

**Carbon Neutral Action Report
School District No. 49 (Central Coast)**

Executive Summary

School District No. 49 (Central Coast) has been contributing to carbon neutrality for the past server years by investing in equipment replacement and upgrades, building renovation and upgrades, and working with employees and students to reducing energy consumption. We have worked collaboratively with other community organizations with the introduction of implementing conservation programs that will be environmentally and economically beneficial and sustainable for the entire community.

During the past year we have re-configured our buildings occupancy to best utilise current student enrolments and administration working space by consolidating three schools and portable classrooms into three schools. We have also replaced school boilers with new efficient boilers, and have replaced an older school bus with a new bus, and we have introduced "Power Smart" program into the education curriculum to encourage employees and students with conservation awareness.

Objectives

A key objectives for School District No.49 (Central Coast) is educating employees and students in becoming socially responsible community leaders in promoting behavioural changes for environmental sustainability for today and into the future. By introducing environmental education programs we hope to enable learners to use critical thinking to solve problems, make informed decisions, understand the potential consequences of decisions and to take actions to ensure the sustainability of the environment. These programs should allow the student and employee to experience personal, local and global environmental issues, develop respect for self and all living species, develop skills necessary for learning and understanding the environment so they feel empowered to take personal action, and develop skills, knowledge to continue learning throughout their lives.

Part 1: Actions Taken to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2008

Overview

In 2008 School District 49 undertook the following actions towards meeting the carbon neutral commitment:

- Replaced building boilers with new efficient boilers;
- Consolidated three schools and portable classrooms into three schools, to better utilize building space and employees human resources;
- Began feasibility study of replacing an aging and environmentally unfriendly school with a new school;
- Integrated BC Hydro "Power Smart" program into the educational addenda.

1.1 Supplies

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Restructured a process to use less paper	In Progress	Use less paper	Implemented electronic distribution of employee pay statement rather than printing paper copies and mailing out to employees

1.2 Employee Engagement

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
School Garden	Complete	local food consumption/education	Started and planted school garden by students and employees
Rebuilt walking trails	Complete	number of staff/students enjoying outdoors	Rebuilt "Nature Walking Trails" around school perimeter

1.3 Sustainability Actions (others)

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Reduced/replaced bottled water with filtered or refrigerated water	Complete		Installed reverse osmosis filtering system

Part 2: Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2009 -- 2011

Overview	
	<p>For School District No. 49 (Central Coast) to becoming a leader in the introduction of environmental conservation within the Bella Coola Valley, we will continue to expand environmental conservation programs that will encourage employees and students to becoming social responsible community leaders in promoting behavioural changes for environmental sustainability for today and the future. We will continue to work collaboratively with other community organizations with implementing conservation programs that will be environmentally and economically beneficial and sustainable for the entire community.</p> <p>For the next few years the school district will undertake feasibility studies to replace an obsolete school with a new building that will be economical and environmentally friendly to nature and the learning atmosphere of the students and we will expand on the "Power Smart" programs in the learning curriculum. We will also review current tasks and processes in order to best utilize existing technology in the district to make these processes more efficient and economical. We will also implement new technology in the district to make processes and tasks more efficient and economical in order to reduce travel by 25% with the implementation of the preceding two technology objectives. We will also continue with the replacement of small equipment (e.g. old CRT monitors with energy star LCD monitors), and review the feasibility of replacing staff room and home economic class appliances with energy star appliances.</p> <p>*note* there are challenges in the Bella Coola Valley with the attempt to implementing new environmental enhancements. The first; in order to achieve the technology objectives the network connectivity needs to be upgraded with the installation of fibre optic into the Bella Coola Valley. Currently the bandwidth does not have the capability to support video conferencing, or document management interface. Two; there is a lack of skilled individuals to install and maintain new environmental equipment (e.g. solar panel, hybrid vehicles...), the closest community which may have these skilled individual is in Williams Lake which is a 6 hour vehicle drive or a 1.5 hour plane ride for individuals from Vancouver. Three; currently there is no recycling company that offers service to removing recycled products from the Bella Coola Valley. Currently bottles and paper is being collected at the regional district landfill, but no company can economically remove these from the valley. Upgrading kitchen appliances to energy star appliances is not really feasible as there is no where to put the old appliance, which includes the regional district who does not allow the disposal of old appliance at the landfill, currently household appliances are disposed in the forest or kept in individuals backyard.</p>

