




ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 34
MARCH 2026



**A clean and safe environment helps
all of us live better**

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

From Tiny Seeds to Big Change!

Spring is officially here, and in District 43, sustainability is in full bloom! This month isn't just about the changing weather; it's about seeing our collective efforts take root. From the "circular economy" of our District-Wide Clothing Swap to the literal growth in our school gardens, your commitment to the Low Carbon Sustainability Plan is becoming visible in every hallway and garden bed.

Show us what you've got! We want to feature your school's hard work in our next update. Share your activities and ideas with us—let's inspire each other to keep pushing for a cleaner, more efficient future.

Let's make this year our most sustainable yet!

Your Energy Team





SD43 Eco Week Challenge: The Race is ON

SD43 Eco-Challenge 2026
Registration Form



Are you ready to lead your school in the ultimate sustainability challenge?

Coquitlam School District's Earth Day Eco-Week Challenge is back **from April 20th – 23rd**. This year, we aren't just looking for participation—we're looking for the fastest and most dedicated teams in the district!

The Challenge: The 4-Day Sprint

The **first 6 teams** to successfully complete **all 4 days of missions and submit their daily evidence** will win the ultimate Sustainability Celebration Package.

The 4-Day Mission Roadmap

To claim one of the 6 prizes, your team (minimum 10 people) must complete one specific energy-saving activity every day and submit the action every single day:

- **Day 1 (Mon):** Reduce Electricity – The Lights-Off Challenge.
- **Day 2 (Tue):** Reduce Natural Gas – Sweater & Hoodie Day to lower heat demand.
- **Day 3 (Wed):** Reduce Lunch Waste – The Waste-Free Lunch mission.
- **Day 4 (Thu):** Reduce Water & Transport Smartly – Leak patrols and low-carbon commuting.

DON'T LEAVE YOUR SCHOOL OFF THE MAP! REGISTER YOUR TEAM BY APRIL 17TH TO SECURE YOUR SPOT IN THE RACE - SCAN QR CODE!





CLOTHING SWAP EVENT



District-Wide Clothing Swap: Refresh Your Wardrobe!

Our highly anticipated District-Wide Clothing Swap is back! This is a fantastic community effort that promotes sustainability, supports local families, and benefits the SHARE Foodbank.

How to Get a VIP Pass (Early Access!)

1. Drop off gently used clothing at any District Secondary School collection station.
2. Ask the office for a VIP Pass when you donate.
3. Your pass gets your entire family in for free at 9:00 am— one hour before the general public!

Information for Schools

Families are encouraged to drop items off at their most convenient secondary school. Alternatively, schools can organize their own "Mini Collection" and drop everything off at the Community Center at once **before April 17th**.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, April 18th

Location: Pinetree Community Center

General Entry: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Admission: Minimum \$2 donation per family (All proceeds go to SHARE Foodbank).

**"THIS IS A GREAT COMMUNITY EFFORT THAT HAS SO MANY BENEFITS FOR SO MANY PEOPLE.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS THE BIGGEST SWAP YET!"**



Garden Clubs: Get Ready to Grow!



Our plants are ready to hit the soil sooner than expected, so it's time to get those gloves on and prep your space!

Important Dates & Tasks

- **Cleanup Phase:** Now is the time! Please clear out your planter beds and prep the soil so they are ready for new life.
- **Delivery Window:** Expect your starter plants to arrive around the 20th of April.



Join the District-Wide Initiative

We currently have **31 schools signed** up to receive starter plants for their vegetable, herb, and pollinating gardens. That is about 10 fewer than last year—which means **there is still room for YOU!**



Why Join?

- Receive high-quality starter plants at no cost to your school.
- Create a hands-on learning environment for students.
- Support our local ecosystem with pollinator-friendly gardens.

Last Call: If your school hasn't signed up yet but wants to be included in this year's delivery, let us know immediately.

Don't let your planter beds stay empty this spring!





Calling All Elementary Beekeepers!



Only 2 Spots Remaining – First Come, First Served!

We are thrilled to launch our new **Mason Bee Education Program** and are looking for two more elementary schools to join the buzz! We have four habitats ready to go—two schools are already signed up, and we want you to be next.

The Best Part: Mason bees are incredible pollinators and they do not sting, making them the perfect "classmates" for students of all ages!

What Your School Receives:

- A Complete Habitat: A "little bee house" and Mason bees (currently chilling in the fridge, waiting for spring!) professionally installed by our district carpenter right after Easter.
- Expert Video Series: Regular "behind-the-scenes" videos featuring Max, our Master Beekeeper from the Grounds Department. You'll get to follow the development of a real honeybee hive!
- In-Person Show & Tell: A special visit from Max and the Energy & Sustainability Team. We'll bring a hive breakdown and other fun, hands-on tools to teach students about the vital role bees play in our environment.



Does Your School Qualify?

