

THE NORTHWEST SCHOOL'S

CARBON NEUTRALITY TASK FORCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The climate crisis is a pressing issue that affects both current and future generations, and poses incredible danger to the world's ecosystems. Because it disproportionately affects those of marginalized and BIPOC communities, it is a crisis on both an ecological and human scale. By going carbon neutral, NWS isn't just reducing its carbon footprint, it's defining climate as a critical issue, demonstrating change can be made, and inspiring other institutions to follow suit.

WHAT IS THE CARBON NEUTRALITY TASK FORCE?

The Carbon Neutrality Task Force is a motivated group of students, faculty, alumni and parents who wanted to orient NWS towards achieving carbon neutrality. Together, this group researched and created a plan for NWS' path to a carbon neutral future.

WHAT HAS THE TASK FORCE ACCOMPLISHED?

During 2021, the group researched and compiled ideas for NWS to reduce its carbon footprint. Then, in Nov of 2021, the task force released the Carbon Neutrality Report and Recommendations, a comprehensive plan for NWS to meaningfully achieve carbon neutrality.

THE CARBON NEUTRALITY REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

The report outlines several ways NWS can reduce its carbon footprint, including:

- Replacing outdated heating systems with electric or heatpump technology
- Replacing diesel-run bus fleet with electric buses and retrofitting current bus fleet to replace gasoline with biofuel
- Installing onsite solar panels
- Community initiatives to bike or bus to school
- Improving Energy Use Intensity (EUI) to reduce amount of energy we use per square foot



