

Austin Independent School District (Austin, TX)

Austin Independent School District (AISD) will implement “Solar for Schools”: innovative energy technology packages pairing energy efficiency measures (building automation controls) and the installation of renewable energy technologies (rooftop solar, or photovoltaic (PV) arrays) to achieve their goal of net-zero schools and increase investment in disadvantaged communities at 16 schools. The program will actively engage minority and women-owned businesses with a particular focus on those located within federal HUBZones. The schools selected for the projects represent some of the most historically underserved students and communities both locally and nationally. As one of the nation’s pioneers in sustainability and energy efficiency, Austin ISD is known for its ability to rapidly implement complex equity-centered infrastructure projects and to foster creative partnerships that meaningfully engage students in green tech and sustainability-focused education. Austin ISD works with community partners and local agencies to enhance learning opportunities through school energy dashboards, on-site “field trips” where students learn about and monitor their green building systems, and problem-based learning. Two key partnerships include Austin Energy, the City of Austin’s electric utility, and EcoRise, an environmental justice nonprofit.

Community Benefits

The selectee states its proposal will increase clean energy job training in Austin, starting with the students at its school. Campus PV-related electrical systems will be configured to allow bi-directional energy flow to enable renewable energy to be pushed to the municipal power provider any time AISD produces more power than consumed on-site. This will allow schools to generate renewable energy for the municipal provider and to serve as a community center in times of energy shortages and other community crises.

Team Members	
• ACR Engineering	
Total Funds Requested	\$ 14,946,533
Proposed Cost Share (%)	\$ 834,585 (5%)
Number of Buildings	16

