

Every small choice helps build a healthier planet!

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

The Energy Management team would like to extend our thanks to all those district members, students, staff, and families that participated and support us throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Your involvement in our energy-saving initiatives, awareness campaigns and sustainability activities made a real difference.

Together, we've taken meaningful steps toward reducing our carbon footprint and building a more energy-efficient, sustainable future for our schools and community. We look forward to continuing this important work with you in the year ahead!



Adrian Pettyfer
Energy Manager



Katerin Osorio
Energy Specialist



Sustainability Highlights: 2024-2025 School Year



This school year, SD43 celebrated incredible achievements in sustainability, thanks to the enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment of our SD43 community. Together, we've taken meaningful steps to reduce our environmental impact and to build a greener future for our schools and our students.



One of our most exciting milestones was in the completion of our newest school - Coast Salish Elementary — British Columbia's first net-zero energy school. Coast Salish features high efficiency heat pumps, LED lighting, and a rooftop solar array allowing the school to produce as much energy as it consumes. This school sets a new standard for sustainable education, inspiring students to engage with energy conservation firsthand.



Across the district, our schools have embraced a wide range of activities that brought sustainability to life.



Over 657 students participated in the SD43 Eco- Challenge in celebration of Earth Day — turning off lights, unplugging devices, bundling up in cozy sweaters, and bringing litter-less lunches.



Our Sweater Day campaign saw wonderful participation across SD43, with special recognition to Birchland, Mountain View, Kilmer, and Montgomery for raising awareness about energy conservation.



Forty-Five school garden clubs planted herbs and vegetables we supplied for their gardens.

Our District-Wide Clothing Swap was a huge success with over 3,000 quality items collected and redistributed for reuse, thanks to the generosity of SD43 families.

The Energy Detective activity engaged students in monitoring and tracking electrical consumption to see how small daily choices can lead to big energy savings.

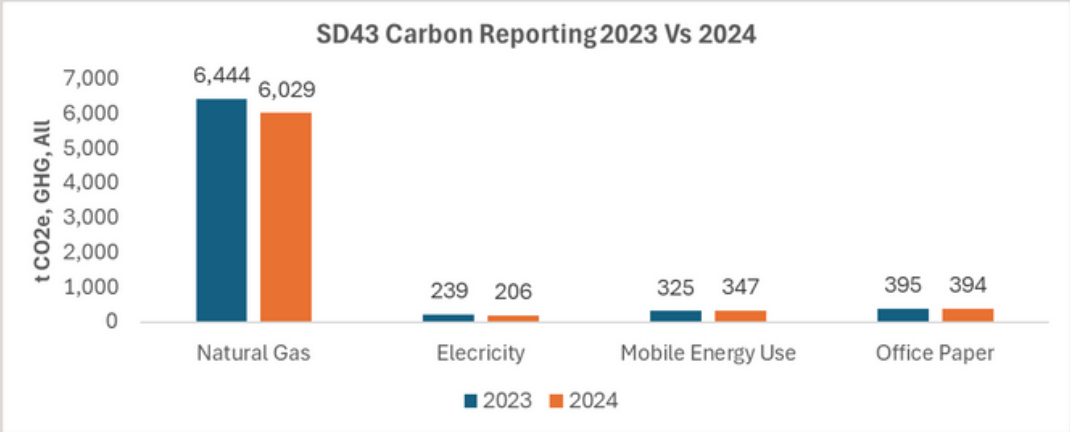
Thank you to everyone who took part in these initiatives. Your leadership, creativity, and teamwork are helping build a sustainable future — and we can't wait to see what we achieve together next year!



