

ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 23
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ABOUT US

We work with BC Hydro, Fortis BC and Clean BC, to find ways to make our schools run more efficiently to reduce our carbon footprint. New LED lights at your school? That was us. New efficient heating system? We were there too. Holiday Shut Down competitions, us too, and so much more.

This newsletter is designed to let everyone know about SD43 sustainability initiatives. All through the District, great things are going on to make our students, our community, and our world more sustainable. We want to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

MESSAGE FROM THE ENERGY MANAGEMENT TEAM



As 2024 comes to a close, we reflect on the amazing progress our schools have made in energy conservation and sustainability initiatives.

Together, we've implemented impactful changes, saved 8.3% of energy, and reduced 6% of our environmental footprint.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

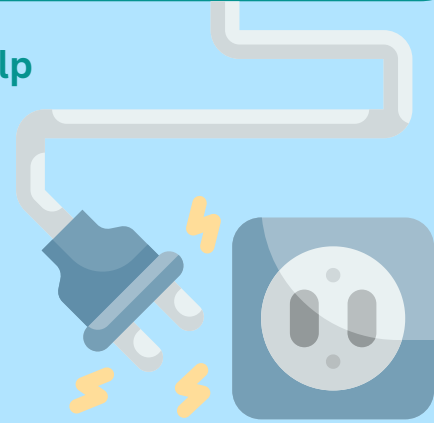




Winter Shutdown Campaign

Participate in our Winter Shutdown Treasure Hunt and help reduce energy consumption during the holiday season!

Before leaving the school for the winter break we hope your school would join us in a fun and engaging energy conservation treasure hunt. Let's work together to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainability across our schools.



How It Works:

- 1) Form Teams:** Prior to the last day of school develop a team of students that will go through the school on the 20th to shutdown devices listed on the **Checklist**.
- 2) Earn Points:** Teams gain points for every action taken, such as turning off devices, unplugging appliances, and reducing energy use.
- 3) Win Prizes:** The school team with the most points from –Elementary, Middle, and High School–will win a pizza lunch to celebrate their efforts!

Key Dates and Resources

- Checklist Completion Deadline: December 20th, 2024
- Checklist to be sent to the energy team: December 24th, 2024 (to be entered)

Resources (will be sent by email to all admin)

- Promotional Poster: Spread awareness across your school.
- PA Announcement Script: Inform staff and students about the initiative during morning announcements.
- Shutdown Checklist: A simple guide outlining what can and cannot be turned off or unplugged.



Collaborate with your feeder schools to increase engagement and teamwork.

Together, we can significantly reduce the district's energy consumption during the holidays while fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.



Looking Ahead: 2025 Sustainability Events



In 2025, we plan to design an activity each month to empower students to take the lead in creating a greener future. We hope you participate by joining us for these fun and impactful events:

January

Ugly Sweater Energy-Saver Day

During the coldest month of the year, there will be a fun competition where students can participate and wear their ugliest sweaters. Turn down the thermostat, stay warm, and save energy while rocking those festive, funky, or downright hilarious knits.



February

The Waste Wizard Challenge

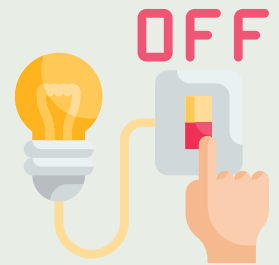
This month will be focused on better educating and engaging our schools to reduce waste in the landfills. There will be a challenge to find out who knows the most about what waste stream to use when disposing of items.



March

Turn it Off Challenge

Join the Turn It Off Challenge to reduce energy use and make a measurable impact the spring break. This month, we'll focus on turning off unused lights, devices, and equipment throughout the school to achieve real energy savings.



April

Earth Day - Eco Challenge Week

Join us again for this week-long series of challenges focused on sustainability. From saving energy and water to reducing waste and learning about renewable energy, there's a challenge for everyone. Let's see which class can earn the title of "Eco Heroes of 2025"!





A Big Thank You to Our Maintenance Team!

Once again our maintenance crews have been hard at work improving our facilities throughout the district.

