



EW ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

An initiative from SD43's Facilities Department - Energy Management and Sustainability

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About Us

We are the District's Sustainability and Energy Management Team.

We work with BC Hydro, Clean BC, and Fortis BC in finding 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.

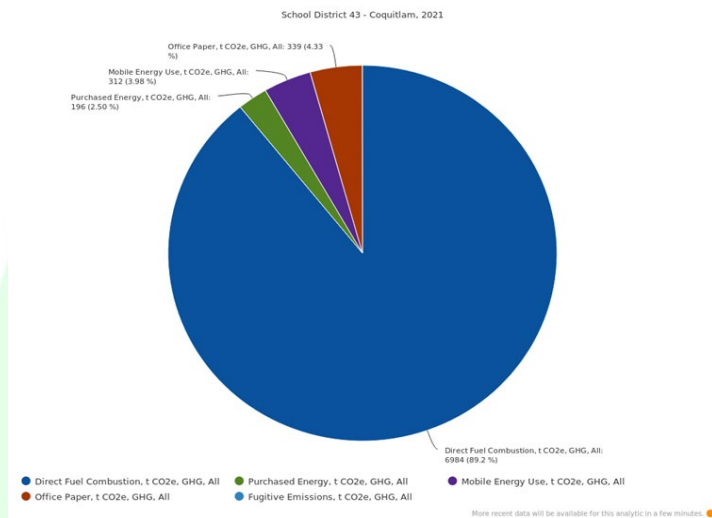
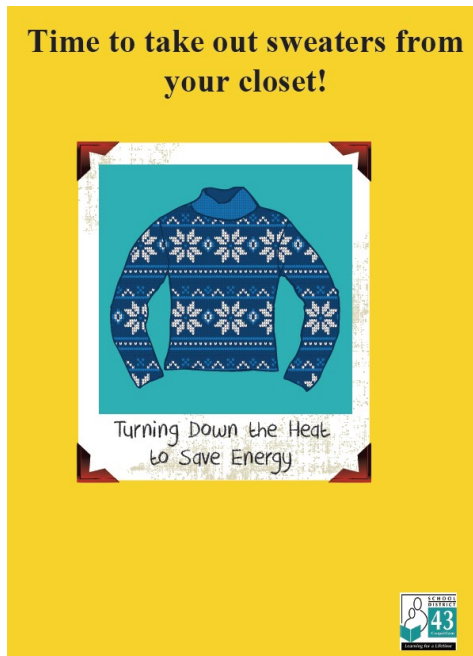
Calendar of Sustainable Events:

Save The Date 2023 Eco-Challenge – Earth Day week.

Please plan to participate in the Eco-Challenge next year from April 17 through April 22. With Earth Day at the end of this week, we hope to get more schools to participate this year in this fun and educational structure to bring awareness to Climate Action and Sustainability. Stay tuned.

Summer is over, it's time to find your winter clothes and stay warm.

The weather sure has changed from summer to winter fast this year. If you find you are cold, please consider what you are wearing. By wearing your warmer clothes we reduce the need to burn gas to heat our schools. Our use of natural gas contributes 89.2% of our GHG Emissions.



District Sustainability Interactive Workshop

On the October 21st Pro D Day, we, the energy, and sustainability team, conducted a Sustainability Interactive Workshop for teachers around our district that focused on developing the sustainability culture into our schools. The workshop discussed the successes of the different sustainability initiatives that we have developed in the past and brainstormed new ideas that we should all peruse into the future. This workshop was conducted at our newly inaugurated Education and Learning Centre building o Winslow Ave, Coquitlam. The focus was on showing the big picture to the educators on how important they are as a medium to inculcate the culture of sustainability across the district and among the students. We had participation from over 40 teachers from all different school levels. It was a great success and a lot of fun including a Jeopardy game with prizes and a lunch to follow. Thanks to all those that participated, it was great to get to know you, discuss ideas with you and we look forward to working with you in the future.

A few pictures from the event:



Fall Gardens this year!

In May, thirty-three schools throughout our District received a donation from Urban Roots of over 100 starter plants, including vegetables, herbs, and strawberries.

Through the spring and early summer, schools throughout our District took to their gardens with real-life lessons focused on the promotion of food literacy and increasing sustainability within our schools and community. Now summer is over so we checked in to see the harvest and this is what some of our schools sent us:



Electronics Recycling – Jazmine thanks you SD43!

Last year Jazmine Cabaluna from Gleneagle Senior Secondary School competed for a scholarship hosted by the Electronic Recycling Association. The scholarship is based on the ability to arrange a collection of used electronics to be either refurbished, recycled, or sustainably disposed of.

