



LOW CARBON SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Version 1 Released: November 2025

Acknowledgement

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) resides on the ancestral unceded territory of the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation). We thank the kʷikʷəłəm who continue to live on these lands and care for them, along with the waters, and all that is above and below. We acknowledge, with gratitude, this beautiful place where we live, work, play, and learn.



Message from the Executive Director of Facility and Planning Services

IVANO CECCHINI

The SD43 Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan reflects the growing determination of our district to develop solutions to pressing global challenges.

This plan is built around three separate pillars that affect and include the entire organization in some way be it through Education and Engagement, Building and Grounds Innovation, or Operations Management.

These are broad pillars encompassing numerous related categories that all work towards achieving a focus on reduction and sustainability both at the school district and in our community.

To that end all of us have a role to play by taking action to make this ambitious plan a success. I encourage you to join these efforts in the classroom, in the office or even in your own homes. Weather it is through simple day actions or departmental initiatives, your efforts are critical in making this plan a success and ultimately making SD43 a sustainable organization.

Thank you for taking the time to read the plan and for continued support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ivano Cecchini', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ivano Cecchini
Executive Director, Facilities & Planning Services



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Introduction

Overview

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is committed to combatting climate change and serving as an environmental steward to our community. We pledge to lead by example, demonstrate strong environmental leadership, commit to sustainable development, and use our financial resources wisely.

The Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan (LCSAP) defines the school district's commitment to environmental sustainability and provides guidance for climate action moving forward. It is our strategic framework to continue to reduce our carbon emissions, manage our resources responsibly, and foster a culture of environmental care throughout our institutions and community.

This document outlines relevant connections to internal and external drivers, describes the school district's approach to building the *LCSAP*, defines core environmental sustainability pillars and supporting categories, includes a description of associated goals and strategies, and concludes with a discussion about implementation, monitoring, and reporting. The *Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan* is our roadmap.

We must work together to achieve the goals outlined in this plan. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we can empower our students, staff, and communities to become environmental stewards and contribute to a greener, more resilient future for generations to come.



About School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

ABOUT

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is the third largest district in British Columbia and meets the learning needs of approximately 33,000 students of all ages in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, and Belcarra. The district employs approximately 4,370 employees, including 2,700 teachers. The school district provides K-12 education across fifty elementary schools (kindergarten-grade 5), fourteen middle schools (grades 6-8), nine secondary schools (grades 9-12), and four alternate education programs.

OUR MISSION

To ensure quality learning opportunities for all students of all ages.

OUR CORE BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES

The Board of Education believes in:

- Public education and the need to advocate on its behalf.
- Instilling a passion for learning.
- Learners as the most important focus.
- High quality and equitable learning opportunities.
- Innovation, creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking and sustainability.
- The essential value of district, community, and global partnerships.
- Safe, inclusive, and socially responsible learning communities.

The Board of Education is committed to:

- Creating a culture of care and shared responsibility where every learner matters.
- Engaging and empowering lifelong learners.
- Providing flexible, integrated, diverse and active learning environments.
- Developing shared leadership through innovative, sustainable professional learning.



Our Commitment

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is committed to a culture of care and shared responsibility, which extends to the environment around us. We are committed to the protection of the natural environment, ecosystem resilience, and human wellbeing through proactive management and responsible use of resources, education, engagement, research and innovation, and a fostered culture of sustainability across our institutions and communities. Through our mantra of “Education, Activation, and Innovation,” we aim to contribute to a healthier planet and a more resilient future for generations to come.

DRIVERS

The development of this plan was shaped by a variety of internal and external influences, including:

EXTERNAL

BC CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER	A voluntary agreement, SD 43 has been a signatory since 2010.
BC CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (CCAA)	This legislation sets targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40% below 2007 levels by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050.
BC CARBON NEUTRAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND CARBON NEUTRAL ACTION REPORTING	As legislated under the CCAA, all provincial public sector organizations must be carbon neutral and report on progress annually.
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER	SD 43 is a signatory to this charter, which forms an agreement between the Board of Education and the Ministry of Education.
CLEANBC	This Plan outlines various actions for the public sector, including policy initiatives, projects, and funding, in support of the CCAA.