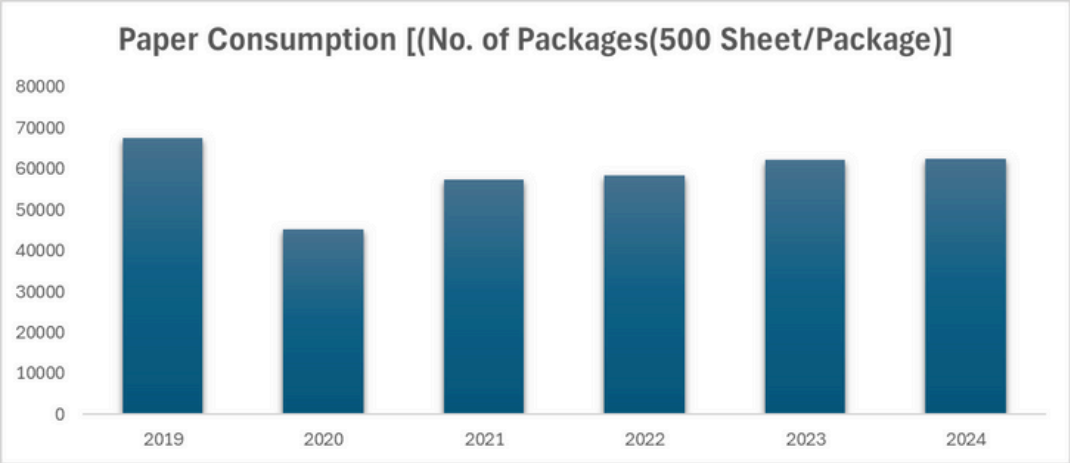
Summary SD43 Carbon Reporting 2024

The district continues to align with BC’s Climate Action Legislation and targets in the reduction of our overall Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). Climate education and energy conservation are integrated into our district’s daily practices, reflecting our commitment to environmental sustainability.

SD43 continues to sustain a culture of carbon awareness through infrastructure upgrades and behaviour-based programs. We have maintained our annual goal to reduce energy use by 3%, which has direct impact on our GHG reduction. We have reduced our overall emissions by 40% since 2010 even with an expanding district.



Our use of paper is the sole area that we have increased our carbon footprint this past year. While other environmental factors have improved, the district's higher paper consumption remains the leading cause of the increased carbon footprint this year. However, our district leaders remain committed to reducing paper use and its associated GHG emissions. We hope to further explore ways to collaborate with teachers and administrators to promote paperless practices, such as adopting digital signatures and setting double-sided printing as the default across all printers. We applaud those schools that have taken on initiatives such as “good on one side” paper trays to encourage reuse and minimize waste.



The district will continue advancing sustainability through education, operational efficiencies, and leadership in climate action.



Join Our Sustainable Leaders Committee!

Calling all Secondary and Middle School Sustainability Leaders. We want you to be a part of our **Sustainable Leaders Committee** for our next school year.

If you're passionate about sustainability we'd love to have you on board!

Students representing their schools meet once a month online to discuss different sustainability ideas or initiatives they are planning. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded students at other schools to collaborate and find ways to reduce waste.

If you're interested or want more information, please reach out at apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca.

Let's work together to make a difference!



BC AITC Gardening Camps for Kids

Looking for a fun, educational summer activity? The BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation is offering hands-on Gardening Camps for children aged 6–12, running at the Pencil Patch in Abbotsford this July and August.

These engaging day camps teach young learners about plant growth—from seed to harvest—while connecting them with nature, sustainability, and practical skills through interactive activities and creative projects.



Camp Details:

- Half-day (9 AM–12:30 PM): July 7–11 (ages 6–12), July 14–18 (ages 8–12) — \$130
- Full-day (9 AM–4 PM): August 11–15 (ages 8–12), August 18–22 (ages 6–12) — \$200

To secure a spot, visit the BC AITC Gardening Camps webpage and click "Apply" . For questions, contact Garden Programs Coordinator Mia Soetaert at agadventures@aitc.ca

More information click [here](#)

Teacher Professional Development



LDDI Summer Institute 2025: Mobilizing Knowledge around Sustainability

UBC's Learning Design & Digital Innovation (LDDI) is hosting a three-day, free professional development event from **July 15 to 17, 9 AM–3 PM** at the Neville Scarfe Building on UBC Vancouver campus.

Themed “**Mobilizing Knowledge around Sustainability, Accessibility and Learning Analytics,**” it features hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and presentations tailored to educators, staff, and students across both K–12 and post-secondary sectors.

This event is open to UBC faculty, staff, students and educators in K-12 and higher education and will be held at the University of British Columbia Vancouver Campus. **Refreshments and lunch will be provided.**

More information click [here](#)

What is going on at your school?



As the school year wraps up, let's carry the spirit of sustainability into summer — whether you're planting a seed, exploring nature, or simply soaking up the sunshine. Thank you for all the amazing things you've done this year. Have a bright, fun-filled summer, and we can't wait to see what you'll grow and create next!

There's so much to celebrate across our district — from student-led initiatives to school-wide events that make a real impact. We'd love to hear what's happening at your school! Share your sustainability stories and help us inspire others as we continue building a greener, more connected SD43 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.

ENJOY THE SUMMER



NEWSLETTER

ENERGY WIRE