



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC

District School Board

Environmental Stewardship

Adopted:	October 26, 1998	Policy #:	P 3.1.3.
Revised:	February 28, 2022	Policy Category:	3.1. Plant/Facilities

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board believes that we are called to show leadership in environmental stewardship in our community. As Catholic believers we are called to see the entire universe as a creative work of God’s love. As Catholic educators, we are called to share, nurture, and develop that vision with our students.

We are called to be stewards of creation and to exercise leadership in ecological responsibility, and to work to change systems and structures that are ecologically unsound. To face this enormous challenge, we will move from awareness to an active realization of a cooperative healing of our planet. We will maintain and recover a safe, just and sustainable environment for future generations and celebrate our profound connectedness with all of creation.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board to make the protection of our environment an important priority. The Board acknowledges the protection of the environment is a moral responsibility, and therefore adopts the concept of sustainable development. The United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The Board will expect its Catholic School Graduates to be responsible citizens who respect the environment and use resources wisely. Environmentally sound practices will be aligned with curriculum and Board operations.

Procedures shall be developed that outline processes that will support sustainable development.

PROCEDURES:

The Board will promote the following principles and practices within its jurisdiction:

1. The Board will develop and support curriculum initiatives across grades and subject areas that lead to this result, and will expect that environmental protection is addressed in School Improvement planning.
2. The Board will conduct the following actions in the areas of waste minimization, energy conservation, and purchasing:
 - a) **Waste Minimization:** the Board will:

- Cooperate with municipalities and other school boards to maintain and promote reducing, reusing and recycling programs at all properties
- Conduct annual Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plans as required by O.Reg. 102/94 and post on Board website
- Ensure that all offices and classrooms have the necessary materials and equipment to reduce, reuse and recycle products (i.e. blue or green boxes/bins, toner/printer cartridges etc.)
- Promote waste-free lunches in schools to minimize food related waste
- Promote anti-littering campaigns and yard clean-up in the school and community
- Promote composting
- Promote reusing items and avoid use of disposables
- Promote reusing paper and reusing or recycling dated resource materials
- Advertise internally surplus resources, furniture and equipment
- Limit paper use by reusing scrap paper and educating individuals on how to photocopy and print double-sided
- Promote tree planting and school greening
- Promote electronic communication of newsletters and all other school and board information
- Utilize a sibling list when sending printed information to parents

b) **Energy Conservation:** the Board will:

- Utilize natural light
- When undertaking lighting upgrades in schools, ensure occupancy sensors are included as part of the upgrade
- Promote the use of sleep mode or OFF when all lights, computers, monitors and other electronic equipment are not in use
- Implement equipment consolidation practices (i.e. computer networking) to ensure energy conservation
- Ensure that windows are closed at the end of the school day
- Ensure that space around vents, windows and doors are kept free from obstructions, that windows and doors are closed when possible and that weather stripping is examined for deficiencies and replaced when necessary
- Ensure that schools, during the heating season, adhere to Board standard room temperatures of 21 degrees Celsius or less and 15 degrees Celsius during weekends and school breaks
- Promote the reduction of heat in areas not being utilized
- Make maximum use of its computer controlled temperature systems
- Encourage staff to turn off air conditioning when building is not utilized
- Ensure that air conditioners are not set lower than 10 degrees Celsius below outside temperature
- Consider the use of energy efficiency products (wherever possible)
- Consider the use of renewable sources of energy, if practical(i.e. solar/wind...)
- Ensure that mechanical equipment, air filters, water faucets, ventilation and heating systems are checked and cleaned regularly and any problems or defects are reported promptly
- Prepare annual Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for all sites as required by O.Reg. 397/11 and post on Board website
- Prepare an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan as required by O.Reg. 397/11 and post on Board website

c) **Purchasing:** the Board will:

- Be selective where possible, about the products and packaging purchased as they influence the environment (i.e. Energy Star)

- Discourage and where appropriate prohibit the use of products used for celebrations and promotions that would have a negative effect on the environment
 - Establish environmentally sound operational practices
 - Promote habitat restoration and school ground greening initiatives
3. The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is committed to providing safe and healthy learning and working environments for our school community while answering our call to be stewards of the earth.

The following key components form a comprehensive Huron-Perth Catholic **Clean & Green Program**:

- The use of high quality, safe, effective, environmentally preferred products
- Green Clean Standard Operating Procedures Manual
- A Green Clean Site Plan which aligns the principals of the Green Clean Standard Operating Procedures Manual with specific site needs in conjunction with custodial supply vendor(s)
- Records of cleaning chemicals and supplies to be kept on the HPCDSB Canada SDS database
- Equipment Maintenance Logs
- Training Records to be maintained at the Board Office which will track participation of all custodians in training
- Regularly documented review of cleaning activities which will be a cooperative effort between administration and custodial staff. Reviews may take the form of site visits with custodial supply vendor(s).
- Comprehensive Communication program which will demonstrate senior management support for the Green Clean initiative and the long-term approach recognizing the evolutionary nature of green cleaning and need for continuous promotion.

DEFINITIONS:

- N/A

REFERENCES:

- United Nations Brundtland Commission (1987)
- Ontario Reg. 102/94
- Ontario Reg. 397/11

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- N/A