INTERNAL

DIRECTIONS 2025 AND 2030	This document outlines SD 43’s vision, strategic goals, and objectives as part of its 5-year plan, including our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. In progress now, Directions 2030 will replace Directions 2025 once published.
RESOURCE AND ENERGY CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 547	This AP describes SD 43’s commitment to reducing its environmental impact through programs and initiatives.
STRATEGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLAN (SEMP)	This annual document outlines SD 43’s goals, targets, and long-term plan for managing its energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The LCSAP will support the development of future SEMP’s.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NEXT GENERATION

The way we manage our schools and facilities is our opportunity to lead by example and a reflection of our sustainability values. More than that, it is our duty. We have been given the privilege, the opportunity, and the responsibility to engage, direct, and rally our students, staff and communities in a world that needs change more than ever before. The goals and strategies outlined in the LCSAP will help us to reduce our carbon emissions, manage our resources responsibly, and foster a culture of environmental stewardship throughout our institutions and community. Together, we can contribute to a healthier planet and a more resilient future for generations to come.

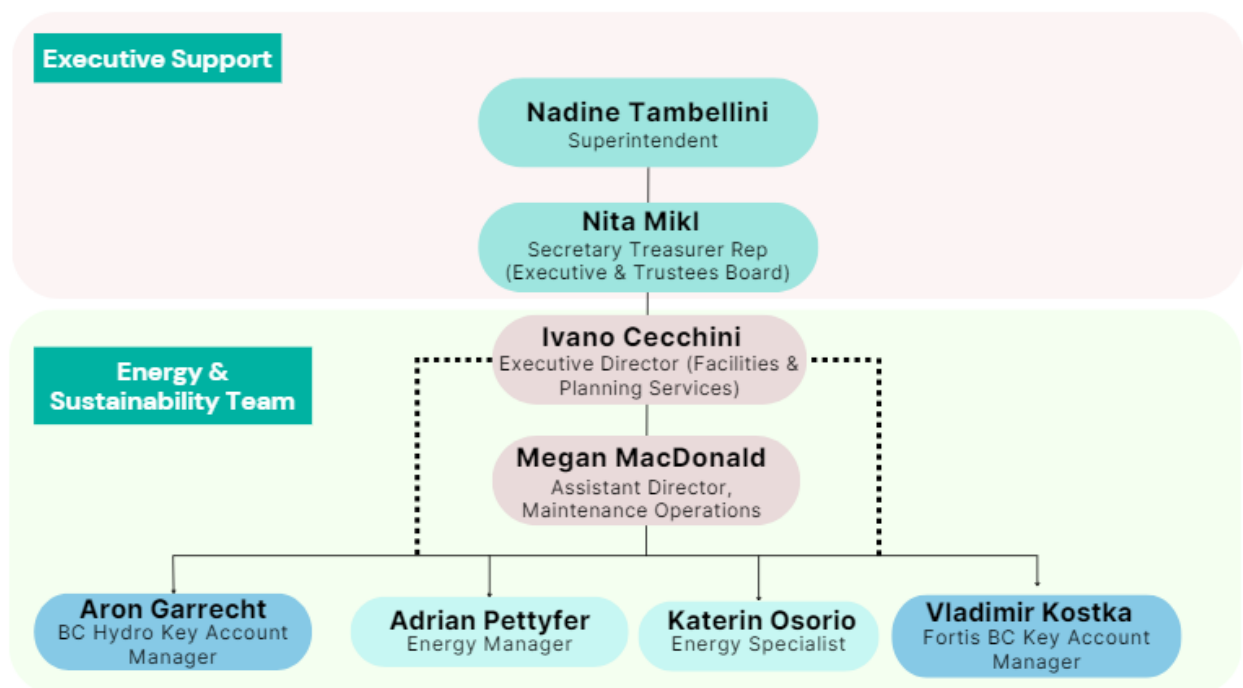
Our Approach

Our Team

SD 43's Energy and Sustainability Team is the owner of the *Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan*, responsible for its development, implementation, and success. The Team operates under the guidance and support of the Superintendent, the Secretary Treasurer, and the District Leadership Team (DLT). This executive support provides strategic oversight and ensures the alignment of sustainability efforts with district-wide priorities and educational goals.

