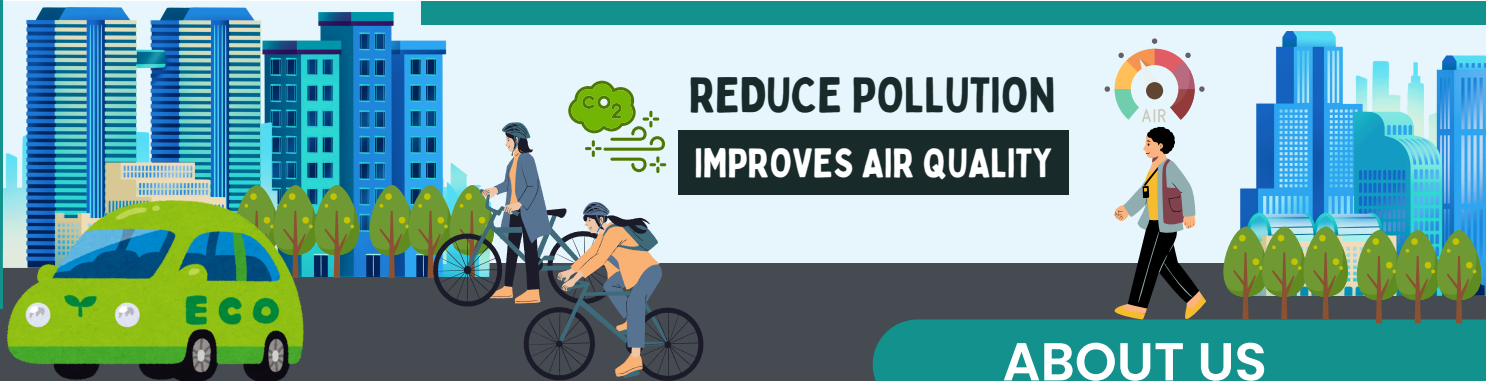




# ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 36  
MAY 2026



## 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

School is winding down for the summer, but energy conservation does not take a vacation. The Energy Team has been so impressed by the dedication and involvement of our district community toward sustainability all year long.

As the school year ends and the summer break arrives, we want to encourage our families, students, and staff to take all those eco-habits we have developed home with them. Summer offers a perfect opportunity to reset our daily routines and connect deeper with our local environment.

Thank you for your continued dedication to making our community more sustainable. Please stay tuned for our final end-of-year energy checklist in our upcoming newsletter!





## SD43 Sustainability Year-in-Review: Our 2025–2026 Milestones



This school year, SD43 achieved so many incredible sustainability initiatives. Thank you for the enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment. Together, we've taken meaningful steps to reduce our environmental impact, build cross-departmental collaborations, and bring hands-on environmental stewardship to life for our students and staff.



Operational sustainability reached new heights this year through many events, and partnerships. On March 26th, 2026, we initiated a new collaborative workshop with our Caretakers to target efficient facility actions. Furthermore, our team partnered with the Procurement department to introduce "Sugar Sheet"—a highly sustainable and cost-effective white paper option that reduces our reliance on traditional paper.



Our school grounds truly thrived with green activities and biodiversity education. On Earth Day, 44 school garden clubs received 24 varieties of vegetables and herbs to kickstart their spring crops. We also grew our local canopy through the Legacy Tree Program, bringing hands-on planting and education to Pitt River, Kilmer, Riverview Park, and the Vanier Centre, while Master Beekeeper Max Aurelian visited four elementary schools to teach students about the vital role of pollinators.



Our student leaders took the reins on waste reduction and resource conservation across the district. Our student-led Clothing Swap successfully found new homes to thousands of items, prompting Morgan Holmes from Pinetree Secondary to share, "A massive thank you to our 60+ volunteers who made this happen." Additionally, 94 eco-leaders championed vital electricity, gas, waste, and water conservation habits during Eco-Week.