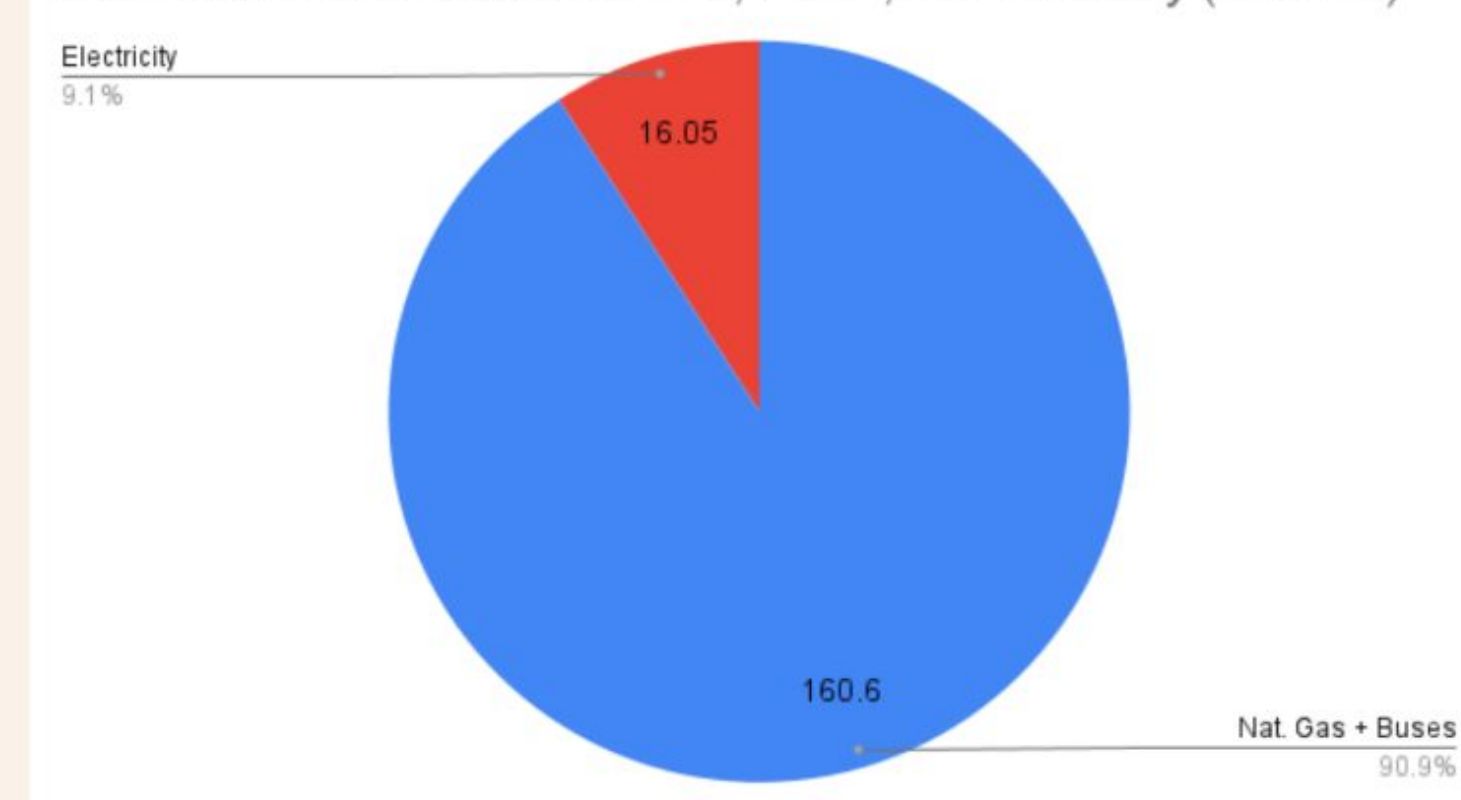
NWS Greenhouse Gas Emissions

2018-2019 school year



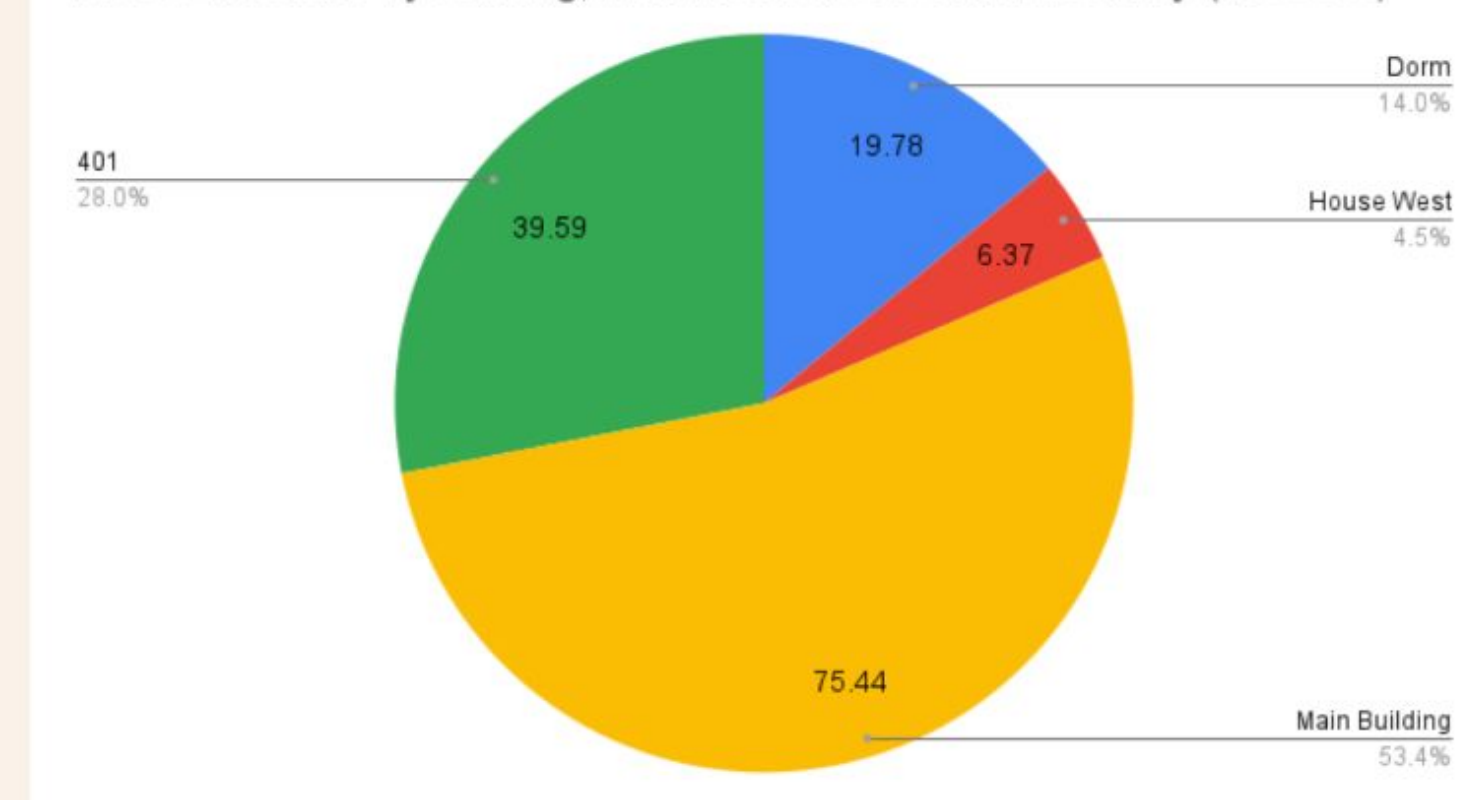
Emissions from NWS Activities and Purchased Electricity (Scope 1 & Scope 2)

