

Carbon Neutral Action Report

School District No. 45 (West Vancouver)

Executive Summary

The West Vancouver School District recognizes the critical importance of developing a sustainability initiative that will address climate change in the years ahead. With this in mind, a team of educators was formed in 2007 to recommend to the Board a strategy that would address this urgent issue. Their report, developed in collaboration with municipal staff, was presented to the Board in the fall of 2007, resulting in an addition to the Board's newly developed Strategic Plan. The Board of Education passed a motion to include the following statement in their 3 year plan ... that the Board will develop a district sustainability action plan that provides for an enhanced level of environmental education (K-12) and is at the same time closely connected to the work of our Facilities Department.

As a result of this motion, the School District assigned two part time teachers to lead the education initiative, and their work has prompted new and innovative instructional practices related to environmental education throughout the School District. At the same time, our Facilities Department has worked in concert with educators to reduce our carbon dependency. We have replaced almost 100 computers with new, more efficient models, have developed employee car pooling opportunities, promoted highly successful "walk to school" campaigns, and have undertaken a major lighting retrofit for 2009. A dedicated "green team" leadership committee is well in place, and the Board's commitment to this initiative is unwavering.

Our plan to reduce carbon dependency provides a multi track approach to both mitigate and adapt to climate action and includes:-

- Educational focus
- Behaviour change
- Systems optimization
- Purchasing optimization
- Monitoring of utilities consumption
- Communication

The School District has, over the past 5 years, undertaken to reduce consumptive behaviour working with all sites to educate and "turn down and turn off" lights, and equipment and heat when not required or as weather conditions permit.

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

Overview:

The West Vancouver School District (School District #45) has been contributing towards carbon neutrality for a number of years by actively investing in equipment and lighting retrofits and working with staff and our communities to reduce energy consumption. Over the years leading up to 2008 we have completed many retrofits to our building systems to improve overall systems' performance and reduce energy consumption. We have been working closely with our employees and students to minimize waste in the schools and another sites. Waste audits have been undertaken at our secondary schools. We have completed many upgrades to our lighting, mechanical and control systems which have improved our comfort and allowed us to operate our buildings more economically.

During 2008 we have worked with our employees and students to provide a sustainability awareness with regard to methods of travel, supplies and sustainability. A number of low cost measures have been implemented such as turning off equipment when not in use, optimizing equipment performance through preventative maintenance and refined scheduling.

Schools and the District continue to expand environmental learning into the curriculum and everyday practice. Sustainability coordinators have conducted regular contests with students and staff to engage them in the initiative. We are reducing the number of desktop electronics, replacing old computers with new more efficient models and redeploying surplus furniture and supplies whenever practical.

We continue with our vehicle preventative maintenance and replacement of vehicles with higher efficiency, lower emission vehicles as practical. All sites have a 'no idling policy' which includes signage and information to parents.

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	Correlation between kilometres driven and the amount of gas used.	Replaced gas power V8 delivery vehicle with new 4 cylinder diesel power delivery truck
Established anti-idling behaviour change program (e.g. signs, stickers, messages)	Complete		All sites have a 'no idling policy' which includes signage and information to parents.
Encouraged use of public transit/active transportation	Complete		Employees encouraged to use public transportation, includes buses, bicycles etc

1.2. Stationary fuel combustion and electricity:

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Replaced # computers with EnergyStar models	In Progress		New computer based initiatives - replacing old computers with new more efficient models, increased use of laptops throughout the district.
Replaced Refrigerators (EnergyStar rated appliance)	In Progress		All new purchases of appliances must be <i>Energy Star</i> rated
Installed multi-function devices (and removed stand-alone printers/faxes)	Completed		District wide initiative to use center printing devices and removal of personal printers.
Undertaken lighting retrofit	Completed		Five schools scheduled for lighting retrofits in 2009

1.3. Supplies:

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Used laptops/tablets	In progress		At different district and school meetings
Actions on non-paper related supplies:			
Encouraged re-use of furniture and equipment	In progress		From site to site

1.5 Employee Engagement

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Held contests to change behaviour/make pledges	In progress		Sustainability coordinators hold regular contests for students
Developed Green Teams	In progress		Established district-wide with community
Supported Green Teams (resources)	In progress		staffing allocation for coordination
Provided green tips	In progress		monthly tips for all staff
Supported professional development	In progress		annual "green" conference for staff and the community
Added green work goal to performance management	In progress		included in Board Strategic Plan

1.6. Sustainability Actions (others)

Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Took water conservation measures – low flow showers or toilets, fix leaks	In progress	Consumption comparison of before and after renovation.	Stopped water running continually in urinals.
Improved recycling measures	In progress	waste audits taken at secondary schools	
Used re-usable dishes	In progress		For internal meetings
Purchased green cleaning products	In progress		District custodial initiative
Used green (low-e paints)	Completed		All paint used inside district buildings are Low-E

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

Overview:

The West Vancouver School District is continuing to address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through refining our processes and replacing old inefficient systems, equipment and machinery as funding permits. The School District is continuing to work with BC Hydro to reduce electrical consumption and adopt proven energy reduction strategies as well as behavioural changes effected through staff and student education. The School District will continue to 'right size' vehicles to fit intended use, and to replace carbon fuel vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles. Existing vehicles will be regularly maintained to reduce fuel consumption. The School District will continue to replace old inefficient computers and electrical equipment with new higher efficiency models.

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	Planned	Reduced fuel consumption	Right sizing of vehicles to fit their intended use, and replacement vehicles to use alternative fuels.	
Initiate new fleet maintenance program (could include – changing filters, checking tire pressure, regular check-ups)	In Progress	Reduced fuel consumption	Regular maintenance of our fleet vehicles has been in operation for many years	

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)	Planned	Reduced electrical consumption	Discussing with BC Hydro	
Replace # computers with EnergyStar models	In Progress	Reduced electrical consumption	We will continue to replace old inefficient computers with new higher efficient models	
Turn off lights in unused rooms	Planned	Reduced electrical consumption	Behavioural changes through staff education	
Undertake building energy audit at LOCATION(s)	Planned	Better photocopier utilization and reduction in desktop printers		
Initiate or complete a building energy retrofit				

2.3. Supplies:

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Actions on non-paper related supplies:				
Encourage re-use of furniture and equipment	In progress		Furniture items are recycled through the schools as required.	

2.4 Travel (Report on Travel only if a core government ministry/tribunal, where travel is paid directly from the Consolidated Revenue Fund)

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Train staff in the use of Live Meeting (or other desktop collaborative software)	Planned		Adoption of portal method of communication and release of information	2009/10

2.5 Employee Engagement

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Provide conservation education	Planned		Working with BC Hydro	2010-11

2.6 Sustainability Actions (others)

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Improve recycling measures	Planned		District coordination of recycling	2010-11



