



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Alan Glass
Special Projects Accountant/Energy Supervisor
Facilities Department
Pittsburg Unified School District
aglass@pittsburg.k12.ca.us
(925) 285-2370 cell

Nicky Mora
District Communications & PR Specialist
Pittsburg Unified School District
nmora@pittsburg.k12.ca.us
(831) 578-7180 (cell)

**Pittsburg Unified School District Receives Back-to-Back Awards Recognizing
their Environmental Practices:
California Green Ribbon Schools Award
and Acterra 2019 Business Environmental Award**

April 17, 2019 Pittsburg, CA [Pittsburg Unified School District](http://www.pittsburg.k12.ca.us) (PUSD) is among only 20 schools, four school districts, and one county in the State of California to receive the 2019 [California Green Ribbon Schools](http://www.cde.ca.gov/greenribbon/) Award. The School District is the only district north of San Jose to receive the prestigious bronze award from the California Department of Education (CDE) that spotlights the schools' and school district's sustainability efforts. Among the many sustainability efforts and programs PUSD has implemented, the bronze distinction is a result of a new one-acre Bioswale site that incorporates beta solar panels and four wind generation units to power the District's Site Support Services Center (12,000 sq.ft.) as well as the seventeen Electric Vehicle (auto and bus) charging stations for the District's transportation fleet of eight electric vehicles and busses.

On April 12, 2019, representatives from Pittsburg Unified School District traveled to Rialto, California for the CDE's Green Ribbon Schools award ceremony and were presented the bronze award.

According to the CDE, Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate exemplary achievement in three pillars. Pillar I: reduce environmental impact and costs; Pillar II: improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and Pillar III: provide effective environmental education that teaches many disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Besides the District's Bioswale Solar and Wind Generation Project, PUSD has worked collaboratively with PG&E on its Electric Vehicle Bus Charging Program at the District's Site Support Services Center. The project includes an outdoor classroom designed to help educate students of all ages about sustainability, wind generation, solar energy, and how the district is striving to shrink its carbon footprint. The outdoor classroom is slated to open in the fall of 2019.

On May 22, 2019, Pittsburg Unified School District is also being recognized by [Acterra](#) for the District's Solar and Wind Generation Project and will be presented the [2019 Business Environmental Award](#), in the Environmental Project category. PUSD is the only school district in the state of California to receive this distinction. In 2018, the US Coast Guard & Marcy Wong Donn Logan Architects of Tracen received Acterra awards in the same category. The District is extremely proud to be recognized with such an honor and be among many distinguished Bay Area organizations who are trailblazers in green technology. Representatives from PUSD will attend the Acterra awards ceremony on May 22, 2019, to accept the award.

"Our Board and District have a long history of commitment to environmental practices. I'm extremely proud of the creative team that makes Pittsburg Unified School District a leader in sustainability and green technology," said Dr. Janet Schulze, Superintendent of Pittsburg Unified School District. "Along with modeling our commitment to the environment for our students, we are experiencing cost savings in energy. Thank you to the California Department of Education and Acterra for recognizing Pittsburg. These

awards recognize our staff and teachers who are leading the future scientists and environmentalists of tomorrow.”

About Pittsburg Unified School District

Video about PUSD: <https://youtu.be/X2xn3HOavfM>. PUSD is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Pittsburg Unified is extremely proud of a [91% Dashboard graduation rate](#) for 2018 and the 20% gain since 2013. Additionally, PUSD's graduation rate is currently 7% higher than the State's average of 84%. PUSD's dropout rate for 2018 is 6%, an impressive 16% decrease from 2013 where the District's Cohort dropout rate was 22%. Awarded the College Board's Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll award in 2016 for expanding access to college, [Pittsburg Unified School District](#) (PUSD) is one of 130 school districts across the nation recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study options, and a preschool program, the school district serves more than 11,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.

###