoln needs to be replaced. Right now they're getting temporary modular buildings due to the fact that the heating system cannot even get upgraded because the existing system is too old to even retrofit the needed repairs.

But, maybe with this money, there could be some way to just replace the whole heating and cooling system and get all new and no need to patch and patch. All the schools here in Glendive are all in dire need of better HVAC systems. I was a substitute teacher at all the schools, and I can attest that it is absolutely needed.

For a community the size of Glendive, our schools and their systems are not what they should be. Please help! For my kiddos and those to come. Thanks ??

Callie Dasinger
I am a parent
Lincoln Elementary School or Glendive Public Schools
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would love to see new heaters Or air conditioning for the students, better insulation for better energy bills. If energy efficient windows would help that would be great.

Tricia Dominguez
I am a community member
Dawson County High School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Heating/ac, electric, roof

Robert E
I am a parent
Dawson county hs
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Growing up, I attended Glendive Schools and have fond memories; never was staying warm a concern. The children today need a warm environment in order to concentrate and complete their studies well. I think everything to do with energy efficient materials would be awesome to obtain.

BettyLou Eggert
I am a community member
Lincoln Elementary
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our third grade students are currently in the process of being moved into modular units because of lack of heat and air conditioning in their section of the school.

Jennifer Fletcher
I am a parent
Lincoln Elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Some of Lincoln school building is over 100 years old. This year modular classrooms have been brought in, we really need to upgrade our boiler system.

Cindy Gabbert
I am a community member
Lincoln Elementary school
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I believe all the schools need new windows. But Jeffersons I don't think have had anything done since it was built in the 50's. The roof and walls need insulation. I know they need work there.

Rhonda Geiger
I am a community member
Jefferson Elementry School Dawso County
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

The existing heat and air are outdated and do not work properly making some rooms hot and some freezing. Having a grant to help with updates would be amazing.

Leslie Gilbertson
I am a community member
Dawson County High School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

All of the schools in our district have HVAC issues. We have boilers that do not work and cannot be updated. Our classrooms are either 50° or 85°. No I'm between. Our community refuses to pass it on to help with upgrade.

Megan Greenwalt
I am a school official
Educator-first grade
Jefferson Elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

My son's have had days where they were too hot or cold to get any benefit from being at school. The boiler has leaked and damaged the gym flooring, it has stopped running completely causing the school to be closed for the day. There are many more energy upgrades that can and should be made, not only at WMS, but in Glendives 2 elementary schools as well as the high school.

Melissa Holt
I am a community member
Washington Middle School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

My community needs work on all of their schools.. Jefferson has water issues there where they can't drink the water, Lincoln has mold issues, asbestos, no heat to the point where they had to bring in temp classrooms, Washington has mold and always cold, Dawson County HS needs a new safer lighting system, mold and who liked what else.. I have an 8th and 6th grader and have literally contemplated moving so they can attend safer schools.

Felisha Jorgenson
I am a community member
Jefferson/Lincoln Elementary - Washington Middle - Dawson County HS
Glendive, MT 59339

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I have a child starting at Lincoln School in Glendive MT. She is remaining in the 1950s portion of the school as they just closed the older portion due to no heat and poor electrical. The boiler is obsolete or parts can be ordered.

Please help Glendive schools as I have more kids that'll need to continue their education in these dated, not efficient schools.

Danielle Kinney
I am a parent
Lincoln Elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Recently Dawson County, Montana passed school bonds to improve our aging schools with HVAC, and other necessary improvements.

A grant from the State of Montana would be a great contribution to the already funded project for schools and our children.

Cathy Kirkpatrick
I am a community member
Cathy Kirkpatrick
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our school is 100 years old, boiler no longer passes inspection plus parts are no longer available. Some rooms have no heat at all, some you would roast in and a couple were just right. When it would come on it would pop and bang and sounded like the roof was coming down. Bonds aren't passing so currently having modular rooms installed taking up most of playground area.

Geri Kirkpatrick
I am a community member
Lincoln Elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/11/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

New boiler system and lines for the school. It is something that we need done

Anna Kueker
I am a community member
Lincoln school
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I don't even know where to begin with the schools in Dawson County. They all need major upgrades for our kids to be able to even just attend school. It is not a great environment for learning when the kids are cold / hot due to lack of temperature control in the schools.