NWS Emissions from Natural Gas, Buses, and Electricity (mtCO₂e)



Natural Gas - At NWS, emissions from on site fuel consumption to produce steam, heat or power come from the natural gas boilers in our buildings. Through the consumption of natural gas in the Main School Building, 401, House West, and the Dorm, the Northwest School emitted around **125 metric tons of CO₂e** during the 2018-2019 school year (data collected from natural gas invoices)

NWS Emissions by Building, from Natural Gas and Electricity (mtCO₂e)



Buses/van - During the 2018-2019 school year, The Northwest School owned 1 van, 6 diesel buses, and 5 gas buses. Over this time period, the bus fleet at The Northwest School emitted around **35 metric tons of CO₂e** (data from The Northwest School transportation department bus usage data)

Electricity - Around **16 metric tons CO₂e** came from electricity during the 2018-2019 school year (data from Seattle City Light utility data for the Main School Building, 401, House West, and the Dorm and Seattle City Light fuel mixes).

Indirect Emissions (Scope 3)

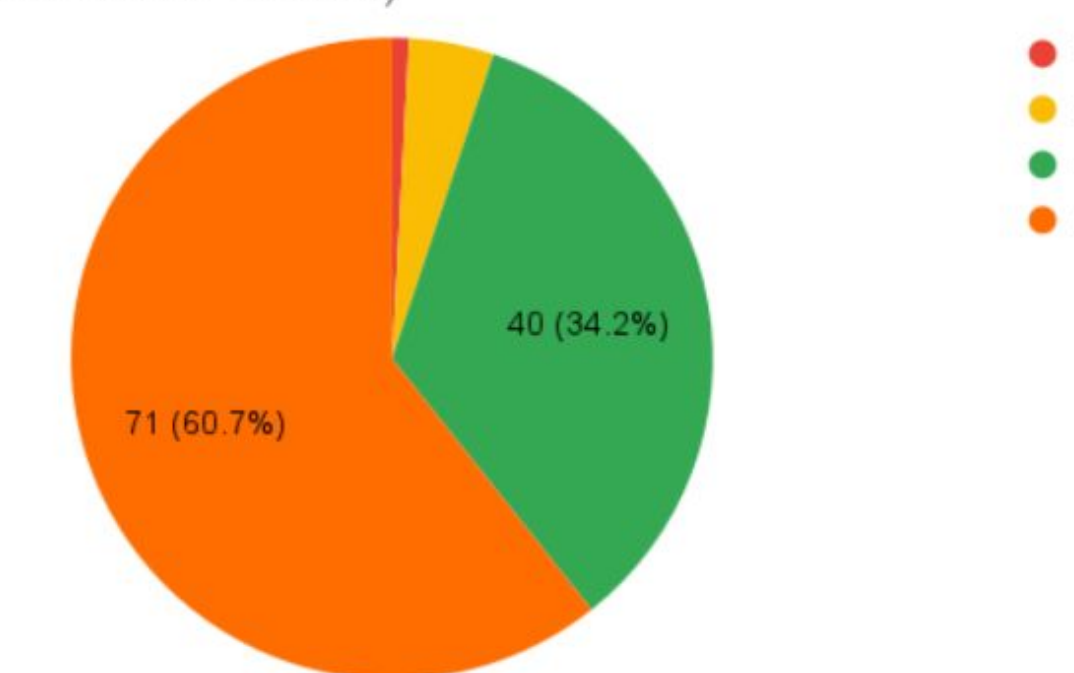
- Student and Faculty Commuting - around **432 metric tons CO₂e** during the 2018-2019 and 2017-2018 school years (data from 2018 survey of faculty and 2019 survey of students conducted by Jena Utaski, NWS '20).
- School sponsored air travel - around **89 metric tons CO₂e** during the 2018-2019 school year (data from list of administrative and international trip air travel).
- International Student Travel - around **662 metric tons CO₂e** during the 2018-2019 school year (data from survey conducted by Jena Utaski in 2019). We propose only offsetting our air travel emissions, which we cannot control.

