

Carbon Neutral Action Report School District No. 74 (Gold Trail)

Executive Summary

The School District has been working towards becoming carbon neutral for a number of years, one of the first projects was in the late 1990's we changed over to DDC controls for all of our HVAC systems. This allowed for setbacks in the evening and on weekends. Over the years we have updated lighting from T-12's to T-8's and have installed motion sensor lighting in many areas. Our regional district has opened recycling depots in the villages within our district which has assisted us in getting our schools to participate in recycling programs. The students are excited about recycling and garbage going to the landfill has been reduced significantly.

Our school bus drivers are participating in the Smart Driver training sessions and other fuel consumption saving initiatives.

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

Overview:

Two hybrid vehicles were purchased for district travel. School District No. 74 is fairly large geographically, so in order reduce travel, the district holds where possible, district meetings and pro-d events via webcasting. When travel to these events is necessary, car-pooling is encouraged or school bus transportation is provided.

1.1 Mobile Fuel Combustion

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Replaced # of TYPE OF VEHICLE with MORE EFFICIENT VEHICLE/Hybrid	Complete		have purchased 2 hybrid cars for district travel
Provided driver training to reduce fuel use	Complete		all bus drivers have participated in "smart driver" training sessions
Initiated new fleet maintenance program (could include – changing filters, checking tire pressure, regular check-ups)			our fleet maintenance program has always been pro-active
Encouraged car pooling in fleet vehicles			Car-pooling has always been encouraged to save on costs and well as fuel conservation.
Encouraged use of public transit/active transportation			Public transportation is not an option in our rural communities
Established travel reduction goals			Annual review of school bus routes to ensure efficiency

1.2 Stationary fuel combustion and electricity

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Supplied power bars – to turn off power to non-essential items when not in use (e.g. phone chargers)			Have always had this form of conserving energy in effect
Replaced # computers with EnergyStar models			On-going as computers are replaced
Turned off lights in unused rooms			Have always had this form of conserving energy in effect
Replaced other appliances (with EnergyStar rated appliance)			Staff room upgrades this past summer included the purchase of energy star dishwashers in 4 district schools
Installed multi-function devices (and removed stand-alone printers/faxes)			In July 2008 all schools and strict offices were equipped with multi-function printer/scanner/faxes
Replaced standard bulbs with CFLs			Have been replacing on an on-going basis
Installed motion activated lights	in progress		Are currently in the process of doing this
Undertaken lighting retrofit			Have changed lights in a number of schools from T-12 to T-8
			Have used DDC since 2001 to control heating and air conditioning in all buildings for setbacks in the evenings, weekends, and on non-instructional days

1.3 Supplies

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Committed to use 30% recycled paper			we are using 30% recycled photocopy paper, paper towel and toilet paper
Initiated automatic double sided printing			where possible double side printing is used.
Committed to hold paperless meetings	in progress	cut down on travel	yes, use Elluminate Live, Webcasting and Go-To Meetings
Re-used non-confidential scrap paper	in progress	limit waste of paper	yes, have for years, used in fax machine and for message pads
Actions on non-paper related supplies:			
Chose "Green" items from Distribution Centre	in progress		Since 2004, most cleaning products that we use are certified green
Encouraged re-use of furniture and equipment	in progress		Maintain inventory of surplus furniture and equipment and distribute where needed

1.4 Travel

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Trained staff in the use of Live Meeting (or other desktop collaborative software)	in progress	less travel	yes
Installed Video Conferencing facilities	in progress		Has been available in our district for two years
Mandated car pooling to government meetings	in progress		Car-pooling has always been encouraged to save on costs and well as fuel conservation.

1.5 Employee Engagement

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Held contests to change behaviour/make pledges	in progress	encourages healthier lifestyle	Board Office staff challenges all school staffs and community organizations in a keep-fit program. Number of kilometres either run/walked/biked etc. are recorded.

1.6 Sustainability Actions (others)

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Improved recycling measures	in progress		Recycling programs are in place in all our district schools.
Supported composting	in progress		Agriculture classes at our secondary schools are doing composting projects
Used re-usable dishes	in progress	waste reduction	Styrofoam and paper plates, etc. are not to be used in schools or district office.
Used green (low-e paints)	in progress		All painting upgrades interior and exterior for the past four years have been done with low-e paint

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

2.1 Mobile Fuel Combustion

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Replace # of TYPE OF VEHICLE with MORE EFFICIENT VEHICLE/Hybrid			As vehicles need replacing, will look into buying more hybrids	
Provide driver training to reduce fuel use			on-going training will be provided for all drivers	

Initiate new fleet maintenance program (could include – changing filters, checking tire pressure, regular check-ups)		will continue to do this
Establish anti-idling behaviour change program (e.g. signs, stickers, messages)		Developing policy and regulations
Encourage car pooling in fleet vehicles	in progress	Continue to encourage carpooling

2.2 Stationary Fuel Combustion (including electricity)

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Supply power bars – to turn off power to non-essential items when not in use (e.g. phone chargers)	complete			
Undertaken Monitor turn-off challenge	planned	energy cost savings as well as increasing the % of staff participating		Jun-10
Replace # computers with EnergyStar models			approximately 90% of our computers are Energy-Star	
Turn off lights in unused rooms	in progress	energy & cost savings	yes	
Replace Refrigerators (EnergyStar rated appliance)	in progress		as replacement is needed	
Replace other appliances (with EnergyStar rated appliance)	in progress		as replacement is needed	
Install multi-function devices (and remove stand-alone printers/faxes)	complete			
Undertake lighting retrofit	planned	energy & cost savings	as budget permits, further electric retrofits will be completed	
Initiate corporate computer shut-down/wake-up for maintenance	planned	energy & cost savings		Sep-09

2.3. Supplies:

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Commit to use 30% recycled paper	complete			
Commit to use 100% recycled paper	in progress			
Initiate automatic double sided printing			done where possible	
Commit to hold paperless meetings	in progress			
Re-use non-confidential scrap paper	in progress		are doing so	
Restructure a process to use less paper	in progress			
Actions on non-paper related supplies:				
Choose "Green" items from Distribution Centre	in progress			

2.4 Travel

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Set a X% Travel reduction goal			are attempting 5% reduction per year	
Install Video Conferencing facilities	complete			

2.5 Employee Engagement

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Provide climate change education	in progress			
Provide conservation education	in progress			
Hold contests/support to generate ideas	planned			2009-10
Develop Green Teams	planned			2009-10
Provide green tips	in progress		on district website	

2.6 Sustainability Actions (others)

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Take water conservation measures – low flow showers or toilets, fix leaks	in progress		when toilets need replacing we will be purchasing low-flow	
Run dishwasher only when full	in progress			
Improve recycling measures	in progress			