The district was able to assist Jazmine by communicating and endorsing her efforts. Jasmine writes:

“I just wanted to thank you all for helping me out with my electronic recycling scholarship project last year. It was incredibly amazing to be able to work with SD43 to get the word out, and it helped me out a lot! I was able to win second place in the nationwide competition, winning \$5000 for post-secondary as well as MacBook

Pros for myself and a donation to a charity of my choice. At the end of it all, 13 SD43 schools, the University of Manitoba and several farmers markets participated in the cause. It was very busy last year, but this project was just so fun to do, and I know you all wanted updates!"



Nurturing the gift of "The Giving Tree"



Last fall we had 22 schools participate in our District Tree Planting Program.

How did your tree fare over this hot long summer?

If your tree did not survive and you want a second chance or if your tree is a little crooked or needs some care, please let me know. Though we have not developed a tree-planting program for this year we can discuss additional resources to continue the engagement.

Coquitlam Tree Spree program

The City of Coquitlam has launched a brand-new initiative for 2022, the *Coquitlam Tree Spree* that focuses on celebrating the importance of Coquitlam's tree canopy! Coquitlam's Parks team is running some amazing programs, workshops, engagement activities, and much more related to this initiative. They are offering our Coquitlam schools some exciting opportunities that we hope you will consider and take advantage of which I have outlined below, all of which are fun and interactive to get kids up on their feet and learning. Interested schools and classes may choose one or more of the activities below.

Tree Spree Options:

1. **Tree planting on City boulevard:** the city arborist will assess the suitability of the adjacent boulevard and students can be involved in the planting of street trees, participate in a variety of other interactive educational nature and tree-related activities and take home some fun giveaways.
2. **Tree planting on school property:** if the school has an appropriate location (*this can include a school garden*) the City will provide a tree or trees for students to plant. A tree expert will come to the school to talk to the students and provide support for the planting. Students can be involved in the planting of the trees, participate in a variety of other interactive educational nature and tree-related activities, and take home some fun giveaways.
3. **Urban forestry educational package:** the city will provide interested teachers with an urban forestry educational package that they can present to their students. If desired, a tree expert from the city can come to the school and present the information to a classroom and answer questions.
4. **Tree giveaways:** The City will provide ornamental trees to families who are interested in receiving a tree. A tree expert can also be at the school during the giveaway to answer questions. For this option, teachers will have to reach out to families beforehand to find out the number of families interested in receiving a tree.

All these options also come with recognition for the school and its students in the form of participation certificates, onsite signage, and/or recognition through other media.

We would love to have our Coquitlam schools participate in this unique opportunity. To get involved in this initiative or to find out more information about the Coquitlam Tree Spree, please reach out to Dustin de Jongh (ddejongh@coquitlam.ca) For more information on the Tree spree initiative, please feel free to visit the Coquitlam webpage at www.coquitlam.ca/Tree-Spree.

HVAC Training for Mechanical Trades Team

With an intent to promote energy management and sustainability through our Mechanical Trades team, The energy management and sustainability department conducted HVAC Training focused on promoting a reduction in the use of natural gas and emphasizing the better application of electric heat pumps coupled with natural gas-fired boilers to promote the reduction in GHG Emissions. This training was approved by FortisBC under their Conservation, Education, and Outreach program and conducted jointly by Prism Engineering and Olympic International. We had participation from Surrey School District and Vancouver School Board as well. The event was a great success, and we'll have a follow-up training session focused on the Operation and Maintenance of the Gas Absorption Heat Pump.



Heating and Lighting Upgrades over this Summer

Heating: The District is constantly working on improving mechanical heating systems in schools and is committed to reducing GHG Emissions.

Over the summer the following schools have had their heating systems upgraded. Aspenwood Elementary, Hampton Park Elementary, Mary Hill Elementary, and Hillcrest Middle School. These upgrades for the most part completed just in time for the colder months and are designed to make the schools run more efficiently and, at the same time, provide better comfort to our students and staff.

Lighting: Every year the district selects schools to change old inefficient lighting over to LED.

This year we have been working on Kwayhquitlum Middle, Hampton Park Elementary, and Aspenwood Elementary switching to LED. Not only do these upgrades reduce our energy consumption, they will also improve the learning spaces with added dimmable lighting.

Exterior Lighting: At Mountain View Elementary we replaced the old exterior lights that are either inefficient or not working, with LED. If you feel your school needs improved exterior lighting, please let us know. If you see your exterior lights are on during the day when not required, please let us know.

What is going on at your school?

If you or your school is doing something that will help sustain our world's environment, we want to hear about it and let everyone else know. Please contact us so we can help get the word out.

Adrian Pettyfer apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca

Ashish Dev adev@sd43.bc.ca