



# ISD 197 Live Green Sustainability Program

June 1, 2026

Mark Fortman, Director of Operations

Meghan Bernard, Sustainability Manager

# Live Green 2026 Update

**To be good stewards of our resources and environment and instill these values to future generations**

- Natural Resources Management
- Solar Summary
- Energy
- Water
- Waste Management
- Grants
- Upcoming Projects
- Youth Engagement
- LiveGreen Clubs



# Natural Resource Management

## Two Rivers Bioretention Basin

### Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District

- Installed Spring 2026
- Capture parking lot salt & reduce water pollution to Mississippi River
- Engineered soil, pretreatment chamber, grading, 1200+ plants
- [Article](#)



# Solar Summary

## Reduces electric costs & GHG emissions

### On-site solar

- Over 900 kW
- Six schools
- 18% of total electricity use
- Projected savings +\$1.5M over 25 years

### Off-site solar

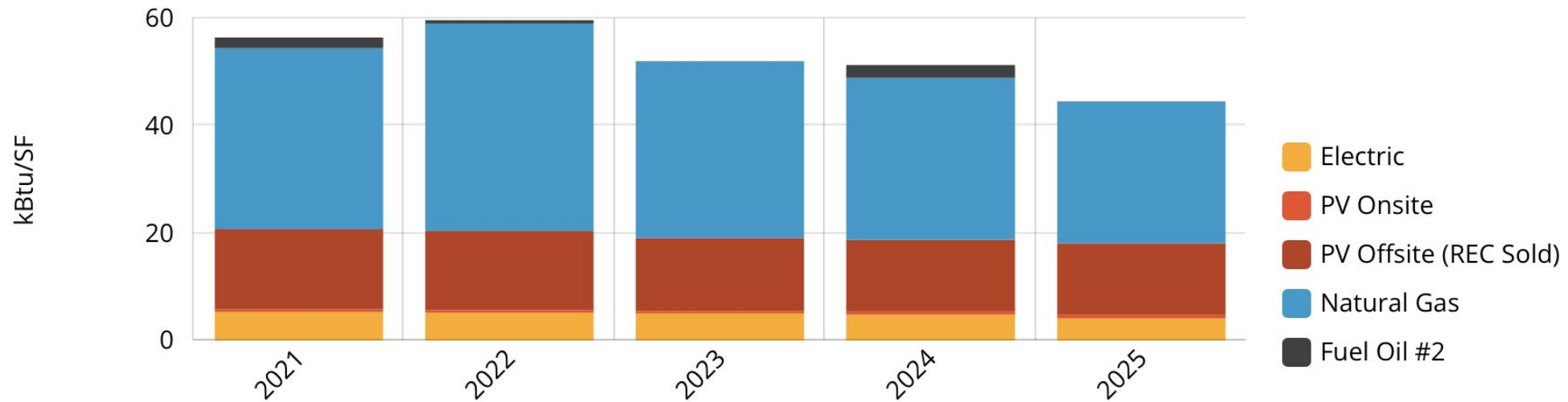
- Seven community solar sites
- 82% of electricity use
- \$1.5M in solar rewards since 2020

<b>Xcel Solar Garden Refund</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Refund</b>
2020	\$306,416
2021	\$196,331
2022	\$75,418
2023	\$417,272
2024	\$234,666
2025	228,448.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,458,551</b>

