

**Representative Mark A. Wheatley** proposes the following substitute bill:

**SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS JOINT RESOLUTION**

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Wheatley**

Senate Sponsor: Karen W. Morgan

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature encourages the Utah State Board of Education and Utah's school districts to consider ways to establish schools in the state of Utah that promote a healthy environment for students, as well as being energy efficient in their operation and development.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ encourages the Utah State Board of Education to consider the broader application of the design and construction practices for healthy, energy-efficient schools, both for new construction and major renovation projects undertaken with school district funds; and

- ▶ encourages school districts to consider sustainable practices that can be incorporated effectively into school construction and operation.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

**H→** [~~WHEREAS, deteriorating school infrastructure and poor indoor environmental quality~~



26 ~~threaten the health, well-being, and achievement of students and staff in the state's public~~  
27 ~~schools;]~~ ←H

28 WHEREAS, healthy, energy-efficient schools are schools that create a healthy  
29 environment that is conducive to learning, and saves money, energy, and resources;

30 WHEREAS, these schools create a learning environment that supports student learning  
31 through improvements in site selection, daylighting, indoor air quality, thermal comfort,  
32 acoustics, and classroom design, all of which have an impact on a child's ability to learn and a  
33 teacher's ability to teach;

34 WHEREAS, the benefits of superior air quality, a key emphasis of these schools, have  
35 been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher  
36 retention rates;

37 WHEREAS, according to the United States Green Buildings Council, these healthy,  
38 energy-efficient schools consume an average of 30% to 50% less energy compared to  
39 conventional schools;

40 WHEREAS, these schools cost less to operate, utilize durable materials, and greatly  
41 reduce water and energy use, which generates significant cost savings;

42 WHEREAS, these schools provide an educational experience that transcends the  
43 classroom by creating a host of opportunities for curriculum innovation and hands-on,  
44 project-based learning in which the building itself becomes an interactive teaching tool; and

45 WHEREAS, healthy, energy-efficient schools currently under construction are on track  
46 to be among the first energy net-zero K-12 schools in the nation:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
48 encourages the Utah State Board of Education to consider the broader application of the design  
49 and construction practices for healthy, energy-efficient schools, both for new construction and  
50 major renovation projects undertaken with school district funds.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages school districts to  
52 consider sustainable practices that can be incorporated effectively into school construction and  
53 operation.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah State  
55 Board of Education and to the school boards of the state's 41 school districts.