The Energy and Sustainability Team is comprised of an Energy and Sustainability Manager, Energy Specialist, Assistant Director of Maintenance Operations and Executive Director of Facilities and Planning Services. The Executive Director of Facilities and Planning Services and the Assistant Director of Maintenance Operations lead the team and are responsible for its overall direction and integration across the school district. The Energy and Sustainability Manager and Energy Specialist are responsible for identifying opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to develop sustainable practices within the organization. The Team is supported by Key Account Managers from BC Hydro and FortisBC.

Additionally, the Energy and Sustainability Team actively work with students at all school levels to promote sustainability awareness, encourage student participation, and inspire future sustainability leaders across the district.





Consultation and Collaboration

Consultation and collaboration with SD 43's District Leadership Team and Department representatives were integral in developing the *Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan*. Using that feedback, the *LCSAP* provides direction for all departments in the organization to incorporate actions into their day-to-day operations that align with SD 43's overarching sustainability goals and carbon neutral strategies.

Looking ahead, continued stakeholder engagement will be essential for the successful implementation of the *LCSAP*. The Energy and Sustainability Management Team will work with departments, the Kwikwetlem First Nation and individuals across the organization to address barriers and support the adoption of the goals and strategies outlined in this document. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we will work towards a low-carbon and resilient future and inspire positive environmental stewardship across our school district and communities.

