

POLICY 291 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Education believes that the sustainability of our environment is vital to the quality of our health and well-being. Further, it believes that the district and its staff have a responsibility to foster and reinforce a positive environmental stewardship.

This policy is intended to confirm the Board's commitment to incorporating environmental stewardship into decision-making and planning.

The Board encourages the development and delivery of programs and initiatives that foster student social awareness and responsibility so that students can develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and attitudes that will help nurture a sustainability mindset.

The Board commits to minimizing its environmental footprint and to reducing the environmental impact of its operations. The Board will seek intergovernmental and community partnerships to enhance environmental stewardship.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Environmental Sustainability** - defined as improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems. Within the context of the school district, environmental sustainability means incorporating ecological, social, and economic criteria into decision-making processes.
- **Environmental Stewardship** – defined as the informed and responsible actions and behaviours required to collaboratively promote a healthy, sustainable environment.

Guidelines:

1. Staff will strive to ensure that capital projects; facility renovations; district services, programs and activities are designed, implemented and monitored in a manner that integrates environmental stewardship best practices and considerations.
2. Staff will communicate environmental sustainability initiatives to the Board of Education.