

**AFT Massachusetts 2021 Convention**  
**Resolution submitted by the Boston Teachers Union -- Climate Change (2)**

**WHEREAS**, climate change is an urgent crisis confronting people all over the world: extreme weather, forest fires, increased infectious disease outbreaks, rising sea levels, and pollution are wreaking havoc on the planet, and

**WHEREAS**, Massachusetts's communities of color are disproportionately impacted by pollution, climate change, and resulting extreme temperatures, causing forced migration from Puerto Rico, Central America, and many parts of Africa, increased frequency and intensity of flooding and respiratory illnesses that exacerbate COVID-19 outcomes, and

**WHEREAS**, the climate crisis exacerbates already-existing systemic injustices along racial, regional, social, and economic lines, having a disproportionate impact on "frontline communities" (including Indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth), and

**WHEREAS**, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agrees that to avert this catastrophe, we need "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of our society" to reduce world carbon emissions to 50% of current levels by 2030 and to net-zero emissions by 2050, and

**WHEREAS**, buildings are the 4th largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the US, and it is essential for our union to take concrete steps to demand a green transformation at the sites where we have the most power: our schools, and

**WHEREAS**, drastic improvements to many public school buildings are long overdue, including a need to replace outdated and ineffective heating and cooling systems, improve ventilation and insulation, and remediate mold that pose a risk to students and staff, and

**WHEREAS**, many are out of work and in need of good jobs as soon as possible, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** that AFT MA endorse and promote a campaign for green schools to demand that the state of Massachusetts do their part to mitigate and prepare for the unfolding climate crisis by considering climate change mitigation in all aspects and planning for and investing in, public school infrastructure, including doing the following:

- **Retrofit and weatherize public schools to make them healthier and energy efficient;**
- **Install new electric, energy efficient heating and cooling systems that save money and the planet and keep our buildings' temperature better regulated;**

- **Install new ventilation systems that prevent COVID-19 and also provide heat and energy recovery by using outgoing air to heat or cool incoming air;**
- **Install solar panels to produce clean energy and provide cooling centers and electricity to communities during heat-waves, disasters, and power outages;**
- **Support the integration of school solar and other green technology with climate science and justice curricula across the grade levels;**
- **Source 100% of the energy used by public schools comes from renewable sources;**
- **Expand sustainable energy career programs to support pathways to green careers for Massachusetts students;**
- **Implement school composting programs, community gardening, and other sustainable practices to reduce carbon footprint, and address food deserts and other community needs, and provide educational opportunities for the students;**
- **Implement programs that allow for significant time in the outdoors, exploring nature for Massachusetts students;**
- **Work with unions to train and hire unemployed parents and public school alumni from neighborhoods with the highest unemployment rates to do this remediating, retrofitting, and solarization work;**
- **Prioritize schools serving low-income students and communities hardest hit by the impacts of COVID-19, environmental racism, and systemic disinvestment;**
- **Take proximity to sea-level and flood zones into account in all decisions about purchasing/selling/renovating buildings.**

REVISION OR COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

DEFEATED \_\_\_\_\_

TABLED \_\_\_\_\_