

FACILITIES 2300

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2325

1. Rationale

Warming of Earth over the twentieth century due to anthropogenic climate change is indisputable. As such, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a responsibility to take a leadership role in environmental awareness and action based on environmental principles. These environmental principles recognize the connection between human behaviour and environmental impacts and the inherent right to a healthy environment. To this end, the SCDSB will bring awareness to local and global environmental issues, adaptation, mitigation and our role in ensuring a healthy environment. This will be done in co-operation with governmental agencies, not-for-profit 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 support for community based events to advance environmental awareness, education and care.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the SCDSB that environmental guidelines and 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 the environmental impact.

3.3 Environmental committees, "Eco Teams", shall be established for each site of the board to promote and implement the environmental guidelines and principles.

3.4 Environmental principles include:

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, as identified in the Ministry of Education's policy framework for environmental education, Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow;

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- 3.4.3 all SCDSB sites shall participate in any and all waste diversion programs provided, and establish waste management procedures that emphasize reduction strategies (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle);
- 3.4.4 eliminating or substituting the use of toxic substances in board programs and operations;
- 3.4.5 reducing energy use through SCDSB energy conservation initiatives, and adhere to board energy intensity and temperature standards;
- 3.4.6 retaining and developing biodiverse landscaping using native species and wildlife habitats on board property;
- 3.4.7 providing a commitment to staff development for programs related to environmental initiatives, including Ontario EcoSchools;
- 3.4.8 procurement of products, materials and services shall adhere to sound environmental processes including, manufacturing, acquisition and disposal according to the waste management hierarchy: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle; and,
- 3.4.9 promoting the reduction of vehicle emissions on all board property and vehicle emissions that are related to board business.

4. Administrative Procedures

- 4.1 The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement 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.

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