2.1 Mobile Fuel Combustion

	<p>School District 49 is large geographically, but in terms of enrolment is among the smallest school districts in British Columbia. It is located on the Central Coast, north of Vancouver Island. We educate just under 200 pupils in five school, three in the Bella Coola Valley covering all grades K-12 and two K-7 schools on the more remote outer coast at Shearwater Denny Island and Oweekeno on Rivers Inlet. There is a small fleet operated by School District 49.</p>
--	--

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Replace # of TYPE OF VEHICLE with MORE EFFICIENT VEHICLE/Hybrid	Planned		Replace 1 old school bus	2009
	Planned		Replace 1 old maintenance truck	2009
	Planned		Replace another old school bus	2010

Provide driver training to reduce fuel use	Planned			
Initiate new fleet maintenance program (could include – changing filters, checking tire pressure, regular check-ups)	In progress			
Establish anti-idling behaviour change program (e.g. signs, stickers, messages)	Planned	regular tire pressure monitoring, replacing filters on a weekly basis		
Establish travel reduction goals	Planned			

2.2 Stationary Fuel Combustion (including electricity)

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Undertake workstation tune-ups to help staff understand what they can do to reduce personal energy use	Planned			
Supply power bars – to turn off power to non-essential items when not in use (e.g. phone chargers)	Planned			
Undertaken Monitor turn-off challenge	In Progress			
Replace # computers with EnergyStar models	Planned			
Ask staff to close blinds daily	Planned			
Turn off lights in unused rooms	Planned			
Replace Refrigerators (EnergyStar rated appliance)	In Progress			
Replace other appliances (with EnergyStar rated appliance)	In Progress			
Install multi-function devices (and remove stand-alone printers/faxes)	In Progress			
Replace standard bulbs with CFLs	Planned		Once all medical data is approved that CFL does not have long term effect to students and employees.	
Install motion activated lights	Planned			
Undertake lighting retrofit	Planned			
Utilize desk-top power management settings on computer	In Progress			
Initiate corporate computer shut-down/wake-up for maintenance	Planned			
Unplug unused equipment	Planned			
Undertake building energy audit at LOCATION(s)	Planned			

2.3 Supplies

	- Implement a Document Management System			
Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Commit to use 30% recycled paper	In progress		Trying to find a supplier that will ship recycled paper to the area	
Initiate automatic double sided printing	In progress			
Change document template margins	In progress			
Commit to hold paperless meetings	Planned		Need to upgrade network connectivity in order to proceed	
Develop document library (online and one printed copy) for large documents	Planned			
Use collaborative software to edit on-line	Planned			
Re-use non-confidential scrap paper	In progress			
Use laptops/tablets	In progress			
Restructure a process to use less paper	In progress			
Actions on non-paper related supplies:				
Encourage re-use of furniture and equipment	In progress			
Hazardous Waste Reduction - Fluorescent bulb eater machines and hazardous waste separation	Planned		Not available in the region	

2.4. Travel

- Implement a Document Management System

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Set a X% Travel reduction goal	Planned	25%	Dependent on network connectivity upgrade	
Train staff in the use of Live Meeting (or other desktop collaborative software)	Planned		Dependent on network connectivity upgrade	
Install Video Conferencing facilities	Planned		Dependent on network connectivity upgrade	
Initiate Travel Policy	Planned		Dependent on network connectivity upgrade	

2.5. Employee Engagement

Need to discuss further, and involve all school district partners. There is currently a commitment from non-teaching staff to participate in conservation programs.

Action	Action	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Provide conservation education	In Progress			

2.6. Sustainability Actions (others)

Need to discuss further with Maintenance Staff.

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Improve recycling measures	Planned		The region needs to find a recycling company that will remove collected recycled material. At this time, there is no company that will undertake this task.	
Support composting	Planned			
Use re-usable dishes	In Progress			
Purchase green cleaning products	In Progress			