Mandie Melton
I am a parent
Dawson County High School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our schools have outdated hvac systems that require kids to wear coats to stay warm some days. Other days they get so warm it is hard to concentrate. The school can no longer get adequate parts for some systems. The kids cannot learn when they are struggling to survive the heat and cold.

Laura Moser
I am a community member
Laura Moser
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

We have 4 older schools that need a lot of upgrades to make them last. We could use roofing, hvac, windows, weatherization etc. our schools are old and it takes all our money to repair things like the boilers, pipes leaking and more. We really need this grant.

Laureen Murphree
I am a community member
Glendive Public Schools
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our boiler blew up 30 years ago when I was in junior high, and we essentially have been using the same boiler with few upgrades. Now our community is taxed with the burden of upgrading or shutting down the school. Some of the rooms in the winter are 50 degrees and doors adjacent will be in the 90s. We need as much help as possible! Our elementary schools are in even worse shape also!

Troy Myers
I am a community member
Dawson county high school
Glendive, MT 59330

12/21/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our school is a combination of 3 very old (100+) school building that have been pieced together. We have issues with old windows, poor insulation in areas, and old ventilation. Last Christmas break we had pipes freeze due to these problems and a large amount of water damage to repair. We are now in the process of planning to update/fix these issues with better more energy efficient solutions. We would benefit greatly from a grant to help offset costs.

Kelsi Nellerhoe
I am a school official
School Board member
Deer Creek Elementary
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Lincoln School is a 3-4-5 school in Glendive MT. The kids are now in portables on the playground because the boiler doesn't work and can't be replaced because the pipes in the school are so old they couldn't handle the pressure of a new boiler. The school needs a new heating and cooling system

Lynn Newnam
I am a community member
Lincoln School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

These poor kids and teachers are either hot or freezing, not ideal learning conditions

Pam OBrien
I am a community member
Lincoln Elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Glendive's schools have not had any energy upgrades in a number of years. Many times, the children are told to dress a certain way to prepare them for temps inside the schools. We definitely need help in dealing with the costs of what is needed to get these schools running more efficiently and safely for the children.

Shelley Palmer
I am a community member
Washington Middle School
Glendive, MT 59330

12/1/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

This school is on fire need of a new heating system. It is a shame that the students lost much of their playground to place modular units to go to class in.

Shawn Parent
I am a parent
Lincoln elementary
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Not just Jefferson but ALL of the schools are in desperate need of attention. I don't know what all they need but if you can think it/do it, they need it! Please help our community schools, the kids need it.

Thank you!

Tyler Quale

Tyler Quale
I am a parent
Jefferson Grade School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

We recently passed a bond to help with crucial infrastructure issues within our high school - however, our elementary schools are crumbling. We just shut down a part of an elementary school because it is beyond repair. Glendive schools need your help!

Kayla Rivas
I am a parent
Glendive Public Schools
Glendive, MT 59330

11/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

The boiler is out of date and not working. Our school needs heat.

Jennifer Scheetz
I am a community member
Lincoln school
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Dawson County is quite small and truly has a hard time passing school bonds over the years. Our schools are older and literally failing to hold our children in a safe environment. We finally had a bond pass recently & we were forced to bring in modular school rooms to Lincoln Elementary, where my son attends school. This expensive solution is purely temporary.

Without school funding our community will continue to diminish. This is truly sad to me.

As a young adult I attended MSU and chose to come home to work & raise a family. This little town is where I was raised and I truly feel Dawson County is worth helping through this funding.

Katrina Schultz
I am a community member
Lincoln Elementary
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

My daughter's school is half closed due to old and insufficient heating. Air conditioning is non-existent. They're currently in temporary pods taking up half the playground. My son goes to first grade at Jefferson and they have a secondary water system (cistern that needs filling) in order to have drinking water safe for consumption. They also have an outdated heating system and some window air conditioners. The school is 80-90 degrees for the first couple months of the year, and not hardly above 60-65 in the winter. They need help. The school doesn't have sufficient heating to keep students in. We have temporary pods being set up on the ground to have classes in for wintertime. The school needs insulation, windows, HVAC. There is also no AC in the school. My daughter's 3rd grade classroom was around 100 degrees inside most of the first 2 months of school last year. Last winter they had to rent a boiler to heat the school and still were advised to wear sweatshirts or jackets during school to stay warm enough inside.