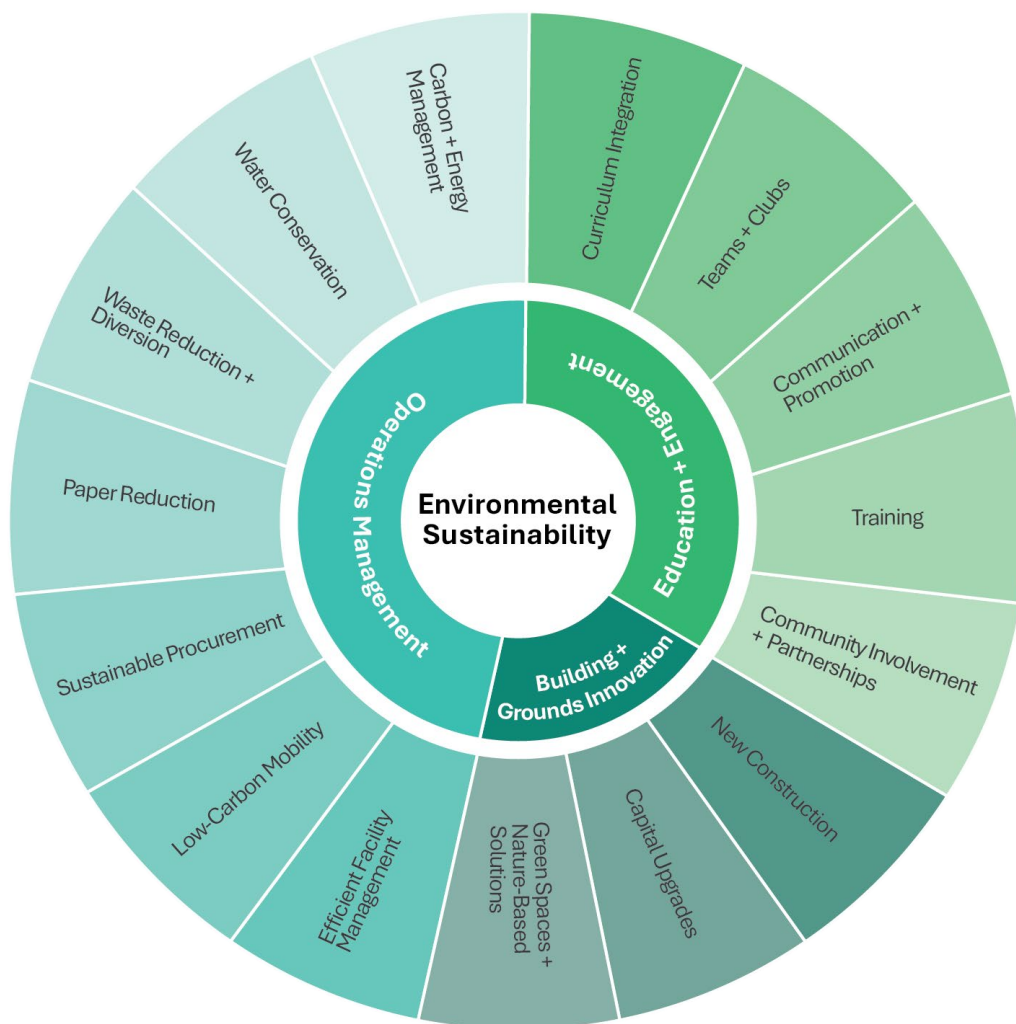
Environmental Sustainability at SD 43

The Framework

Environmental stewardship and sustainability at SD 43 are structured around three pillars:

- **Education + Engagement**
- **Building + Grounds Innovation**
- **Operations Management**

Each pillar encompasses specific sustainability categories with associated goals and strategies designed to integrate sustainability into every aspect of the district's operations, build a culture of environmental stewardship, and educate the next generation of responsible citizens. The pillars and categories are designed to be interconnected and use a holistic and practical approach that considers people, processes, and technology. The diagram, below, summarizes these pillars and categories and the following section of this document outlines their associated goals and strategies.



Pillars and Categories

EDUCATION + ENGAGEMENT

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) is dedicated to nurturing a generation of leaders who are deeply committed to fostering positive environmental change and contributing to a sustainable future for our communities and beyond. By integrating sustainability principles into our curriculum and offering a variety of extracurricular opportunities, we aim to inspire students to address global sustainability challenges and promote responsible citizenship.

Our approach involves building awareness, considering diverse perspectives, and providing comprehensive education and training. We create opportunities for collaboration and engagement to cultivate a culture of sustainability within our schools. By engaging staff, parents, caregivers, and local communities as active partners, we strive to embed sustainability into every aspect of our educational experience.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

GOAL: Embed sustainability principles across the curriculum to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and values to become responsible global citizens and environmental stewards.

STRATEGIES

- **Identify and highlight sustainability connections within the curriculum and school event calendar**, providing visibility into how environmental learning is embedded throughout the year and supporting educators with relevant teaching resources.
- **Deliver grade-appropriate instructional and project-based learning resources** that connect environmental themes including land-based and place-based learning approaches that foster a deep, personal connection to the environment, community, and self, inspiring students to explore real-world sustainability challenges and develop practical solutions. **Deliver technology-based enhancements** to grade-appropriate instructional materials to improve access and engagement (e.g., virtual field trips, energy tracking, etc.).

TEAMS AND CLUBS

Goal: Provide hands-on learning experiences and leadership opportunities for students to actively apply sustainability principles and make meaningful contributions to the environment and local communities.

STRATEGIES

- **Support schools to develop and implement sustainability initiatives** by empowering students, staff, and leadership teams to take local action that aligns with district goals and values.
- **Develop district-wide sustainability programs** to foster a unified approach to environmental stewardship using pre-existing curriculum-based courses such as leadership, environmental science, etc.
- **Engage parents, caregivers, and the broader community as active partners** to create a supportive network that enhances the impact of our students' efforts and promotes sustainable practices throughout the community.

COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

GOAL: Engage staff, students, parents, caregivers, and other community partners, through internal and external initiatives to promote and communicate sustainable practices.

