

## School Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans



Ensuring good indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools promotes good health and academic achievement. Improving IAQ often impacts energy efficiency, and vice versa which is why it's important for schools to work on IAQ and energy management in tandem. Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans are effective tools that schools can utilize to promote and maintain good IAQ and reduce energy use. Plans are a proactive approach to creating a safe, healthy and productive learning environment.

### Why should a school/district have Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans?

One out of six people in the United States attends or works in a school. In 2022, there were 54.3 million students in K-12 public and private schools. One-half attended schools that do not have an IAQ Management Plan, which is concerning because a child's organ system is more sensitive to environmental pollutants, and they are more heavily exposed to pollutants than adults.

Exposure to indoor air pollutants like mold, asbestos, chemicals, and viruses negatively impact health, increase spread of airborne pathogens, increase absenteeism, decrease productivity, and worsen academic performance. Beyond the critical impact on health, effective IAQ management is also directly tied to energy efficiency.

After salaries, energy is generally the biggest cost in a schools' budget. By adopting policies and practices that address both IAQ and energy use, schools can improve building performance while lowering costs. Properly maintaining and optimizing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems is one example of how schools can improve both IAQ and energy efficiency.

Developing Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans allows schools to proactively address potential risks, optimize building performance, achieve cost savings, and protect the health and well-being of students, staff, and visitors.

50% of K-12 students attend schools that do not have IAQ Management Plans or programs in place.

Currently, a number of states require or encourage IAQ management plans for schools, including Connecticut, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oregon, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas and the District of Columbia.

## What do Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans include?

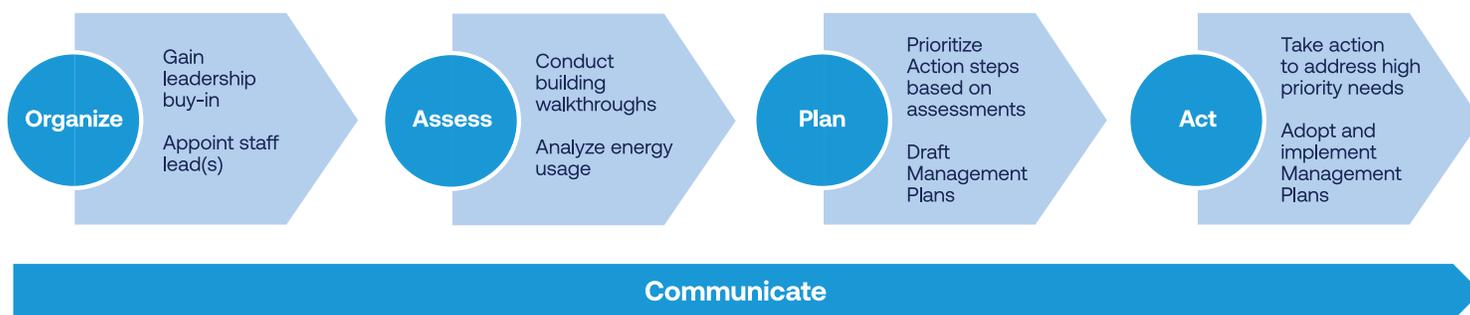
Written Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans detail policies and procedures that address IAQ and energy use. Plans are typically adopted and managed by the district. Some districts have plans that address IAQ and energy management separately, but some combine both into a single plan.

Common elements of Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans:

- Mission statement or goals
- Applicable local and state regulations
- Roles and responsibilities of key staff
- Schools' IAQ/energy use assessment findings
- Education and communication
- Policies
- Procedures/operations and maintenance
- Plans for future improvements
- IAQ and facility emergency response

## What's the process for adopting and implementing Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plans?

Some districts adopt their Plans through the school board and some create internal guidance documents. The path to Plan adoption is different for every system, but there are generally four stages of plan development: organize, assess, plan, and act.



Throughout the entire process, communication is key. It is necessary to show why IAQ and energy management should be addressed and how these efforts align with the district's mission and vision.

Plans should include details on how monitoring and evaluation of Plan activities will be conducted, and how the Plan will be updated.

Learn more about school IAQ and energy efficiency at [Lung.org/CASC](https://www.lung.org/CASC).

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