

Stockton taps Sage Energy Consulting to help it become California's first "Zero-Emission School District"

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, USA, May 19, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- School may be out for the coronavirus, but progress continues in Stockton, California, on cutting energy costs.

The Stockton Unified School District, which serves 40,000 students, has selected Sage Energy Consulting to help make it the state's first "Zero-Emission School District." The district will take a significant step towards reducing pollution and improving air quality while saving money on energy, with a [\\$4.8 million grant](#) from the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The district received the [California Climate Investments grant](#) for its plan, "Getting Stockton Schools to Zero Emissions: Clean Air for Our Community." Sage Energy Consulting, based in the Bay Area, will now help the district develop an energy roadmap to reach net-zero emissions.

The strategy will involve integrating solar panels, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging stations; adding battery-electric school buses that avoid diesel exhaust; and addressing other forms of energy use by teachers, students, and maintenance staff. Sage will calculate the savings both in terms of emissions and avoided costs.

"The Stockton School District's commitment to sustainability is setting a great example for their students and school districts all over the country," said Brent Johnson, managing principal of Sage. "Together, with our project partners, we will develop and implement a plan for a healthier community and a greener California, adding to the district's energy savings, and helping other school districts benefit from their experience."

Getting to zero-emissions will involve a comprehensive look at the entire school district's energy footprint. Plans include leveraging state incentives for stationary batteries to optimize the charging of electric vehicles from the solar panels, making the renewable electricity they generate available 24/7 and not just when the sun is shining.

Converting to electric lawn equipment will also help: according to CARB, operating a gas lawnmower for one hour emits as much air pollution as driving 300 miles from Los Angeles to Las Vegas.

The Stockton school district has a history of innovation in sustainability at its 55 schools, where

82% of the students are considered socioeconomically disadvantaged. In the first five years of its program, the district not only cut energy usage but saved over \$9.3 million. Existing programs include a student energy patrol, and an online dashboard for each school that displays how much solar power it has generated, its savings on gasoline and water, and the equivalent in the number of trees planted.

The CARB project team also includes the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), Schneider Electric, and The Mobility House, as well as Sage Energy Consulting and the school district. Together they will step up outreach and education aimed at students, teachers and staff, the Stockton community, and other school districts that can benefit from the lessons learned and savings they achieve.

Sage has successfully helped more than 85 school districts plan and implement money-saving energy projects. Since 2009, both public and private clients have saved over \$300 million and counting on their energy bills.

About Sage Energy Consulting

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sage Energy Consulting provides energy planning, project management and asset management services. Sage has managed more than \$2 billion of energy projects, resulting in over \$300 million in savings to date for more than 100 public and private clients. Sage provides industry-leading expertise and project management in solar, efficiency, master planning, battery storage, fleet electrification, zero net energy (ZNE), asset management, and microgrids. Learn how to renew your energy portfolio at www.sagerenew.com.

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