STRATEGIES

- **Develop a regular calendar of engagement campaigns** that underscore the importance of sustainability and individual environmental impact.
- **Organize sustainability events** to provide insights and inspire action among students, staff, and the broader community.
- **Use the district's communication channels** (e.g. digital platforms, social media, and newsletters) to share information, promote sustainable practices and highlight success stories.

TRAINING

GOAL: Provide training opportunities, resources and guidance for teachers, staff, students, and other community groups to continuously improve their knowledge of sustainability concepts and ability to support student education, building innovation and operations management.

STRATEGIES

- **Develop and implement workshops and seminars** for teachers, staff and students to enhance sustainability knowledge and practices. These initiatives may include collaboration with the Kwikwetlem First Nation to integrate Indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship, place-based knowledge, and climate resilience
- **Develop and implement an Eco-Schools Program** that supports the education and implementation of sustainable practices across all schools, accompanied by resource materials that build sustainability knowledge and support practical application by staff and students.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL: Collaborate with local organizations, government agencies and community groups to support environmental stewardship efforts, enrich our schools' cultures and positively impact the broader community.

STRATEGIES

- **Develop and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships** with local organizations, government agencies, and community groups to advance both educational and sustainability goals.
- **Increase awareness of these partnerships and the resources they provide** to inspire community involvement and encourage broader participation and engagement in sustainability initiatives.
- **Launch joint educational and sustainability projects** to enrich the learning environment and promote environmental responsibility.
- **Support collaborative research and innovation** to explore solutions to environmental challenges.



BUILDING + GROUNDS INNOVATION

Through sustainable design principles, material choices and available technology, School District No. 43 strives to create environmentally responsible and climate-resilient facilities that enhance learning environments, minimize our carbon footprint, and promote community health and well-being. Sustainability and climate change adaptation considerations are incorporated into all capital upgrades, new construction projects, and master planning.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

GOAL: Design and construct environmentally responsible and resilient facilities that meet or exceed sustainable building code standards

STRATEGIES

- **Collaborate with architects, engineers, construction contractors, and consultants** to seamlessly integrate sustainability and climate adaptation design principles from the earliest stages of project planning, including enhanced commissioning processes to proactively mitigate future remedy needs.
- **Support research and innovation in sustainable building technologies and practices and apply findings** to future projects as Provincial budgets allow to ensure that building projects incorporate the latest advancements in sustainability and climate adaptation.
- **Actively seek out and apply for incentives available for green building projects** to maximize financial and environmental benefits.
- **Incorporate flexibility into building designs to accommodate future needs**, such as expansions or further sustainability initiatives including future needs of green spaces, ensuring that facilities remain adaptable and resilient over time.
- **Prioritize the implementation of low-maintenance renewable energy systems** and explore opportunities for on-site energy generation to reduce dependency on external energy sources and minimize long-term operational costs.

CAPITAL UPGRADES

GOAL: Plan and upgrade existing infrastructure in a timely manner, as budgets allow, to support the development and maintenance of environmentally responsible and resilient facilities.

STRATEGIES

- **Assess existing infrastructure** to identify areas needing improvement or modernization. Prioritize upgrades that enhance environmental performance, such as improving energy efficiency, water conservation, and resilience to climate impacts through detailed energy consumption tracking and data-driven project identification.
- **Implement a strategic approach to scheduling and budgeting that aligns with sustainability goals**, ensuring that infrastructure improvements support long-term environmental and operational benefits.
- **Continuously review and adapt infrastructure plans to incorporate new technologies and best practices**, fostering an environment of ongoing innovation and resilience.

GREEN SPACES AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

GOAL: Develop and maintain green spaces that 1) support biodiversity, ecosystem health, and a low-carbon resilient future; 2) provide outdoor learning opportunities; 3) foster a connection to the land; and 4) align with sustainable operations management practices.

