

1. Rationale

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a responsibility to create a collaborative board culture that integrates the principles of sustainability which include environment, society and economy, into operational, administrative planning, and teaching and learning processes. In doing so, the SCDSB must ensure that all activities and board functions provide an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable place to work and go to school. This will be done in collaboration with governmental agencies, not-for-profit agencies and the community. The board's commitment to sound sustainability principles will be demonstrated in its daily activities, decision-making and future planning.

The board shall provide leadership for system-based and school-based programs, projects and events and provide support for community based events to advance sustainability awareness, education and care.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the SCDSB that sustainability guidelines and principles be included in all board programs, policies and procedures. Sustainability at the SCDSB is defined as finding ways of living, learning, and working together that support a desired quality of life without compromising future generations. It is a lifestyle and thought process that requires using and wasting less, teaching systems-based thinking, and supporting ethical and socially responsible services and materials. A sustainable school demonstrates daily practices that contribute to the health of students, employees, the local community and their environment.

3. Guidelines

3.1 The development and implementation of sustainability principles, programs and procedures is dependent on the joint efforts of board leadership, employees and students. The board shall ensure that all employees are provided with professional learning opportunities in sustainability practices and where appropriate, curriculum professional learning to support instruction.

3.2 All board procedures and practices shall include consideration of the sustainability impact.

3.3 Sustainability committees, "Eco Teams", shall be established for each site of the board to promote and implement the sustainability guidelines and principles.

- 3.4 Sustainability principles include:
 - 3.4.1 empowering and supporting partnerships in developing classroom, school and community sustainability actions;
 - 3.4.2 integrating sustainability education and literacy into the content and methodology of instructional programs in all divisions, as identified in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
 - 3.4.3 all SCDSB sites shall participate in any and all waste diversion programs provided, and establish waste management procedures that emphasize reduction strategies (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle);
 - 3.4.4 eliminating or substituting the use of toxic substances in board programs and operations;
 - 3.4.5 reducing energy use through SCDSB energy conservation initiatives, and adhere to board energy intensity and temperature standards;
 - 3.4.6 retaining and developing biodiverse landscaping using native species and wildlife habitats on board property;
 - 3.4.7 providing a commitment to staff development for programs related to environmental initiatives, including Ontario EcoSchools;
 - 3.4.8 procurement of products, materials and services shall adhere to principles of sustainability in a transparent and accountable way that balances fiscal responsibility, social equity and environmental stewardship; and,
 - 3.4.9 promoting the reduction of vehicle emissions on all board property and vehicle emissions that are related to board business.

4. Administrative Procedures

- 4.1 The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.
- 4.2 The Director of Education is authorized to establish a Sustainability Advisory Committee to take a central role in the implementation and review of this Policy to meet the board's commitment to the principles of sustainability.

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