



# ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 24  
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## 2025 A CALL TO ACTION: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### 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

### Are you ready to be a hero for your school and the planet?

Every single one of us can make a difference, and together, we can create a sustainable future for everyone. Let's work together to make our schools cleaner, greener, and more energy-efficient. Stay tuned for exciting activities, tips, and stories of students like YOU making a difference!

 **Have an idea or a question?** Let your teacher or the energy team know—we'd love to hear from you!

The future is in your hands—let's make it bright!

Your Energy Team ⚡☀️





# Winter Shutdown Campaign Winners!



Thanks to all the schools that participated in shutting down your schools during the Winter Break

Roy Stibbs Elementary, Aspenwood Elementary and Centennial Secondary are the winners of the pizza lunch. Congratulations!



The plants are growing, are you ready for them?



- Anmore
- Aspenwood
- Baker Dr.
- Birchland
- Blakeburn
- CABC
- Cape Horne
- Castle Park
- Centennial
- Citadel

## List of recipients:

- Eagle Mtn.
- Glen
- Hampton Park
- Heritage Mountain
- HWSS
- iHub
- Kilmer
- Kwayhquitlam
- Miller Park
- Minnekhada
- Montgomery
- Moody El
- Mundy Road
- Pinetree Sec
- Pitt River
- Porter
- Rverside
- Riverview Park
- Rochester
- Roy Stibbs
- Scott Creek
- Seaview
- Smiling Creek
- Summit
- Suwa'lkh
- Terry Fox
- Vanier - Encompas
- Walton

## SPRING GARDENS

We have had 40 garden clubs sign up to get starter plants again this spring. Each registered school will receive 108 assorted vegetables, herbs and pollinating flowers. Our Grounds Crew will deliver them in late April.

Below is the list of registered schools. If your school was missed, please let us know ASAP.



# Looking Ahead: Sustainability Events



For 2025, we plan to design and promote at least one activity each month to educate and empower students to the importance of creating a greener future. We hope that these simple events will make it easy for your school to join us in creating a sustainable culture within our district and community.

## February

### The Waste Wizard Challenge

This event will be focused on better educating and engaging our schools to reduce waste in the landfills. There will be a fun challenge to find out who knows the most about what waste stream to use when disposing of items

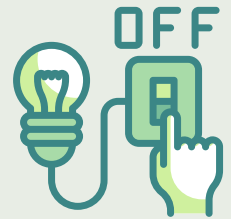


## March

This spring, let's team up for a greener future!

### 💡 Turn It Off Challenge:

Save energy by turning off unused lights, devices, and equipment to make a measurable impact before spring break.



## April

### Earth Day - Eco Challenge Week

Join us again for a three-day (22nd-24th) series of challenges focused on sustainability. From saving energy and reducing waste there's a challenge for every one. Let's see which class can earn the title of "Eco Heroes of 2025"!



## May

### Bike to school Week

Reduce your carbon footprint, stay active, and have fun by biking to school this month.





## Discovery Farm Tours

We're thrilled to invite schools across the district to participate in the Discovery Farm Tours at Academy Farms this May! This unique educational opportunity combines hands-on learning, Indigenous perspectives, and sustainable farming practices to inspire students of all ages.

### ✨ What to Expect:

- Interactive wagon tours featuring Buffalo and Bison.
- Insights into sustainable agriculture and ethical farming practices.
- Fun stops like Calf Alley and the Observation Deck.
- Delicious samples of buffalo and bison products!

 **When: May 2024**

 **Where: Academy Farms, Langley, BC**

Get ready for a fun, educational experience that highlights sustainability and innovation in farming. Let's connect with nature and learn how we can make a positive impact on the environment.

For more information or to book your school's tour, contact at [tours@academyfarms.org](mailto:tours@academyfarms.org).

## National Sweater Day



Celebrate National Sweater Day on **Thursday, February 6!**

Encourage your school to turn down the heat and wear your favorite, warmest, or tackiest sweaters to raise awareness about energy conservation and climate change.

### ✨ Ideas for your school:

- Organize a sweater contest or fashion show.
- Plan a sweater swap to promote reuse.
- Discuss the impacts of climate change on wildlife and brainstorm daily energy-saving actions.



Let's inspire creativity and action while making meaningful contributions to our planet. For resources and tips [here](#).

**If you are interested in participate, email us!**



## Low-Carbon Classroom Challenge!

From now until March 31, 2025, take part in the Low-Carbon Classroom Challenge through [\*\*Commit2Act\*\*](#) platform.

Educators and students can log sustainable actions like reducing waste, using sustainable transportation, or planting a garden.

The first 50 educators with 10 or more participants will receive a Commit2Act water bottle, and the top 3 groups that save the most carbon will win a \$250 gift card for a low-carbon lunch!

Teachers can simply register their classroom or group for the challenge through this [\*\*form\*\*](#). I have also attached the poster for the challenge and a two-pager with more information.

This is a wonderful opportunity to empower your students and make a lasting impact on the environment. We hope you'll join us in the Low-Carbon Classroom Challenge and inspire your students to take action.



## Global Bird Count in February

Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things.

Join us, **February 14–17, 2025**, when the world comes together for the love of birds. (More information [\*\*Here\*\*](#))

Participating is easy, fun to do alone or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds.

**Step 1:** Decide where you will watch birds.

**Step 2:** Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 14–17, 2025.

**Step 3:** Identify all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool for sharing your bird sightings: Try using the [\*\*Merlin Bird ID app\*\*](#) to tell us what birds you are seeing or hearing.

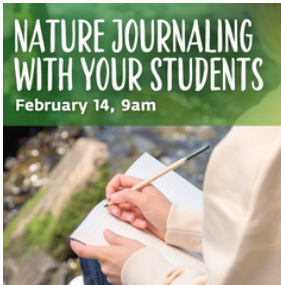
Don't forget to take pictures of your team doing the activity and emailing us!



## Teacher Professional Development

**Two Pro-D workshops** are being held at the **VanDusen Botanical Garden** on Friday, **February 14**.

This is a great chance for teachers to engage in hands-on learning and explore new approaches to education in a beautiful setting.



### **Nature Journaling with Your Students** **February 14, 9am – 2:30pm**

Enjoy a fun and interactive skill-building workshop with author and illustrator Bea Martin.

Register [Here](#)

### **Essential Gardening Skills for Teachers** **February 14, 9am – 12pm**

Level-up your foundational gardening skills with this hands-on workshop in the Learning Garden at VanDusen Botanical Garden. Register [Here](#)



## What is going on at your school?



Your achievements, creativity, and dedication are the sparks that inspire others to join the movement. Together, we're creating a connected and sustainable community that values innovation and teamwork. Let's stay motivated and keep pushing forward—every action brings us closer to a brighter, greener future!

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.

