

Carbon Neutral Action Report School District No. 47 (Powell River)

Executive Summary

The Board of Education for School District 47 (Powell River) is committed to educating students and staff regarding issues facing the environment and to implement ideas and projects that affect positive change in this regard.

Strategies used to date to meet these goals include, but are not limited to:

- formation of a sustainability committee to explore ideas and strategies to forward for Board consideration
- curriculum planning for students in Kindergarten through grade twelve
- ongoing communication to staff regarding energy conservation ideas such as turning off light switches and computer monitors
- leadership camps for students both in our community and throughout the province
- energy retrofits for schools not targeted for replacement
- LEED standards research for implementation in new buildings

These are but some of the initiatives implemented in the past year with more expected to be explored in the years to come

Objectives

- Educate students from K-12 on issues facing the environment now and in the future
- Reduce operating cost associated with older technologies
- Educate staff on issues facing the environment now and in the future

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

Overview

- Form a committee of teachers, administrators and elected officials to review and discuss issues of 'sustainability' as well provide recommendations to the Board of Education to consider with respect to the environment
- Undertake a review of energy consumption at all schools and other facilities
- Undertake a review of recycling practises within all schools and facilities

1.1 Mobile Fuel Combustion			
Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Established anti-idling behaviour change program (e.g. signs, stickers, messages)	Complete	Measure - all facilities must have relevant signage	
1.2 Stationary fuel combustion and electricity			
Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Undertaken Monitor turn-off challenge	In Progress	# of schools utilizing program	Ongoing communication to staff
Turned off lights in unused rooms	In Progress	Reduced utility usage	Ongoing communication to staff
Installed multi-function devices (and removed stand-alone printers/faxes)	In progress	Increase in number of units under lease	Moving to alternate equipment as current leases expire
Undertaken lighting retrofit	In progress	One older facility complete	In process of reviewing opportunities for upgrades
1.3 Supplies			
Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Committed to hold paperless meetings	In Progress	Reduced cost of printing	Paperless Board Meetings, ongoing communication to the rest of the organization
Used collaborative software to edit on-line	In Progress	Reduced cost of printing	Edit 'Word' documents using the 'track changes' feature
Used laptops/tablets	Complete	Ensure that all elected officials have a computer	Laptops distributed to all Trustees to facilitate paperless meetings
1.4 Employee Engagement			
Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Developed Green Teams	In Progress	Formation of a Committee	Community litter pick-up project sponsored by the School District using teams from each school
1.5 Sustainability Actions (others)			
Action	Action Taken	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken
Improved recycling measures	In Progress	Reduced waste	Review and change recycling practises
Purchased green cleaning products	In Progress	Identify supplier	On going review of procurement practises
Part 2: Plans to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2009 -- 2011			
Overview	<p>The Board of Education of School District 47 (Powell River) is developing plans to construct a LEED Gold Elementary School to replace one of its aging facilities. Construction is planned for 2010 and is expected to include many of the latest green technologies. Also planned is a Field House and change room facility for the multi field complex at the communities only Secondary School. This project is part of the curriculum for a Red Seal Carpentry program hosted by the School District in partnership with the local University and is planned to be built using a variety of green technologies as well and will act as a demonstration and teaching aid for elementary age students. Other initiatives of the School District include ongoing energy retrofits in schools as well as the ongoing education of students and staff.</p>		

2.1 Mobile Fuel Combustion

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Provide driver training to reduce fuel use	Planned	Staff Participation	Professional development for bus drivers	2010/2011
Initiate new fleet maintenance program (could include – changing filters, checking tire pressure, regular check-ups)	Planned			
Encourage use of public transit/active transportation	Planned	Increased ridership of City fleet, reduced bus runs for School District	Ongoing dialogue with City of Powell River	2010/2011

2.2 Stationary Fuel Combustion (including electricity)

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Undertake lighting retrofit	Planned	Reduced operating costs	Waiting for completion of district wide facility audit and review	some in each of next 3 yrs

2.3 Travel

Action	Action Planned	Outcome/Performance Measure	Notes Clarifying Action Taken	Timeframe
Install Video Conferencing facilities	Planned	Reduced travel expenses for staff	Infrastructure in place at renovated secondary school ... just need to purchase the relevant equipment	2010/2011