To host a habitat, your school needs:

1. **The Perfect Spot**: A South or East-facing high wall where our carpenter can securely install the house.
2. **Eager Learners**: At least one class (ideally Grade 4 or 5, though younger grades are welcome!) committed to learning about bee conservation.



Interested? Contact the Energy & Sustainability Team to claim one of the final two spots!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS "SWEET" OPPORTUNITY TO BRING SCIENCE TO LIFE!





Holiday Shutdown Winners!

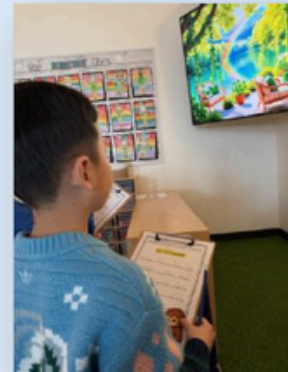
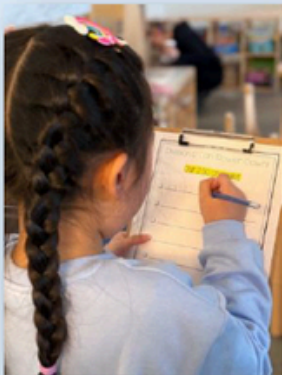
Thanks to those that participated in the Spring Shutdown!

We received some fantastically creative submission from those that participated. The deadline to submit your pictures, artwork or essays is April 10, so don't delay.

Credits: A special thanks to the Coast Salish Green Team for their contributions.

Don't delay—show us how your school saved energy over the break!

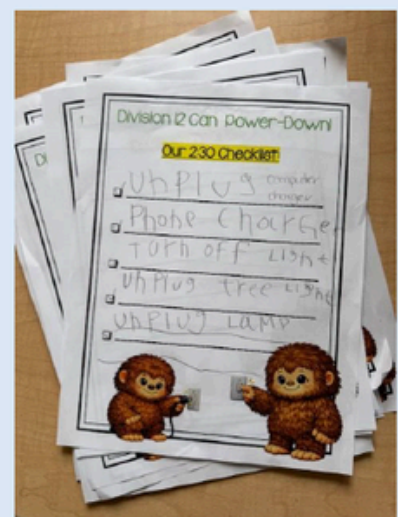
Sasq'ets Can Power-Down for Spring Break



First, we made a list of what to unplug and turn off.



Then Mrs. Parrotta used our lists to unplug and turn off things around the classroom.



Looking Ahead: Sustainability Events



In 2026, we plan to put on an activity each month to empower students to take the lead in creating a greener future. We hope you participate by joining us for these fun and impactful events:



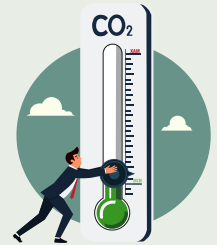
District-Wide Clothing Swap - (DSL)

Like last year, our District Sustainable leaders will be putting on another district-wide clothing swap on April 18th at the Pinetree Community Center. Start collecting your clothing!



Earth Day Week Eco Challenge April 20 - 23

Celebrate Earth Day with four days of eco-friendly challenges focused on energy, waste, water, and active transportation.



Vancouver Landfill Field Trip April 24 Pro-D Day

District Sustainability Club members will visit the Vancouver Landfill to learn firsthand about waste management and the environmental impacts of consumption. Transportation and lunch provided by Metro Vancouver. (Pro D Day)



Spring Gardens

The Energy Team will provide assorted vegetables, herbs and pollinating flowers to registered schools early May. Start thinking about your design ideas!



The Waste Wizard Challenge

Our District Sustainable Leadership (DSL) students are creating a refresher course on proper waste sorting. Expect fun games and interactive videos to participate in!



Car Free Day

Leave the car behind – take transit, walk, or roll! Let's inspire people to get out of their cars, interact with each other, and explore alternative modes of transportation.





SD43 CLOTHING SWAP

Don't shop—Swap! Give your pre-loved clothes a second life and find your new favorite outfit for FREE.



SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026

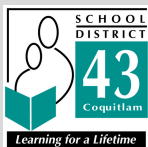
9:00 am (VIP) – 3:00 pm

Location: Pinetree Community Centre
1260 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam

**DONATION COLLECTION AT ALL SD43
SECONDARY SCHOOLS. ASK AT OFFICE.**

Who can participate?

- All SD43 families and friends are welcome
- Donate and get VIP entry, (see office for VIP pass)
- All others entry with min \$2 donation to go to the SHARE Community Foodbank



Organizer: SD43 District Sustainability Leadership Committee – DSL





ECO-WEEK CHALLENGE

APRIL 20th - 23rd



4 Days, 4 Missions, 1 Net-Zero Goal.

1



Join as a class, club, or group of friends (minimum 10 people)

2



Winning team receives the **Sustainability Prizes**. Don't leave your school off the map. Register by April 17.

3



Save the Date: Earth Day 2026 Celebration!



Earth Day is celebrated by over 190 countries every April 22nd.

