



Environmental Education, Stewardship & Sustainability

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Memo To: All Staff
From: Director of Education

ACCESSIBILITY:

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to articulate an Environmental Education, Stewardship and Sustainability Policy for the Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

REFERENCES:

- Laudato si: On the Care of Our Common Home – Pope Francis
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future (Report of the Working Group on Environmental Education, 2007)
- Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow (A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools, 2009)
- Ontario EcoSchools
- O. Reg. 397/11 Energy and Conservation Demand Management
- O. Reg. 102/94 Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Plans
- O. Reg. 103/94 Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Source Separation Programs
- O. Reg. 386/16 Blue Box Waste
- O. Reg. 452/09 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting
- O. Reg. 243/07 Safe Water Drinking Act
- O. Reg. 143/16 Quantification, Reporting, and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Board Policy I 001 – Ends
- Board Policy IV 009 – Asset Protection
- Board Policy IV 010 – Facilities / Accommodations
- Board Policy IV 013 – Leadership
- WCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)
- WCDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Learning (BIPSA)
- WCDSB Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan

FORMS:

- N/A

REPORTS:

- N/A

APPENDICES:

- N/A



COMMENTS AND GUIDELINES:

To enable and coordinate sustainable practices throughout the organization, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to achieving continual, measurable improvements in the environmental education, stewardship and sustainability practices within its control.

To that end, a standing Environmental Education, Stewardship and Sustainability Committee has been established, comprised (subject to availability*) of the following key internal and external stakeholders:

- Superintendent
- Chief Managing Officer
- Senior Manager of Communications
- Energy Conservation Officer
- Elementary and Secondary Administrators
- Continuing Education Administrator
- Purchasing Officer
- Teaching Staff
- Program Consultants
- Facility Services Staff
- Human Resources Staff
- Student Trustee(s)
- Grand River Conservation Authority Representative*
- Sustainable Waterloo Region Representative*
- Other Community Partners*

The purpose of this committee is to set environmental education, stewardship and sustainability targets and to monitor and report on implementation effectiveness by:

- Identifying priorities
- Setting achievable objectives, targets and indicators and communicating these to staff, students, parents and the community
- Developing action plans
- Assigning responsibility for implementation
- Providing staff development and resources as required and/or available
- Monitoring, measuring, documenting, reporting and recognizing / celebrating results

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) will focus on achieving broadly-based, long term sustainability in the areas of:

Energy Conservation

Identify and implement opportunities to reduce energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste Minimization

Work with students, staff, and stakeholders to reduce the WCDSB's waste output to landfill.

Develop and implement best practices to minimize waste by increasing waste diversion through recycling and composting practices.

Water Conservation

Identify opportunities and implement water conservation measures to reduce water consumption at all WCDSB facilities.

Active Transportation

Develop and promote active transportation opportunities for students and staff, whenever possible – including ongoing participation in the Active & Safe Routes to School program.

Purchasing and Procurement

Purchase goods and services that meet the highest environmental and ethical standards, whenever possible.

Food Systems

Support the Foundations for a Healthy School program by promoting and integrating sustainable and healthier food systems at schools.

Learning and Teaching

Expand students' knowledge, skills and hands-on learning opportunities to assist them in becoming environmentally responsible citizens.

Maintain active participation in the Ontario EcoSchools program in all WCDSB schools as a key driver in the accomplishment of the Board's objectives in all aspects of environmental education, stewardship and sustainability.

Staff & Student Engagement / Community Connections & Partnerships

Seek opportunities for staff, students, school Board partners and the broader community to work together on stewardship and sustainability projects aimed at long-term change in knowledge, attitudes and practices.

Environmental Leadership

Ensure that environmental education – leading to effective environmental stewardship and long-term environmental sustainability -- is embedded in the WCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and all applicable board policies and procedures.