# 2025 Electricity & Natural Gas

## West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Public Schools Annual Usage

2021-2025, Weather Normalized\*



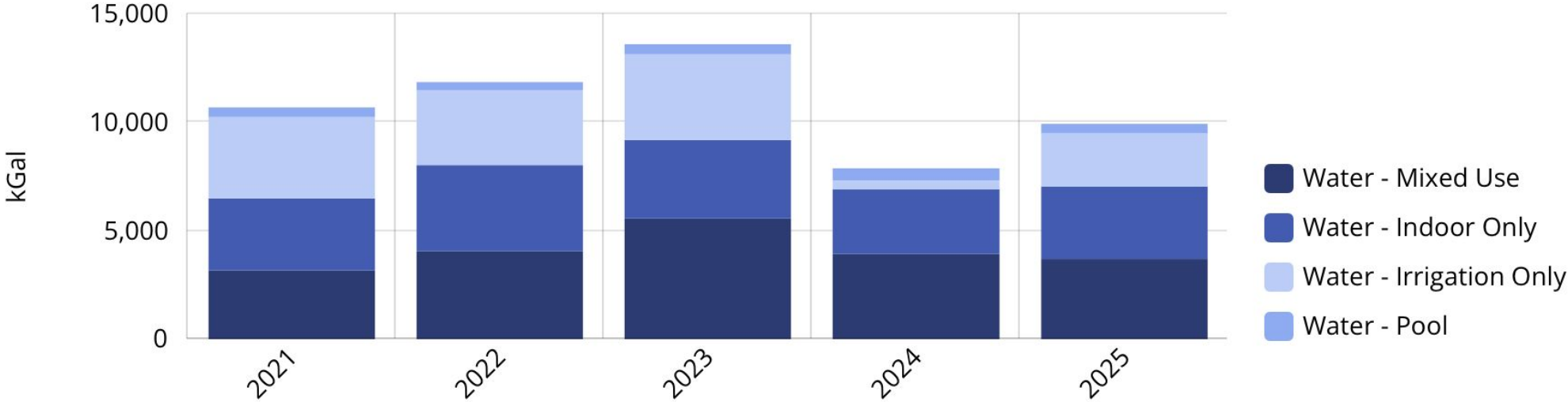
## 2025

- Energy Use: 44.55 KBtu/SF
- Down 13% from 2024
- Energy costs continue to increase

# 2025 Water and Sewer

West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Public Schools Annual Water Usage

2021-2025



## 2025

- \$86K in water and sewer costs
- 10 million gallons/year
- 26% Increase use from 2024

# 2025 Waste Management

## 2025

- Waste down 17% from 2024
- Diversion up 2% from 2024
- Cost down 40% from 2024

## Opportunities

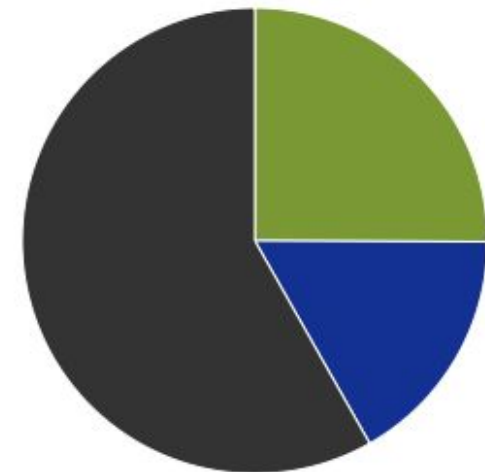
- 75% diversion goal
- Material management
- Tracking and awareness
- Reduce paper use



Waste

717,530 lbs

42% diverted from landfill



Apr 2025-Mar 2026

# 2025-26 Grants

<b>Focus</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project</b>
Waste & Material Management	MN Pollution Control Agency Waste Reduction	\$181,000	Dishwasher at Two Rivers High School
Youth Engagement	MN Dept of Transportation BOOST	\$14,362	Bike racks, helmets & locks
Youth Engagement	Dakota County SHIP	\$10,000	ADA outdoor equipment
Natural resource conservation	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$73,000	District Office/Two Rivers Rain Garden
Natural resource conservation	MN DNR Releaf Grant	\$40,000	Garlough School Forest
Natural resource conservation	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$20,000	Garlough, Heritage, Moreland & Two Rivers conservation cover/planting