This year, join over six million Canadians in taking action to protect our planet. The City of Port Coquitlam and the District are teaming up to host a free community event that you won't want to miss!

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Location:** Minnehada Middle School Park (1390 Laurier Avenue)



Repair Café: Fix It, Don't Ditch It!



Do you have a broken toaster, a wobbly lamp, or a favorite gadget that's stopped working? Don't throw it away—bring it to the Spring Repair Café! Repair Cafés are community events where residents bring broken items to be fixed for free by talented volunteers who love tinkering and giving new life to old objects. More information click [here](#).

Event Details

- Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2026
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Dogwood Pavilion (1655 Winslow Ave), Mike Butler Room



SD43 Professional Development



National GOOS Paper Day | EcoSchools Canada

Go "GOOS" for the Planet!

By using GOOS paper for sketching, drafting, and notes, your school can significantly reduce its paper footprint and earn points toward EcoSchools Canada certification. More information click [here](#).

The Challenge: Set up a decorated GOOS Bin in every classroom.

The contest begins on Thursday, April 2 and ends on Friday, April 10, 2026.



Cool It! Climate Leadership Training



The Cool It! program, a climate change education and action-focused initiative designed for students in Grades 4 through 12.

Delivered by the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), this program empowers youth and their families to learn about climate science and take tangible steps to reduce their carbon footprints.

How the Program Works

Cool It! is a four-week, action-focused program that blends classroom learning with real-world impact:

- **Interactive Workshops:** Students learn foundations of climate science through games, videos, and group discussions.
- **The Climate Challenge:** Following the workshop, students begin a four-week mini-curriculum.
- **Results & Rewards:** Teachers receive a summary of their students' performance, including the total actions taken and an estimate of emissions avoided.

More information, click [here](#).



BCSEA Energy Connections - April 27th 2026



Are you interested in the future of clean energy? Join the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) for their flagship annual conference! This hybrid event brings together industry leaders, government officials, students, and innovators to explore the path toward a sustainable, 100% renewably powered BC.

For more details, visit: www.bcsea.org

Student Scholarship Award

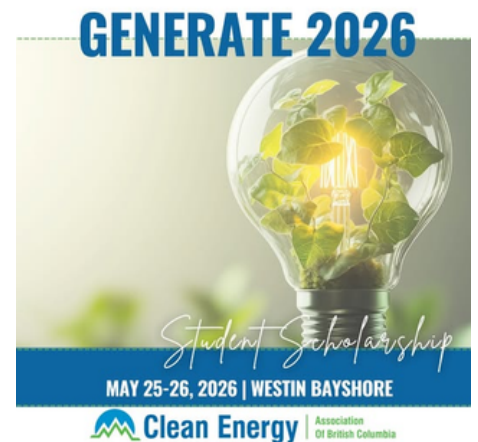
Calling all Class of 2026 Graduates!

Are you passionate about a future in clean energy? The Clean Energy Association of BC (CEBC), funded by Trinity Consultants Canada, is offering a \$2,000 scholarship to a BC secondary student pursuing post-secondary studies in the clean energy sector.

How to Apply

To be eligible, you must be a Canadian citizen and a full-time BC student graduating in 2026. Submit the following:

- **A 1-2 Page Paper (approx. 500 words):** Answer the question: “Why is clean energy important to me as a young person in BC?” (Include relevant school projects, volunteer work, and your academic aspirations).
- **Letter of Reference:** One letter from a teacher, employer, or coach speaking to your character.
- **Contact Info:** Your name, address, phone, and email.



Important Dates

Deadline: April 20, 2026

Winner Notified: May 4, 2026

Award Presentation: May 26, 2026, at the CEBC Generate Conference.

Apply via email to: admin@cleanenergybc.org

More information click [here](#)



APRIL - MONTH OF SUSTAINABILITY BLOOM



Mark your calendars! From local school initiatives to global movements, April is packed with opportunities to make a difference.



National Wildlife Week (CWF)

Dates: April 5 – 11, 2026

Celebrate Canada's natural heritage! This week is dedicated to learning about our wild neighbors and protecting the biodiversity in our own backyards and school grounds. Keep an eye out for local species and become a "Citizen Scientist."

More information, click [here](#)

World Health Day

Date: April 7, 2026

The theme this year reminds us that Planet Health = Human Health. Clean air, fresh water, and sustainable food systems are the foundations of a healthy community. Consider a "Walk to School" day or a waste-free snack challenge to celebrate.

More information, click [here](#)



Earth Day Canada

Date: April 22 (and Every Day!)

Join over six million Canadians in the world's largest environmental movement. While the global date is the 22nd, we carry this spirit through all our April activities.

More information, click [here](#)

SUSTAINABLE

What is going on at your school?



Last month was about building momentum; this April is about seeing the results! Whether you are participating in our district-wide Earth Day celebrations, you are the driving force behind our sustainability goals. Keep up the amazing work, SD43!

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 to share your eco-champion stories. Let's work together to get the word out and inspire more positive change.

