

Energy and Sustainability Newsletter

MAY 2016

WHY 40 IN FOUR?

THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF HISD'S SUMMERS SCHEDULE

Starting May 30th, 2016, the District will have another reason to say, "TGIF!" This year marks the fifth summer the District has adopted the "40 in Four" work week.

By staffing entire departments and schools Monday through Thursday, the buildings are able to reduce the electrical usage it takes to start and maintain the air conditioning systems during the hottest parts of the day.

A building can better maintain cool temperatures in the evening than it can in the morning and afternoon. This not only saves the District on equipment life, wear and tear, it also saves on utility costs! Coincidentally, utility costs are the District's second largest expense, right behind salaries. So, the more campuses say "TGIF," the more money the District can save on utilities.

Eco-Tip

You can save up to 10% on energy costs annually by setting back your thermostat 7-10 degrees for 8 hours per day. So, make sure you turn down that air when you leave for school or work!

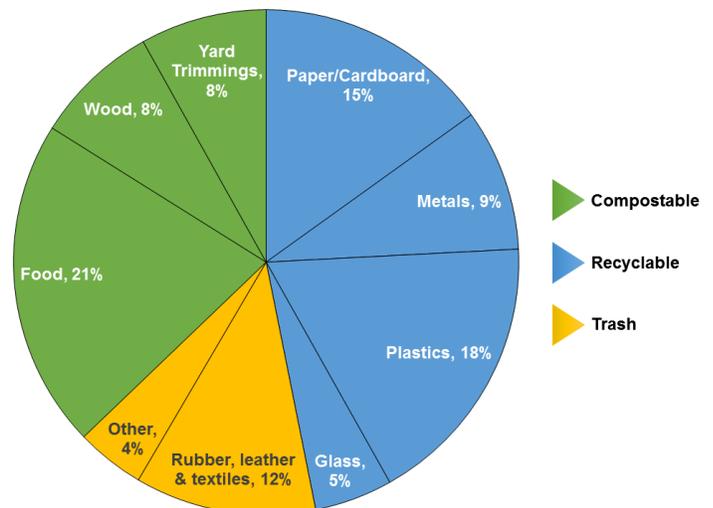
Source: Department of Energy

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2013, **254 million tons** of solid waste was generated in the United States.

- 87 million tons were either recycled or composted.
- Food waste makes up the largest percentage of landfill waste.
- Even after capturing approximately 59% of emissions, landfills released **6.3 million tons of methane** to the atmosphere in 2013. That is the greenhouse gas equivalent of 1.55 million gallons of gasoline.

Landfill Waste by Type



(Source: USEPA. "Advancing Sustainable Materials Management: Fact Sheet", 2015)



Furr High School at Earth Day 2016

HISD DRAWS STUDENTS AND STAFF TO EARTH DAY HOUSTON

On Saturday, April 16th, HISD's Energy and Sustainability Department hosted a booth at Earth Day Houston. This annual event brings thousands of Houstonians together every April to celebrate clean air and a healthy future. Earth Day Houston benefits Air Alliance Houston and is the City of Houston's official Earth Day celebration.

The booth was a part of Energy & Sustainability's Earth Month 2016 education and awareness campaign. Students and staff could play with an interactive lighting display, practice their recycling skills and see student artwork. Students and staff learned about the benefits of switching to energy efficient lighting as well as how to correctly sort their waste into different bins. Students and staff from schools that pledged to participate in Earth Month 2016 activities also earned points toward the grand prize of a new Texas native plant garden for their school.

"I was happy to see so many of our students and staff at Earth Day Houston," said Debbie Reagan, Manager, Energy and Sustainability. "Our goal was to focus on issues that people see every day and demonstrate how their choices can make a difference."

The Energy and Sustainability Department was not the only HISD group with a booth at the event. Furr High School had a large display that featured animals and their commitment to environmental and energy issues. Westside High School staffed a booth that focused on water issues. A big thank you to the students and staff from the 18 HISD schools that visited our booth: Furr HS, Wharton ES, Hamilton MS, Eliot ES, Emerson ES, HSPVA, Park Place ES, Westside HS, Stevenson ES, MacGregor ES, Brookline ES, Durham ES, Briargrove ES, Roberts ES, Chavez HS, Dowling MS, Bellaire HS, and Energy Institute HS!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY – Bike to Work Month



JUNE – Great Outdoors Month



JUNE 8 – World Oceans Day

JUNE 15 – Great American Campout

NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE



2016 Earth Month
Winner
Announcement

About Us

The Energy and Sustainability Department is a branch of the Facilities Services Department, and is focused on reducing the HISD's utility cost and environmental impact. To be featured in an issue, tweet us your story at [@HISDGoGreen](https://twitter.com/HISDGoGreen).