

Porterville Unified School District Transformative HVAC Systems Upgrade

SoCalREN Public Agency Programs | socalren.org



Project Summary

Porterville Unified School District completed major heat pump HVAC upgrades **across eight school sites**, installing nearly **160 high-efficiency heat pump units** to replace outdated gas systems. The project is already reducing energy costs, improving air quality, and creating more comfortable learning environments for students and staff.

About half of the units qualified for SoCalREN's cash incentives, securing over **\$168,000+** in funding and helping the district maximize project value. Beyond utility bill savings, the new systems integrate with advanced building controls that allow for remote monitoring, scheduling and temperature optimization—reducing both energy use and required maintenance.

Building on this momentum, Porterville USD has enrolled in SoCalREN's **Strategic Energy Management** program for schools. Upcoming "treasure hunt" site assessments will identify additional opportunities for energy upgrades and cost savings across district facilities.

For Porterville USD, located in the foothills of the Eastern Sierras, these upgrades are especially impactful. District Energy & Sustainability Manager, Justin Holtermann, shares that energy upgrades are "especially needed in the Central Valley to help with air quality improvement and tight school budgets." Transitioning from gas systems to heat pumps allows the district to redirect energy savings back into classrooms—ensuring students benefit from healthier, more comfortable spaces that support their future.

Switching from gas-fed units to heat pumps has **helped the district save energy and money**, which can be better spent on **our students...** while maximizing student comfort so they can focus on learning.

— Justin Holtermann,
Energy & Sustainability Manager

Project Overview



\$397,000+

Lifetime energy cost savings



\$168,000+

in incentives secured through SoCalREN's Streamlined Savings Pathway



310+

Cars taken off the road
lifetime kWh savings greenhouse gas
equivalency

District-Wide Successes

SoCalREN supported Porterville USD in securing transformative energy-efficiency upgrades at an affordable price. Thanks to a successful project, the following schools are experiencing lower operational costs and increased health and comfort for students and teachers.

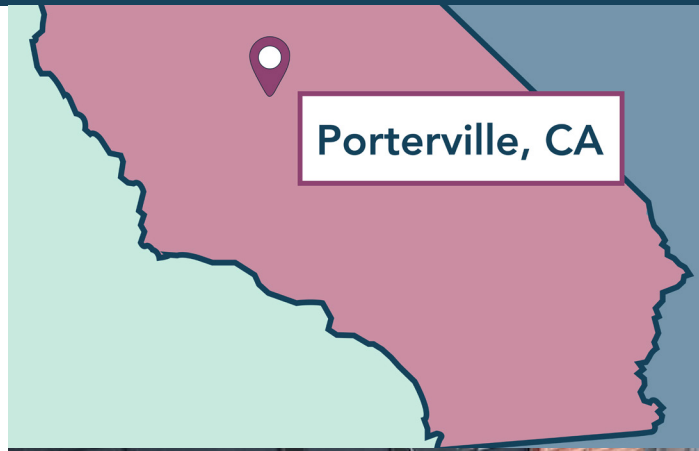


Bartlett Middle School
Bellevue Elementary
Citrus High School

J.J. Doyle Elementary
Los Robles Elementary



Porterville Education Complex
Roche Avenue Elementary
West Putnam Elementary



Heat Pump HVAC system installed at West Putnam Elementary school library.



SoCalREN Services Provided



Incentive
Application



Project
Management