# Two Rivers Dishwasher

## Two Rivers dishwasher

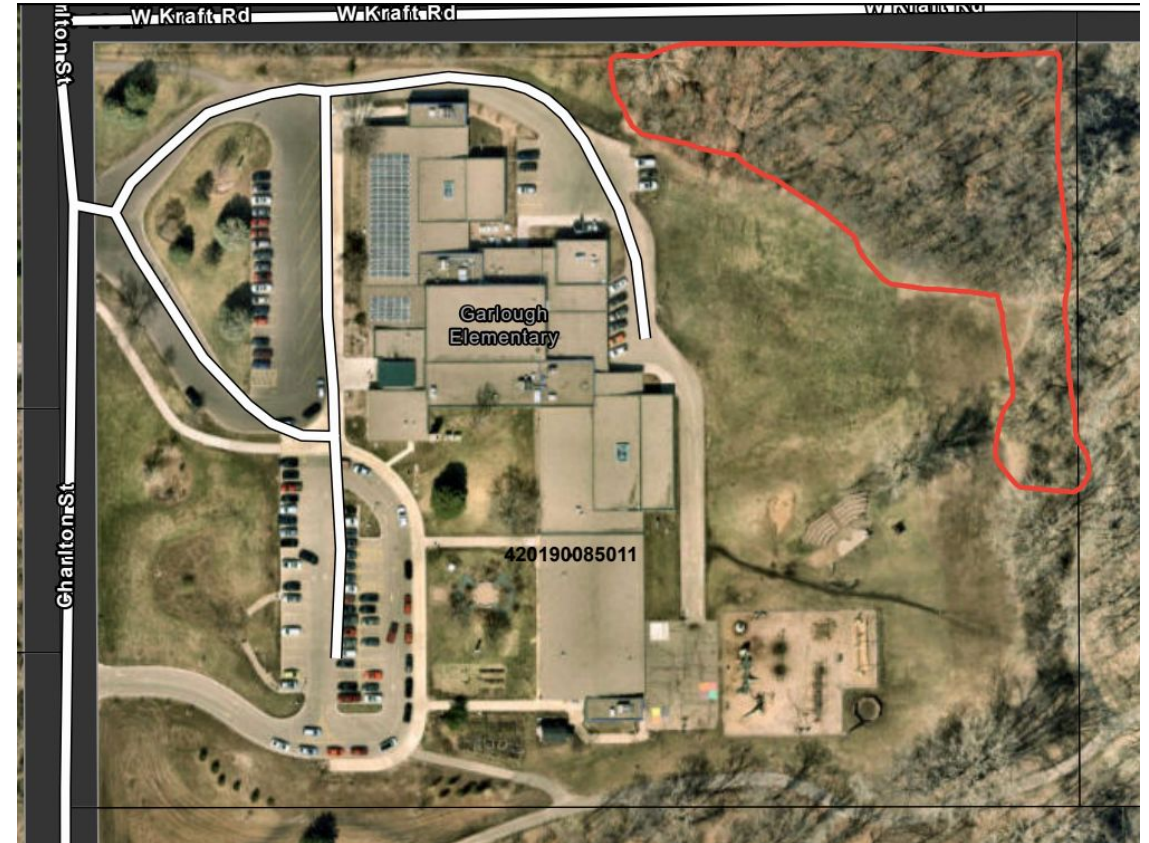
- MN Pollution Control Agency waste reduction grant
- Launching reusable trays Fall 2026
- Installed Spring 2026
- Saving \$13,500/yr in compostable trays



# Upcoming Projects

## Garlough School Forest MN DNR Releaf Grant

- Great River Greening will be doing Ash & invasive removal, burning for biochar generation, tree planting
- Beginning Summer 2026
- Project complete Fall 2027



# Upcoming Projects

## Conservation Cover & Wildlife Habitat Planting Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District

- Convert five acres of turf to native prairie
- Four sites: Garlough, Heritage, Moreland, Two Rivers
- Beginning Summer 2026-2027



# Youth Engagement

## Two Rivers Live Green Club 2025 Mendota Heights Leaf Award

- **Two Rivers LiveGreen Club, Leaf award** –Two Rivers LiveGreen Club. recognizes significant contributions of an individual, family, company or organization that has demonstrated substantial leadership for the stewardship of our city’s natural resources.
- **Meghan Bernard, Canopy award** – recognizes lifetime achievement of an individual, family, company or organization that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership for the stewardship of our city’s natural resources.



# 2025-26 LiveGreen Club Activities

- Recycle right audits
- Adopt-a-drain
- Pollinator plantings
- Cafeteria waste sorting
- Litter cleanups
- Bioretention basin planting



Claire Dahl cleans a storm drain at Two Rivers

# Somerset Litter Cleanup



# Moreland Pollinator Planting



# Garlough Waste Sorting



# Questions & Comments

