



**Policy: Environmental Stewardship Committee
#500.02**

Adopted:	May 25, 2010
Last Reviewed/Revised:	August 28, 2024
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Education
Next Scheduled Review:	2028

Purpose

It is the policy of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board:

- Develop or revise a school board environmental education policy that promotes environmental literacy and environmentally responsible management practices.
- Create a system-wide environmental education and management committee focusing on Education, Student Engagement, Community Connections and Environmental Leadership
- Develop an environmental action plan that is annually reviewed, renewed, and communicated to all school board employees and trustees. The Environmental Stewardship Committee on an
- Find ways to support the leveraging of curriculum resources and the fostering of collaborative professional development to enrich staff and students' environmental literacy, integrating diverse community teachings and innovative, interdisciplinary approaches for sustainable, responsible citizenship across the school community.
- Enhance environmental education by offering community-linked programs, sharing local resource information, and fostering partnerships with organizations to broaden community engagement and responsibility in environmental awareness and protection.

Application and Scope

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is committed to environmental education such that schools; shall target teaching and learning, student engagement and community connections, and environmental leadership to develop knowledge regarding environmentally sustainable actions and to apply their knowledge to effect long-term change.

References

(2009) Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow – A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow (gov.on.ca)

Relevant Legislation: Environmental Protection Act: Reg. 102/ 94 (Waste Reduction) and Reg. 103/ 94 (Source Separation Programs)Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19 (ontario.ca)



Responsibilities

Department	Tasks
Facilities	Implement energy conservation and waste management projects. Upgrade facilities with sustainable technologies. Ensure safe and clean drinking water in schools.
Environmental Stewardship Committee	Promote and support school participation in the ECO Schools program. Develop and review environmental action plans. Facilitate partnerships with local environmental organizations. Share best practices and resources for environmental education.
Schools	Engage in the ECO Schools certification process. Integrate sustainability and environmental stewardship into the curriculum. Organize out-of-classroom experiences related to environmental education. Foster student-led environmental projects and initiatives.
Sites	Adopt environmentally responsible management practices. Participate in energy conservation assessments and improvements. Engage the school community in environmental stewardship activities. Collaborate with community organizations on environmental projects.

Information

1.0 Environmental Action Plan – Best Practices

Pillar	Best Practices
Waste Minimization	Ensure that waste management and recycling practices are followed. Reduce, rethink, reuse and recycle waste materials. Composting of appropriate waste. Litter-less lunches. Ensure a sufficient number of recycling boxes and/or totes is available to achieve maximum diversion. Support environmentally friendly activities with staff (reduce the amount of paper used – REDUCE PHOTOCOPYING AND PRINTING) Make environmentally responsible purchases by selecting products which are environmentally safe and recyclable and/or made from recycled materials.
Energy Conservation	Practices that reduce energy consumption. Turn off computers and lights when not in use. Model environmentally appropriate practices such as teaching students how to minimize their ecological footprint on the Earth. Support environmentally friendly activities and modes of transportation (i.e., carpooling, use of public transportation, walking and biking etc). Update older less efficient technology with energy efficient options. Use renewable energy sources such as solar panels and wind harnessing. Install motion sensor equipment for lighting.
Environmental Literacy	Foster collaborative opportunities for educators to develop and share activities, integrated approaches, and action research projects related to environmental education. Encourage innovative interdisciplinary programs that focus on the environment and include field components. Integrate in-service opportunities related to environmental education into staff



	<p>development for all employee groups. Review existing board recognition programs for opportunities to include recognition of responsible environmental leadership. These responsibilities reflect a comprehensive approach to integrating environmental education into the curriculum, school culture, and operations, emphasizing sustainability, stewardship, and active engagement in environmental issues both within the school community and beyond.</p>
<p>Board-wide Greening</p>	<p>Encourage all school board personnel, the parent involvement committee, students, parents, and school councils to adopt and promote environmentally appropriate practices. Offer community-linked experiences and programs Share information about local resources Share links and partnerships with community organizations (such as non-profit organizations, businesses, farms, and industries).</p>

Administrative Procedures

2.0 The Environmental Stewardship Committee

The Board shall create (also known as an The Environmental Stewardship Committee) that shall review and renew the annual environmental plans and communicate all updates to School Board employees and Trustees. The Committee's membership is as follows:

- One Superintendent (or designate as Chair)
- Co-Chair Morlaye Camera Supervisor of Capital and Sustainability (Co-Chair)
- One elementary school administrator
- One secondary school administrator The Facilities Manager
- One elementary school teacher
- One secondary school teacher
- One support staff person
- One member from Student Senate
- Other member(s) as deemed appropriate by the Chair of the Committee.

The purpose of the Environmental Stewardship Committee is to align with the ministry's policy for implementing a system-wide environmental education and management committee.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee will promote and support school participation in the ECO Schools network to assist in the development of comprehensive environmental action plans. (<http://ontarioecoschools.org/>)

The Environmental Stewardship Committee will work together with the Facilities Department to carefully consider environmental action plans. This review aims to ensure these plans align with the Board and Ministry's Policy, encouraging environmental literacy and the adoption of environmentally responsible management practices. Environmental Stewardship Committee, in collaboration with the review s to ensure they are with the Board and Ministry's Policy to promote The Environmental Stewardship Committee shall develop an environmental action plan that is annually reviewed, renewed, and communicated to all school board employees and trustees.