NWS CARBON NEUTRALITY

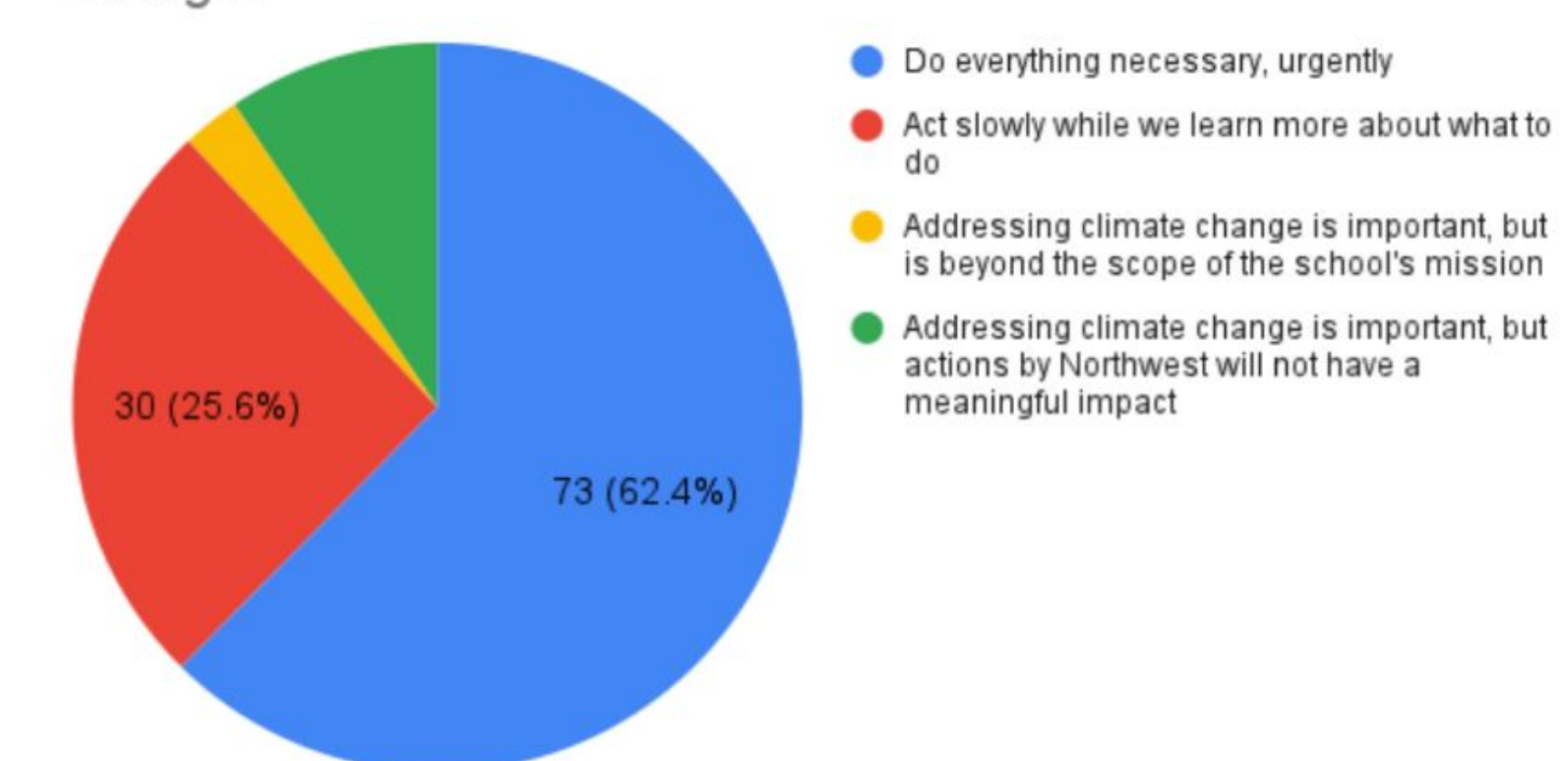
We sent out a survey in late November asking for feedback for our recommendations. Based on 117 responses, here are the most important takeaways:

- 88% of respondents support climate action at NWS.
- 75% support weaving climate action into school budgeting, strategic planning, and curriculum.
- 0% selected that they are "not worried about climate change."

How concerned are you about climate change? (5 - I'm VERY worried, 1 - I'm NOT worried)



What should The Northwest School do to take action on climate change?



For more information about The Northwest School Carbon Neutrality Task Force, the 2021 Report & Recommendations, or to get involved, please check out our website: <https://sites.google.com/northwestschool.org/nwscarbonneutrality/home>

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