



1. Rationale

All school boards have a special responsibility to take a leadership role in environmental awareness and action based on environmental principles. These environmental principles recognize interdependence, the inherent right to a healthy environment and that everything we do has an effect. To this end, the Simcoe County District School Board will assist students, staff and the community to understand environmental needs and issues, and to respond to them effectively. This will be done in co-operation with governmental agencies and the community. The board's commitment to sound environmental principles will be demonstrated in its daily activities, decision-making and future planning.

The Board shall provide leadership for system-based and school based programs, projects and events and provide encouragement for community based events to advance environmental awareness, education and care.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board that environmental principles be included in all board programs, policies and procedures.

3. Guidelines

3.1 The development and implementation of environmental principles, programs and procedures is dependent on the joint efforts of staff and students. The Board shall ensure that all employees are provided with professional learning opportunities in environmental practices and where appropriate curriculum professional learning to support instruction.

3.2 All board procedures and practices shall include consideration of environmental principles and concerns.

3.3 Environmental committees, "green teams" shall be established for each site of the Board.

3.4 Environmental leadership includes:

3.4.1 empowering and supporting partnerships in developing classroom, school and community environmental actions;

3.4.2 integrating environmental education and literacy into the content and methodology of instructional programs in all divisions;

Page 2

- 3.4.3 developing and promoting ecologically sound purchasing and disposal practices;
- 3.4.4 facilitating sound waste management procedures with a strong emphasis on reduction strategies (reduce, reuse, recycle);
- 3.4.5 reducing or substituting the use of toxic substances in board programs and operations;
- 3.4.6 reducing the consumption of energy and water resources and promoting conservation strategies;
- 3.4.7 promoting the retention and development of natural landscaping and wildlife habitats on board property where feasible;
- 3.4.8 providing a commitment to staff development for programs related to environmental principles;
- 3.4.9 promoting the use of products that adhere to sound environmental principles. Selection of such products should consider their manufacturing acquisition and disposal according to the waste management hierarchy: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

4. Implementation

- 4.1 The Director of Education is authorized to put in place procedures and programs to ensure the implementation of this policy.
- 4.2 The Director of Education is authorized to establish an Environmental Programs Advisory Committee to take a central role in the implementation and review of this Policy to meet the board's commitment to environmental principles.

**APPROVED APRIL 10, 1996
REVIEWED FEBRUARY 18, 2010
REVISED MARCH 31, 2010**