Patrick Smart
I am a parent
Jefferson elementary school and Lincoln elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

They need the whole thing redone!

Nicole Smelser
I am a community member
Jefferson Elementary School, Washington Middle School, Lincoln Elementary
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I taught at Washington Middle School for 23 years. During that time I had classrooms on the second and third floors. The third floor classroom had fall and spring temperatures reaching 98 degrees and winter temperatures in the 60's. One second floor classroom had windows covered with thick frost in the winter, the other often was in the 60's during the winter. None of those conditions were very conducive for learning. These old school buildings badly need updated HVAC systems and windows and school districts just don't have the funds to meet these needs. Including schools in grant opportunities would be a wonderful investment in our children.

Sheryl Stansbury
I am a community member
Washington Middle School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would love if our school could get a new heating system to replace the old boiler system. The walls are constantly leaking steam causing mold issues. You can walk down the hallways and in a matter of 10 feet there is a 20 degree temperature change.

Jackie Stinnett
I am a parent
Dawson County High Achool
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Roof, electric, heating/ac

Cheyenne T
I am a parent
Dawson County HS
Glendive, MT 59330

11/29/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

HVAC problems have made the learning environment at DCHS very challenging. Because of the age of the boiler and pipes and inability to control the amount of steam going through the system some rooms are sweltering hot, while rooms in another part of the building are freezing. Frequent steam leaks are costing the school excessive amounts of money to fix.

Sarah Thorson
I am a parent
Dawson County High School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

The boiler system in Lincoln School is old enough that parts can no longer be obtained to make repairs.

It's inefficient and unreliable making the learning atmosphere undesirable for students and their teachers. It needs to be replaced not only for comfort reasons but also safety reasons.

Clarice Utgaard
I am a community member
Lincoln Elementary School
Glendive, MT 59330

11/16/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Most schools in our county and particularly the rural schools struggle to afford energy efficiency updates. This opportunity to supplement weatherization budgets and add clean energy should not be missed. All too many HVAC systems have reached the end of their useful lives and need to be replaced.

Gordon Whirry
I am a community member
Cascade County schools
Great Falls, MT 59401

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

This is a good opportunity to address rural school modernization and energy savings. Schools are often unable to fund these cost effective measures and this will take some burden off of local taxpayers.

Gordon Whirry
I am a community member
Gordon Whirry
Great Falls, MT 59401

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Helena High School is a sprawling facility that serves students in grades 9-12. Their Green Club (a group of students who are interested in conservation and responsible use of resources) raised funds to place solar collectors on their roof. They've also approached the schools lunch provider, Sodexo, about ways to reduce on waste created from the discarded packaging produced at lunch in the school. This last effort has been unsuccessful due to the lack of space in their school kitchen and cafeteria; an element that forces children to eat in hallways, classrooms, and even in bathrooms, but also forces many of the students to leave campus in an effort to find a meal. Since the facilities lack space, Sodexo says that they're forced to use single-use products for the food they provide, as there isn't even enough space to install a dishwasher. They clearly need a more comprehensive kitchen/cafeteria in order to serve the students in one locale and to serve students using multi-use trays. This has actually become a problem district-wide for the Helena Public Schools since COVID required an elevated level of precaution to protect the health of students, where most (if not all) of our schools changed to using only "throw-away products" for all meals. Sodexo and our Helena Public Schools need to transition back to utilizing durable, reusable products in their food services.

In addition to the food programs in our schools, and specifically at Helena High School, the high school lacks an air filtration system (HVAC) that would improve the schools' inside air. Athletes are complaining that they are relegated to exercise and practice inside the school during especially smoky days that we experience in August and September. Air monitoring inside and outside the school have shown actually worse air quality inside the school compared to that outside of the school! Helena High School needs a system that would improve their air quality.

Helena High School

Rob Freistadt
I am a community member
Helena High School
Helena, MT 59601

12/6/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

As parents of school kids it's important to us that our schools are made as energy efficient as possible so that monies can be used for programing instead of wasting energy. When we were students we remember how terrible the energy efficiency was in our schools. Undoubtedly not much has been done to upgrade the systems since then.

Energy efficiency is perhaps the easiest and most productive investment we can make in our schools and therefor in our kids' education.

