



## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

# Ongoing “Green” Initiatives Give Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools Another Reason to Celebrate Earth Week

## New motion-activated light sensors alone remove more than 600 cars from highways annually

**Waterloo Region, ON** – Waterloo Region’s Catholic Schools are celebrating **Earth Week 2010** (April 17-25, 2010) by announcing the 15% energy reduction achieved by installing motion-activated light sensors across the system has resulted in an annual greenhouse gas emissions reduction equivalent to removing **606 cars** from highways OR saving **6,190 barrels of crude oil** OR saving **1.2 million litres of gasoline** annually.

The motion sensor project is but one of many initiatives the Board is employing as part of its ongoing sustainable development mandate. Other important sustainability achievements being celebrated include:

- ✓ Installing “daylight harvesting” sensors as a pilot project in two high schools. The sensors limit the use of electrical lighting in areas such as hallways, foyers and libraries where natural light is sufficient. Use of daylight harvesting figures prominently in the Board’s future energy conservation plans;
- ✓ Implementing the “NightSky” standard by programming exterior building lights to automatically shut down when no longer needed after hours;
- ✓ Replacing incandescent bulbs in all “exit” signs with LED technology and replacing inefficient T-12 fluorescent lamps with T-8 lamps – achieving an energy savings of 25% per lamp. T-8 lamps last up to six years and the electronic ballasts do not contain toxic PCBs;
- ✓ Setting thermostats back to 16 degrees Celsius at night and 22 degrees Celsius during the day. Each degree of setback provides up to 5% energy savings;
- ✓ Installing Building Automation Systems (BAS) in schools. BAS systems reduce electricity demand during peak hours by programming machinery such as air conditioning units to start only when needed while prolonging the life of the units;
- ✓ Replacing high flow plumbing fixtures (toilets, showerheads, etc.) with restricted flow models and installing infrared sensors on school sinks to reduce water waste;

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- ✓ Instituting an 11 p.m. remote-controlled daily shut-down of any school computer left running after hours. Future plans include moving the shut-down time to 5 p.m. and including administrative centre computers in the auto shut-down project;
- ✓ Reducing overall photocopying in schools by 14%;
- ✓ Replacing single-sided computer printers with double-sided printers leading to a major reduction in paper consumption;
- ✓ Participating in the Region of Waterloo's food waste separation (green bin) program and implementing a worm composting pilot project at Monsignor Doyle CES in Cambridge;
- ✓ Replacing bottled water at the Catholic Education Centre with strategically located filling stations – eliminating more than 10,000 plastic bottles from landfill annually. Strategies to reduce bottled water consumption in secondary schools are currently being developed;
- ✓ Continuing the “Blended Bicycles” program at four high schools. Students take discarded bikes and salvage various parts to build “new” blended bikes. The blended bikes are then donated back to the community, helping reduce the need for auto transportation. The program has helped divert 18 metric tonnes of scrap metal from landfill since 2008;
- ✓ Disposing of broken electronic equipment and all hazardous waste in an environmentally responsible manner. This includes using neutralizing tanks in school labs to ensure waste water entering the sewage system is chemical free as well as the use of bacterial digesting technology in grease traps to break down organic matter in waste water;
- ✓ Participating in the *Ontario ECOSchools* program beginning in the 2010-11 school year. The Board's goal is to have all schools certified to at least the Bronze level by 2015;
- ✓ Implementing one Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program in Environment and two SHSM programs in Energy -- accommodating 60 students during the 2010-11 school year;
- ✓ Continuing the Board's strong commitment to school grounds greening projects. More than 15 greening projects have been completed across the Region since 2004-05 and several more projects are either currently underway or planned for 2010-11.

The Board's Sustainable Development Policy is available on-line at: [www.wcdsb.ca/ap\\_memos/PDF/APO025.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/ap_memos/PDF/APO025.pdf)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 30,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education first begun in 1836.

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