STRATEGIES

- **Design and create spaces that foster a deep connection to the land** for students and staff, encouraging a sense of responsibility and engagement with the natural world.
- **Ensure that the management of these green spaces aligns with sustainable operations practices**, including the use of eco-friendly maintenance methods and resource-efficient technologies.
- **Consider nature-based solutions** in the design and improvement of facilities.
- **Preserve or incorporate “natural assets”** during the design phase of new construction projects.



OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

School District No. 43 is committed to leading by example to responsibly and strategically manage its operations and resources. By considering people, processes, and technology, we aim to find efficiencies, minimize costs, meet or exceed regulatory requirements, decrease carbon emissions, reduce our burden on environmental resources, enhance organizational resilience and demonstrate our commitment to sustainability. We aim to embed a culture of sustainable operations management across our facilities.

CARBON AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Strategically manage energy and carbon emissions to maximize energy efficiency and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

STRATEGIES

- **Execute comprehensive energy efficiency measures and innovative technologies** to optimize performance and reduce environmental impact.
- **Conduct regular energy audits and assessments** to identify opportunities for improvement and integrate advanced solutions such as smart grids, energy-efficient lighting, high-performance HVAC systems and advanced building automation systems.
- **Establish and track measurable targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions**, leveraging data-driven insights to guide decision-making and refine strategies.
- **Explore and integrate renewable energy systems**, as budgets allow, to reduce reliance on non-renewable sources and foster a culture of energy conservation across all operations.

WATER CONSERVATION

GOAL: Manage water usage in our buildings and on our grounds through behavioural, operational, and capital water conservation measures and stormwater management.

STRATEGIES

- **Implement actions to encourage water-saving habits and the importance of water** among students, teachers, staff members, and community groups, such as promoting awareness and training on efficient water use.
- **Optimize operational practices** by incorporating advanced water-efficient technologies.
- **Invest in capital projects that address stormwater management**, incorporating systems like rainwater harvesting, permeable paving and drip irrigation to reduce overall water consumption and improve resource management.
- **Monitor** water consumption through billing analysis to identify opportunities throughout the district.



WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION

GOAL: Reduce and divert waste to landfills across the school district's facilities by implementing circular economy practices. This includes enhancing recycling and composting programs, promoting item reuse and refurbishment, and collaborating with departments to purchase sustainable, recyclable materials.

STRATEGIES

- **Develop and continually improve waste reduction and diversion programs**, including recycling, composting, and reducing single-use plastics.
- **Establish clear guidelines, signage and training** for staff and students on proper waste separation and disposal practices.
- **Develop complementary campaigns** to engage students, staff, and the community to participate in the district's waste reduction and diversion programs.
- **Regularly monitor and evaluate waste diversion efforts** to track progress and identify areas for improvement, ensuring that facilities contribute to a circular economy and environmental sustainability.
- **Expand waste reduction efforts** to include sustainable procurement and end-of-life management practices, such as minimizing packaging, selecting green-certified cleaning products, and establishing clear procedures for the responsible disposal of outdated materials.
- **Promote sustainable lunch practices** and supporting student-led initiatives and campaigns that advocate for zero-waste lifestyles and reduction of single-use items.

PAPER REDUCTION

GOAL: Reduce paper consumption across the school district and use alternative paper products where feasible to lessen environmental impact and emissions.

STRATEGIES

- **Encourage digital documentation, communication and filing systems** to minimize the need for physical documents.
- **When printing is still required, encourage sustainable practices** such as double-sided printing or reusing the backside of old documents.
- **Implement a procurement policy** that ensures a proper evaluation of the purchase of recycled or sustainably sourced paper products.
- **Engage staff and students** to participate in the strategies described above.
- **Regularly review paper consumption patterns, new technologies and methods**, such as the use of energy-efficient hand dryers, to minimize the district's overall paper footprint.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

GOAL: Define, prioritize and integrate sustainability considerations across procurement processes.

STRATEGIES

- **Define sustainable procurement goals, metrics, and order of priority** across departments.
- **Develop and enforce evaluation criteria and guidelines** for selecting suppliers and products, including energy efficiency and environmental performance for technology devices.