Thanks for listening,

Tim Holmes
I am a community member
Central Elementary, Helena Middle School
Helena, MT 59601

11/21/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Regarding the planning grant the State of Montana received to formulate a greenhouse gas reduction plan for the state, please include rural schools in the plan, specifically a program for energy efficiency upgrades in schools such as weatherization, insulation, HVAC, and other infrastructure like solar generation. Thank you.

Michael King
I am a community member
Any rural school in need
Helena, MT 59601

2/8/24

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

This school is so old it is falling apart! It would be great to see it transformed with LED lighting, storm windows and a roof strong enough to hold a solar system!

Cheryn Metzger
I am a community member
Hawthorne Elementary School
Helena, MT 59601

12/14/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Insulation, chalk leaky windows & doors, solar panels, air heat pump, window coverings, south facing windows, on demand hot water heaters, low flow toilets, faucets that turn off automatically, etc.

Ruth Swenson
I am a parent
Helena High School, Capital High School
Helena, MT 59602

12/7/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Helena Public Schools (Helena School District #1) plans to undertake three types of projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next five year. First, we plan to conduct district-wide LED lighting upgrades. Only four of our 17 schools have LED lights, and we plan to phase out old fluorescent lights with LED. Next, we plan to implement a life-cycle replacement of old, and inefficient HVAC systems. We want to incorporate air conditioning into these new systems as both a quality-of-life upgrade and as a security enhancement (teachers can no longer prop doors open during hot weather because of school shooter threats). Finally, we will continue our program to install solar panels at our schools. We currently have solar panels at two elementary schools and two high schools, with one pending project at a third elementary school. We would like to install panels at all schools. As a final note, as the school district builds new schools over the next 5-10 years, we would like to strive for LEED certification on our new facilities.

Todd Verrill
I am a school official
Director of Facilities
Helena Public Schools
Helena, MT 59601

12/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

It is important to give public schools a prominent role in Montana's planning grant to develop a statewide greenhouse gas reduction plan. Schools house hundreds of thousands of Montanans daily during the 9-month school year, and provide a huge opportunity to retrofit/solarize/weatherize in a manner that will result in significant energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions. And using the greenhouse reduction funds to reduce schools' ongoing costs is an excellent service not only to the environment, but also to the Montana taxpayer.

Hugh Zackheim
I am a community member
Broadwater/Helena
Helena, MT 59601

12/14/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Landscaping is the last thing to go in when building a new building. Often times budgets diminish as projects progress often times, not completing landscaping. There's been much science done that shows the kids perform better at school when surrounded by green spaces. Trees also reduce energy cost, improve air quality, improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood and many other benefits. Increasing tree canopy in our communities, especially around our schools, should be included in this plan.

Fred Bicha
I am a community member
Kalispell middle school
Kalispell, MT 59901

11/21/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I am hoping you might consider funding solar instillation and upgraded insulation for the High School. Our school levies are quite high and equipment is not up to date. With savings on heat and electricity funds could be freed to bring our school into a whole new life.

Priscilla Bell
I am a community member
Laurel High School
Laurel, MT 59044

12/3/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

The concept of upgrading public schools ability to have energy efficient buildings that use renewable energy generation is a win for taxpayers and for our education system that is grossly underfunded and behind in infrastructure improvements. Case in point-the Livingston Public Schools have been struggling to update heating systems in some of their buildings and are currently debating what to do with a school that is moth balled, partially due to infrastructure problems. Please take advantage of the EPA monies available to help all of us in Montana.

Jeff Dickerson
I am a community member
Jeff Dickerson
Livingston, MT 59047

12/6/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Hello DEQ,

We are Park High School students and members of the Park High Green Initiative. The four schools in our district routinely have issues with their HVAC systems, they inefficiently use our energy, having excessive heat in some rooms and no heat in others. We have had past incidents where we have had to vacate classrooms to other parts of the school. A particular incident occurred last year where we were removed from classrooms due to a supposed gas leak. We know that heat pumps are an efficient heating method in our climate. Two out of our four schools have solar panels, but we are interested in getting solar panels for the intermediate and middle school. Our school along with many others in Montana are routinely using/offering plastic and Styrofoam for student lunches due to lack kitchen staff to wash dishes. This adds excessive unbiodegradable plastics to our ecosystem, while the process of making them is also hard on the environment. Having access to compostable alternatives would be an effective solution.

We hope you consider these necessary plans of action.

