



# ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

A COMMITMENT  
TO THE FUTURE

## 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

### Your Green Actions Matter—Let's Show Them Off!

Hey SD43 students! We've seen the amazing things you're doing to help the planet—and we want more! Whether it's turning off lights, sorting your recycling, packing a waste-free lunch, or leading a school-wide sustainability campaign, every eco-action counts.

Tell us what your class, club, or school has been up to. Your story could be featured in our next newsletter to inspire others across the district.

Let's make sustainability the coolest thing happening in SD43 this spring!



Your Energy Team ⚡





## Bike Tune-Up Success: Ready to Roll into Spring!

A big shout-out to Metro Vancouver and our Community Bikes for putting on two Bike Tune-Up Clinics at Hillcrest and Minnekahda Middle on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks to this initiative students had the opportunity to get their bikes in shape for the riding season—replacing tubes, fixing brakes, adjusting chains, and more—all supporting active, low-carbon transportation in our school communities.

Let's keep pedaling toward greener choices! 🚲🌍

## Thank You for Making the Clothing Swap a Success!



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our **District-Wide Clothing Swap** meet held at Pinetree Secondary!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our SD43 families, 7 of our Secondary Schools, collected over 200 bags—about 3,000 clothing items. The quality of donations was outstanding, and the event was filled with energy as students, parents, and staff came together from all over our district to share, swap, and celebrate.

Special recognition goes to the amazing students who showed outstanding leadership and teamwork throughout the setup and event day—you made a real impact!

Remaining clothing will be donated to Big Brothers, extending the spirit of giving even further.

Together, we made a difference for our community and the environment. Thank you, SD43!





## Eco- Week 2025: Small Actions, Big Impact!

During our Eco-Week celebrations, schools across SD43 took on the Earth Day Eco Challenge with energy, creativity, and commitment!

Over three action-packed days, students and staff participated in simple but powerful activities to show how small daily choices can make a big difference:

### 🔌 Day 1 – Reduce Electricity:

Classrooms turned off extra lights, unplugged unused devices, and practiced mindful energy use.

### 🧥 Day 2 – Reduce Natural Gas Use:

Students wore cozy sweaters as a fun and thoughtful way to lower heating needs and raise awareness about energy conservation.

### 🍏 Day 3 – Reduce Waste:

Teams brought litter-less lunches, reused containers, and made waste reduction part of their daily habits.

We are so proud of the enthusiasm and leadership shown across our schools. Each action—whether big or small—helped our community move closer to a more sustainable future.



## Coast Salish Elementary: B.C.'s First Net-Zero Energy School

Coast Salish Elementary in Coquitlam has made history as British Columbia's first net-zero energy school. This groundbreaking achievement is the result of a collaboration between School District 43, the Province of B.C. and BC Hydro.



The school is designed to produce as much energy as it consumes annually, thanks to features like high-efficiency heat pumps, LED lighting, and a rooftop solar array. These innovations not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also serve as a living classroom, inspiring students to engage with sustainability firsthand.

This milestone reflects a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and sets a new standard for sustainable education in our province.

Want to dive deeper into the innovations behind Coast Salish Elementary? Read the full article [here](#).



## EVENTS COMING UP!

### Fresh Roots Markets

Our Coquitlam Peak Season Veggie CSA is back! Sign up to receive 10 weeks of the freshest, seasonal produce grown at our schoolyard farm. From June to August, enjoy vibrant, local veggies while supporting sustainable farming and youth education.

We also propagate a wide variety of native plants at our site in Coquitlam! These will be available for purchase during our Millside Markets from June through August.

Looking for more? Market Credits let you shop flexibly at our Fresh Roots markets—an easy way to support local while enjoying farm-fresh goodness!

Learn more [here](#)





## Join the Eco-Comic Contest: "The Future is Your Design"!

For the third consecutive year, we are excited to announce the launch of the artistic ecological contest "The Future is Your Design," an eco-comic competition for young people aged 8 to 19!

### About the Contest:

Students are invited to imagine and illustrate the City of the Future through a sustainable and innovative lens, creating a short comic (1 to 3 pages) on A4 size paper.

The competition is open until June 30, 2025, and accepts entries in English, French, or any Indigenous language of Canada (with translation).



### Why Participate?

- ✓ A creative and educational way to raise environmental awareness.
- ✓ Free resources from EcoNova to support storytelling, story creation, and climate science learning.
- ✓ Exciting prizes, including drawing materials, eco-notebooks, and comic books!

- Register for free at: [Register Here](#)
- Submit completed work via WeTransfer to [contest@econova.ca](mailto:contest@econova.ca)

**Learn More:** Visit [econova.ca/en](https://econova.ca/en) for full contest details and resources.



## What is going on at your school?



Sustainability is a journey we build with every choice we make, every habit we change, and every idea we bring to life. Across SD43, students, staff, and families are showing that creating a greener future is possible when sustainability becomes part of who we are, not just something we do. Let's keep finding new ways to protect our environment, strengthen our communities, and inspire others.

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](mailto:apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca) to share your eco-champion stories. Let's work together to get the word out and inspire more positive change.

**By making small, consistent changes, we can create a better, greener future.**