- **Implement sustainable purchasing practices**, including integration across existing technology, processes, roles, and training.
- **Regularly review and refine procurement practices** based on progress against goals, feedback, changing conditions and emerging best practices.

LOW-CARBON MOBILITY

GOAL: Develop a low-carbon fleet as budgets allow and encourage sustainable modes of transportation across our staff and school communities, including infrastructure requirements.

STRATEGIES

- **Enhance infrastructure to encourage the adoption of sustainable transportation options for staff and students**, including installing bike racks, pedestrian pathways, and convenient transit links.
- **Evaluate the district's current transportation needs and fleet composition** to identify opportunities for electrification, fuel efficiency improvements, and conduct cost analysis to guide future electric fleet expansion.
- **Support initiatives that incentivize staff and students** to use sustainable transportation methods and integrate these practices into broader sustainability goals.
- **Regularly evaluate and adjust transportation strategies** to align with advancements in green technology and infrastructure improvements.
- Encourage a culture of shared responsibility by reminding students, staff, families, and visitors the reduction of vehicle idling to contribute to cleaner air and a healthier environment around schools.

EFFICIENT FACILITY MANAGEMENT

GOAL: Effectively and efficiently manage facilities by considering people, processes, and technology, as well as aligning with sustainable operations management practices. This includes maintenance procedures, building system and equipment upgrades, and training.

STRATEGIES

- **Establish a comprehensive protocol for regular maintenance, inspections, and performance reviews of building systems** to enhance the efficiency and longevity of school district facilities.
- **Prioritize and implement upgrades to building systems and equipment to reduce energy usage** and optimize operating controls. Focus on critical infrastructure upgrades and repairs based on condition assessments and lifecycle analysis.
- **Develop and maintain proactive preventative maintenance programs** to address issues promptly and avoid costly repairs.
- **Build in-house expertise** on mechanical building systems through targeted training.
- **Integrate energy system upgrades and smart building automation systems** into existing school buildings to improve operational efficiency and sustainability.
- **Promote energy-conscious behaviors by providing training and reminders** for staff, administrators, and caretakers on best practices—such as shutting down computers, turning off lights, and using appliances efficiently—to reduce unnecessary energy waste across school facilities.

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

The *Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan* will influence important decisions and support the implementation of selected actions in the future. It is complemented by the *LCSAP Implementation and Tracking Plan*.

Implementation, monitoring, and reporting will be a fluid process that includes the initiatives below to implement and track progress toward goals, evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives, and report on achievements. By using existing structures and processes, the Energy and Sustainability Team aims to successfully integrate the *LCSAP* across School District No. 43 and continue to foster a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Implementation

The Energy and Sustainability Team will connect with department heads to discuss relevant goals, strategies, and next steps. The District Leadership Team will then communicate the *LCSAP* to the entire organization, with the approval and support of the Board of Education. The implementation and success of the *LCSAP* will require continued consultation and collaboration with each department to overcome barriers and provide individuals with the training and resources necessary to achieve the goals and strategies outlined in this document.

As a comprehensive and dynamic plan, the *LCSAP* will be updated as climate change modelling, knowledge, and technology advance. It will also continue aligning with SD 43's operations, core beliefs, and principles.

Progress Monitoring and Communication

The *LCSAP* will be assessed periodically to review and share progress, and adjust course as needed.

WEEKLY	· Progress planning, project management and tracking as part of the Energy and Sustainability Team's weekly meeting.
MONTHLY	· Progress reporting to the Executive Director of Facilities and Planning Services as part of a standing meeting agenda.
ANNUALLY	· Progress reporting as part of the annual presentation to the School District No. 43 Board of Education.
ONGOING	· Implementation and progress review – Direct communication with departments and individuals as required. · Internal sharing of initiatives and progress underway – Work with the Communications Department to share “good news stories” and inspire continued commitment and action.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)

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