Thank You ,

Park High Green Initiative Students

Alecia Jongeward
Park High School
Livingston, MT 59047

12/11/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Energy savings can lead to real benefits for schools, including money for new staff and much needed supplies! Let's use this weatherization, HVAC upgrade and efficiency menu to make our schools stronger!

Joan Kresich
I am a community member
OPark Hight School, Sleeping Giant Middle School, Winans School
Livingston, MT 59047

12/20/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Please support clean energy. Wind or Solar. Pleased support our school.

Heather Sheffield
I am a community member
Eastside
Livingston, MT 59047

12/11/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our School drastically needs updates in windows and weatherizing. The windows and building are old, ranging from 1906 to 1970 in the older parts of the building. It is drafty and it is a struggle to maintain appropriate heat for students.

Julia Maxwell
I am a school official
Superintendent/ Principal
Marion Public
Marion, MT 59925

12/4/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

All of them! Thanks for collecting this information!

Winona Bateman
I am a parent
MCPS
Missoula, MT 59082

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Lowell School is an incredible space for learning and also meeting the everyday needs of students and their families. Upgrading the school's energy efficiency programs would enhance the childcare programming that Parks and Rec can continue into the summer time as well as save costs for a Title 1 school in a growing neighborhood and district!!

Hannah Kosel
I am a community member
Lowell School
Missoula, MT 59801

11/9/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

have two schools that are excellent candidates for solar retrofits but lack the funding to move forward as other schools in our city have done. Schools and other public buildings can be excellent role models for moving entire communities toward renewable solutions to the climate crisis. With initial assistance in funding, the goal will be for more and more schools to include these crucial solutions into their primary budgets, moving away from government assistance. Win-win!

Janet Lyon
I am a community member
target range & big sky schools
Missoula, MT 59807

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Switching from a oil based heating system to a water source heat exchanger would do a lot to lower costs and keep the students warm in winter and cool in summer ! This would enhance their learning and the teachers ability to focus on the teaching of the future generations.

Steve McArthur
I am a community member
Target Range Elementary
Missoula, MT 59804

12/5/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

We are a very rural school and very old. We had a wind incident that badly damaged our door and is a source of heat escaping. Budgets often don't cover this kind of thing. I would love to see this money made available for upgrades such as this.

Deborah Griffin
I am a community member
Nye Elementary School
Nye, MT 59061

11/27/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Currently Absarokee is looking to upgrade their boiler, and replace their roof. Large capital expenses that will deplete our building reserve. The Nye School has been experiencing water intrusion, due to a change in the water table as a result of the June 2022 floods. Weatherproofing and repairs of some sort will need to be done to prevent and fix water damage. This project is currently in the investigation stages, and the cost is unknown. Grants to assist these small districts would be a wonderful thing, and take the burden off our local taxpayers.

Kathleen Howes
I am a school official
School Board Trustee
Absarokee HS/Nye Elementary
Nye, MT 59061

11/30/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

The Absarokee High School is dated and in need of energy efficient windows. The brutal winter winds cut through the windows. We must take every action to improve the energy efficiency of our schools. I support the efforts of DEQ to invest in energy efficiency initiatives.

Lee Wilder
I am a community member
Nye School/Absarokee
Nye, MT 59061

12/14/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

A new power plant, HVAC system and windows.

John Linstrom
I am a community member
Cherry Valley, Polson, MT
Polson, MT 59860

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Oh, c'mon. Energy upgrades in all public buildings, especially schools, is the right thing to do. Temperatures in Montana are rising. The reason? We burn too many greenhouse gases. The National Climate Assessment just estimated we need to cut GHGs by six percent a year to meet our target: staying under 1.5 C global warming. We can do this. But it will take a commitment to energy efficiency.

Jeffrey Smith
I am a community member
Jeffrey Smith
Polson, MT 59860

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

I would like to see any improvement that will make the class rooms more comfortable for all the little students. Insulation, filtration, lighting, solar energy, clean water, safe and clean play grounds, and toilets.

Grace Maxwell
Red Lodge Elementary
Red Lodge , MT 59068

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Many school buildings in rural school districts are old with outdated heating systems, lack energy efficient windows and don't have the budget resources needed to upgrade HVAC systems or make their buildings more energy efficient. I ask DEQ to include a program for energy efficiency upgrades in schools such as install solar systems, weatherization, insulation, HVAC, and other infrastructure features that would improve energy efficiency. The \$4 billion made available by the EPA will help schools pay for badly needed infrastructure upgrades. Additionally, energy efficiency upgrades would reduce school energy costs freeing taxpayer dollars to support other educational needs.

