

**POLICY 124 ~~CLIMATE ACTION~~ ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The Board of Education of School District No. 83 North Okanagan-Shuswap) recognizes that the planet is in a state of climate emergency (see Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2023). We acknowledge the legitimacy of the United Nations Climate Action Charter (2016) and B.C.'s Climate Action Charter (endorsed March 10, 2009, by our District).

As stewards on Secwépemc ancestral lands, we are committed to fostering environmental sustainability and honouring the deep connections between this territory and its ecosystems. Stewardship is defined as making informed decisions and taking appropriate actions to protect and conserve resources for all plants and animals who share our planet. The District defines environmental sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This commitment is guided by the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

The Board acknowledges that achieving environmental sustainability requires shared responsibility among trustees, administrators, teachers, students, and support personnel. Its success depends on cooperation at all levels and integration into our collective practices and decision-making.

The Board's commitment to environmental sustainability is closely aligned with the priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan.

## Intellectual Development

School District 83 **The District** is responsible for the education and well-being of current and future students. Therefore, ~~in the face of global climate change we are obliged to:~~ **As part of our commitment to expanding teaching and learning practices, the District will:**

- Promote the growth of ecological literacy and ethics, **empowering students to understand environmental challenges.** ~~within students.~~
- Embed environmental education within ~~instruction—the curriculum’s,~~ **connecting** core competencies ~~framework~~ **to real-world sustainability challenges.**
- Emphasize the First Peoples’ knowledge and other traditional ecological knowledge, **honouring Secwépemc perspectives on caring for the land.**
- Address environmental issues and **engage students in** climate action projects, **fostering creativity, adaptability, and resilience.** ~~in ways that students can contribute;~~
- Provide students with flexible work skills in a changing world.
- Support students’ ~~in developing emotional coping skills and strategies~~ **in the context of climate change.**
- ~~Cultivate kindness, adaptability, creativity, and resilience with the context of climate change.~~
- **Support the development of a Green Team or Eco Club at each school to encourage action at the school level.**

## Community Partnership Development

Expanding a culture of social responsibility requires meaningful collaboration with community partners. The District will:

- ~~working in partnership with other governments and organizations;~~ Endeavour to work with various levels of governments, Indigenous communities, and community partners to align efforts and deepen our impact.
- Naturalize school grounds with an ecological and educational lens.

## Effective Governance and Leadership

The Board's leadership role includes promoting sustainability and environmental accountability. The District will:

- effectively managing energy use in existing buildings and ensuring new buildings and building enhancements optimize energy efficiency; **Optimize energy efficiency in new and existing buildings.**
- limiting emissions created by Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and considering alternate fuel sources for transportation; **Limit Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and consider alternate fuel sources.**
- ~~Limit emissions created by the heating/cooling of buildings.~~
- responsible consumption and purchase of resources (including energy conservation, water conservation, conservation of teaching materials such as paper, etc.); **Conserve resources, including energy, water, and materials, and promote responsible purchasing practices.**
- reducing and properly sorting and disposing of waste, including electronic waste; **Reduce waste, including electronic waste, through effective composting, recycling, and proper disposal.**
- Track energy consumption and material used to measure progress and identify areas for improvement.**
- ~~keeping ourselves accountable to charters, regulations, policies and targets that have been previously endorsed by our school board.~~ **Uphold accountability to the policies, administrative procedures, and targets previously endorsed by the Board.**
- Support the planning and funding of professional development related to sustainability and environmental education.**

Additionally, we recognize that School District 83 is a **As** a large consumer of energy and resources, **the District acknowledges its responsibility to serve as a model for sustainability.** ~~Both as an attempt to reduce our consumption and to serve as an example to our students, we believe that it is incumbent upon Staff and students~~ **are encouraged** to take immediate, positive, and collective action towards mitigating climate change and adapt to its inevitable impacts. This ~~includes:~~ **shared commitment reflects our values of Reconciliation, Respect, and Empathy and strengthens our stewardship of the Secwépemc lands.**

References: [SD83 Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#); IPCC 2018 Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by governments — IPCC [2023 Climate Change AR6 Synthesis Report](#); UN Climate Action Charter, 2023 Climate Change – United Nations Sustainable Development; BC Climate Action Charter [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sustainability/2030/BC\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Charter](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sustainability/2030/BC_Climate_Action_Charter)

Date Adopted: September 21, 2021

## **POLICY 124 CLIMATE ACTION**

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School District 83 is responsible for the education and well-being of our current and future students. Therefore, in the face of global climate change we are obliged to:

- promote the growth of ecological literacy and ethics within students
- embed environmental education within the curriculum's core competency framework
- emphasize the First Peoples knowledge and other traditional ecological knowledge
- address environmental issues and climate action projects in ways that students can contribute
- naturalize school grounds with an ecological and educational lens
- provide students with flexible work skills in a changing world
- support students in developing emotional coping skills and strategies
- cultivate kindness, adaptability, creativity, and resilience within the context of climate change

Additionally, we recognize that School District 83 is a large consumer of energy and resources. Both as an attempt to reduce our consumption and to serve as an example to our students, we believe that it is incumbent upon staff and students to take immediate, positive, and collective action towards mitigating climate change and adapting to its inevitable impacts. This includes:

- responsible consumption and purchase of resources (including energy conservation, water conservation, conservation of teaching materials such as paper, etc.)
- reducing and properly sorting and disposing of waste, including electronic waste
- effectively managing energy use in existing buildings and ensuring new buildings and building enhancements optimize energy efficiency
- limiting emissions created by Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and considering alternate fuel sources for transportation
- limiting emissions created by the heating/cooling of buildings
- working in partnership with other governments and organizations
- keeping ourselves accountable to charters, regulations, policies and targets that have been previously endorsed by our school board.

## **References**

IPCC 2018 Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by governments — IPCC

UN Climate Action Charter, 2016 Climate Change – United Nations Sustainable Development

BC Climate Action Charter <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/socdev/climateaction/charter>