



## REGISTER OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

### Environmental and Sustainability Policy

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## **Environmental & Sustainability Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

“With a world population of 7 billion people and limited natural resources, we, as individuals and societies need to learn to live together sustainably. We need to take action responsibly based on the understanding that what we do today can have implications on the lives of people and the planet in future”<sup>11</sup>.

In Canada, a national climate emergency was declared by the House of Commons on June 17, 2019. The motion declared that “Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emission target under the Paris Agreement.”

The Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) recognizes that everyone is entitled to a healthy environment and that each stakeholder has a responsibility to contribute to its preservation and enhancement.

### **2. Principles**

- 2.1 LBPSB believes environmental education benefits all stakeholders and encourages the building of a common culture which understands that environmental sustainability is fundamental to global conservation and a healthy natural world.
- 2.2 LBPSB aims to foster a healthy and innovative educational environment and encourages stakeholders to reduce their carbon footprint and to impart their knowledge and experience in order to sustain our planet.
- 2.3 LBPSB encourages opportunities to work with partners, organizations and governments who focus on common environmental and educational goals.
- 2.4 LBPSB values green education and sustainable environments which endorse the 6 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink, recover, refuse).

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO website, Education for sustainable development <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development>



### **3. Objectives**

- 3.1 Understand the environmental impacts of our activities and work to reduce the carbon footprint of LBPSB.
- 3.2 Maintain eco-responsible procurement practices where feasible and strive to be toxic free in the use of products, while respecting applicable sanitary measures.
- 3.3 Work to minimize waste, conserve energy and responsibly dispose of goods in an ecologically sound manner.
- 3.4 Share the best environmental practices between schools and centres and promote green and healthy spaces in and around schools and centres.
- 3.5 Aim to create a learning and social climate in schools and centres that promotes environmental stewardship and helps prepare a 21st century workforce which will face increasingly complex environmental issues.
- 3.6 Encourage the development of values, knowledge, and skills that support the preservation of the environment and develop an appreciation of nature by endorsing education and training for both staff and students.
- 3.7 Collaborate with organizations who share LBPSB's environmental and sustainability values.
- 3.8 Foster innovative, dynamic, real-life, immersive and interactive learning experiences that spark engagement with the environment and planet.

### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **4.1 Council of Commissioners**

- 4.1.1 Review the Environmental and Sustainability Policy.
- 4.1.2 Encourage environmental education and sustainability to empower stakeholders to lead the way in creating greener and healthier learning environments inside and outside schools and centres.
- 4.1.3 Take into consideration the environmental and sustainability recommendations made by the Green Committee.



## 4.2 School Board

- 4.2.1 Aspire to manage all resources in an environmentally responsible manner.
- 4.2.2 Aim to develop environmental sustainability as part of the strategic planning.
- 4.2.3 Work with community groups and service agencies that provide environmental and sustainability education when possible.
- 4.2.4 Encourage the Ministry of Education to increase the funding for environmental education and sustainability initiatives within schools.
- 4.2.5 Assist schools and centres to integrate environmental and sustainability education into the curriculum and school or centre life/activities.
- 4.2.6 Encourage the attendance or the organization of environmental awareness events where possible.
- 4.2.7 Reduce the production of waste and the release of substances harmful to the environment by finding ways to facilitate effective waste management, composting and the recycling of paper, plastic, metal, glass and other materials.
- 4.2.8 Target and integrate efficient green choices.

## 4.3 Facilities/Purchasing/Equipment Services Departments

- 4.3.1 Evaluate products and processes with the goal of finding greener opportunities to minimize pollution and reduce environmental impact whenever possible.
- 4.3.2 Encourage the disposal of materials in an environmentally sound fashion.
- 4.3.3 Explore service opportunities with suppliers who hold the same environmental standards as LBPSB, and whenever possible, include clauses to this effect in service contracts.



- 4.3.4 Develop partnerships with local municipal and regional authorities to facilitate the planting of trees and the integration and management of recycling and composting of materials, where feasible.

#### 4.4 Green Committee

- 4.4.1 Review LBPSB's strategic plan in relation to green initiatives in order to provide feedback to the School Board on strategic recommendations.
- 4.4.2 Review LBPSB's Environmental and Sustainability Policy and make recommendations to the Council of Commissioners.
- 4.4.3 Advise the School Board on environmental and sustainability concerns facing the LBPSB community.
- 4.4.4 Encourage the integration of environmental and sustainability education into school and centre life of LBPSB schools and centres.

#### 4.5 Principal/Centre Director

- 4.5.1 Encourage eco-conscious activities, for example:
- reusable lunch containers
  - garbage-free lunches
  - community gardens
  - composting and recycling programs
  - reduction in use of non-recyclable plastics such as polystyrene
- 4.5.2 Encourage staff to integrate the topic of environmental sustainability into student's daily activities and the curriculum where possible.
- 4.5.3 Provide educators with material, tools and opportunities to engage students in learning about the environment and encourage experiential learning opportunities.
- 4.5.4 Encourage students to improve their schools, centres, homes, and neighbourhoods based on what they learn in the classroom.



#### 4.6 Governing Boards

- 4.6.1 Refer to LBPSB's Environmental and Sustainability Policy when approving and adopting matters related to the mandate of the Governing Board as determined in the Education Act.
- 4.6.2 Encourage the incorporation of environmental and sustainability values into their school or centre.



## **Addendum A**

### **Definitions and References**

#### **1. Environmental Education**

“Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment to develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and to develop the skills to make informed and responsible decisions<sup>2</sup>.”

#### **2. Sustainability Education**

“Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) encourages the profound interdependencies of ecological, societal, and economic systems. ESD is about respecting and preserving our histories, valuing culture and community, caring for others and the environment, and taking action to create a fair, healthy, and safe world for all beings. ESD also supports flexibility, creativity, critical reflection, and fosters a sense of personal responsibility for the economy, society, and environment<sup>3</sup>.”

#### **3. Stakeholders**

Every student, employee, designated or elected representative, volunteer, or person working in association with the School Board, providing services to it, or receiving services from it is considered a stakeholder in the present policy.

#### **4. Lester B. Pearson School Board Values and Vision**

- Citizenship: We promote local and global citizenship through strong engagement.
- Inclusion: We reflect and celebrate diversity.
- Innovation: We support creativity and a spirit of inquiry.
- Integrity: We commit to honesty, equity and accountability.
- Respect: We foster a respectful, nurturing and safe environment.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/education/what-environmental-education>

<sup>3</sup> Learning for a Sustainable Future