The painting department did an incredible job at Dr. Charles Best Secondary painting new parking lines to create additional parking stalls in preparation for the upcoming classroom addition.



Minnehada Middle needed shade

Our grounds department planted trees to provide much-needed shade for students and staff to enjoy in warmer months. By planting trees, we're not only enhancing the aesthetic of our outdoor spaces but also contributing to environmental benefits such as cleaner air, improved biodiversity, and reduced heat islands.

An elementary school needs a playground and now Hazel Trembath has one

The new playground is designed to provide a safe, fun, and inclusive space for students to explore, stay active, and build friendships.





Lend a helping hand - join Coquitlam's Snow Angels!

Winter can be tough for seniors and those with mobility challenges, but you can make a difference. Volunteers are needed across Coquitlam to help clear sidewalks for neighbors in need.

How to Join

Complete the Snow Angels volunteer application form on the City of Coquitlam website.

Sign up individually or as a group—training and equipment are provided! Volunteers commit to helping 1-2 homes per session during the 2024-2025 winter season.

Let it glow in the classroom

A new easy and hands-on activity. Using simple paper circuits and LEDs, students can make fun winter designs that light up to make your classroom extra cozy for the holidays.

As a gift to teachers, we're giving away a limited number of kits that include the unique materials you need for this activity. Materials are also easy to purchase elsewhere if you don't nab one of our free kits. More information [here](#)



Let it glow in the classroom



SD43 Students Shine in National Contest

Congratulations to Carmen Li (Pinetree Secondary) and Adam Lin (Kwayhquitlum Middle) for winning in the FORED BC Society's annual art contest!

Their artworks beautifully explored the theme of "Two-Eyed Seeing," blending Indigenous Traditional Knowledge with Western Science to promote sustainability. We're proud of their creativity and commitment to environmental awareness!



More information click [here](#).

Become a Clean Water Champion with Sea Smart



Sea Smart is offering an exciting opportunity for your classroom! Their Clean Water Champions (CWC) program is a 2-hour, curriculum-aligned workshop designed to empower students to tackle real-world freshwater conservation issues and become environmental stewards.



FREE for programs booked between January and June 2025!

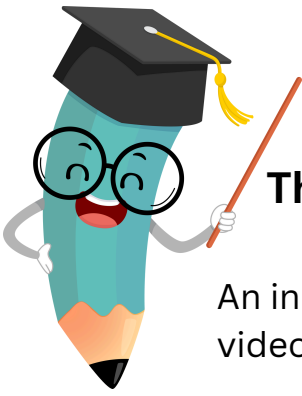
Program Highlights

- Interactive Presentations: Engaging content to inspire curiosity and action.
- Collaborative Projects: Hands-on activities to explore real solutions for clean water conservation.
- Group Discussions: Foster teamwork and critical thinking about freshwater issues.

Book Your Spot Today!

Spaces are limited, so act fast to secure this incredible free program for your class

- ✉ Email: programs@seasmartschool.com
- 🔗 Sign up through their [booking form](#)



Teacher Professional Development

The Fourth R: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Revolutionize

An innovative presentation that combines climate science, dance, and video projections to inspire ecological advocacy among students.

This dynamic performance offers an energized look into the people and behaviors driving global warming, focusing on three key perspectives: those who produce, those who consume, and those who suffer the consequences. With a strong emphasis on Indigenous teachings about stewardship and care for the land, The Fourth R not only educates but also empowers students to take meaningful action.



Video click [here](#).

If you are interested, please email us and we will share the information of the program.



What is going on at your school?



By sharing your successes, innovative ideas, and efforts, you inspire others to take action. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, eco-conscious community that thrives on collaboration and creativity. Let's keep the momentum going and make every step count toward a greener tomorrow!

At Coquitlam School District, we believe in the power of collective action for a sustainable future. If you or your school is making a positive impact on the environment, we want to celebrate and share your achievements with the community.

Connect with Adrian Pettyfer at apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca to share your eco-champion stories. Let's work together to get the word out and inspire more positive change.