Jeff Dibenedetto
I am a community member
Carbon County Schools
Red Lodge , MT 59068

12/14/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Our school could use weatherization and insulation and energy inefficiency upgrade.

Thank You

Garold Lazarowski
I am a community member
Swan Valley school Conden MT
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

11/12/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Inefficient boiler system with air controls. Old boiler getting to be outdated. Losing air and need to upgrade to another heating source.

Xander Canen
I am a school official
Athletic Director
Terry Public Schools
Terry, MT 59349

11/8/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Whatever they need!

Arline Koppenhaver
I am a community member
Terry schools
Terry, MT 59349

11/22/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Hello, as a farmer, I care a lot about safeguarding our natural resources. Thank you for all that you do. Wanted to respectfully ask you to please support increasing energy efficiency in our schools. Many citizens like myself want to collectively help us transition towards renewable energy and energy efficiency, as this creates thousands of jobs, helps us achieve energy independence, and keeps our air and water clean. I know we can all work together, to make our schools safer and energy smart places by moving more towards energy efficiency, and everyone will benefit. Thank you very much, for your time and consideration! Have a great day.

Mark Canright
I am a community member
Asbury, NJ 08802

11/22/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

Greetings! I am a young person and student, who cares deeply about protecting our environment. Thanks for all that you do in our community. I respectfully express support for investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and other measures that will protect our states beautiful clean air, water and natural resources. Young folks like myself want to know that our decision makers are committed to stewarding our natural resources wisely, and investing in energy conservation and efficiency. Thanks for your time.

Rebecca Canright
I am a community member
Asbury, NJ 08802

12/13/23

Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Denise Roth Barber, Climate Pollution Reduction Coordinator
1520 E 6th Ave Helena, MT 59601

As a concerned citizen I believe it is our collective responsibility to insure success of our children. Protecting them from conditions that will make them sick. Our children must be protected, enabling them to grow up and prosper. Gone should be the time of refusing to invest in them. When it's all said and done, a healthy child has the opportunity to escape from a troubled future of poor health. These children that have undesired health consequences cause an undue burden on our system riddled by failed policies. Whatever side you perceive you're on, those choices should be in favor of our children prospering, safe from illness, to ensure our bright future. In this land that has inspired some of the greatest accomplishments possible there is not compromise. Please do not leave our best assets at disadvantage. We must come together to protect them all.

J K
All Public Schools In America
Olalla, WA 98359

SAM's Core Purpose is supporting over 1000 visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!



March 25, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the School Administrators of Montana, a nonprofit advocacy organization that represents the voices of over 1,000 dedicated school administrators, I am writing to express our wholehearted support for the Montana DEQ's application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. One of our organization's core values is to ensure that every student in Montana has access to high-quality education in a safe and supportive environment. We believe that our objectives align with the goals of your grant program.

Our schools serve as the cornerstone of small and large communities alike, shaping the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and citizens. However, the reality we face is that many of our educational facilities are aging and inefficient. This not only poses challenges to creating optimal learning environments but also contributes to climate pollution due to inefficient infrastructure.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant presents a transformative opportunity for Montana's public schools. Through this grant, we can undertake capital investments to retrofit our facilities. This would include upgrading or replacing outdated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, improving insulation and reducing air leakage, as well as upgrading to more efficient lighting systems. Furthermore, the possibility of deploying on-site renewable energy generation paired with backup energy storage systems represents a forward-thinking approach to sustainability and energy independence.

Simultaneously, the conversion or replacement of our aging fleet vehicles, including school buses, vans, and utility service equipment could be a step towards reducing our carbon footprint. This initiative not only supports environmental sustainability but also promises to reduce operational costs in the long run, ensuring more resources can be directly allocated to student learning and support services.

The School Administrators of Montana are committed to working collaboratively with the Montana DEQ, local communities, and other stakeholders to ensure the success of these initiatives. With your support, we can make substantial progress in improving the energy performance of our schools and modernizing our vehicle fleets.

Thank you for your consideration and support of the Montana DEQ's application for this grant.

Sincerely,