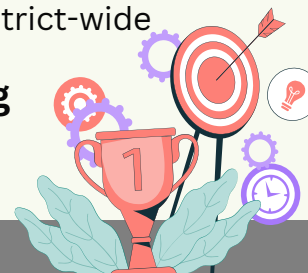


To celebrate these massive achievements, 21 environment leaders from Centennial, Riverside, Gleneagle, and Port Moody capped off the year with an educational tour of Metro Vancouver's Lulu Island facility to explore wastewater resource recovery.



Initiatives such as our seasonal Sweater Day program along with the ongoing updates from the Energy Wire newsletter, SD43 continues to turn small daily habits into district-wide victories.

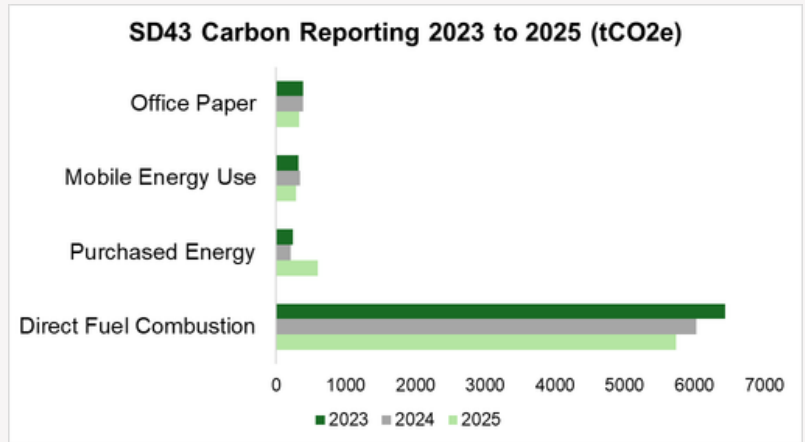
**Thank you, SD43, for your outstanding dedication to protecting our planet and inspiring the green leaders of tomorrow!**



# Summary SD43 Carbon Reporting 2025

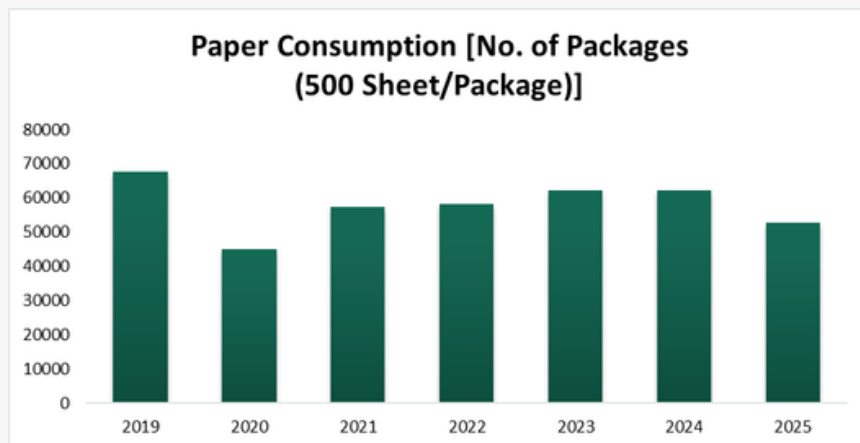
The district continues to align with BC's Climate Action Legislation and targets in the reduction of our overall Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). Climate education and energy conservation are integrated into our district's daily practices, reflecting our commitment to environmental sustainability.

SD43 continues to sustain a culture of carbon awareness through infrastructure upgrades and behavior-based programs. With the formal adoption of our new Low Carbon Sustainability Action Plan by the Board of Education, we have maintained our annual goal to reduce energy use by 3%, which has a direct impact on our GHG reduction. Through these coordinated efforts, we have successfully reduced our overall emissions by 39.45% since 2010.



In a major turnaround from previous years, our district-wide paper consumption saw a significant decline in 2025, dropping down to 332 tCO2e (approximately 53,000 packages). This success is a direct result of our schools transitioning to digital formats, setting double-sided printing as defaults, and utilizing "good on one side" paper trays.

To lock in these reductions, the district successfully sampled sugarcane-byproduct "Sugar Sheet" paper across our equipment this past year. Moving forward, we are fully standardizing this option across all schools to permanently minimize our paper-associated carbon footprint.



Our facilities team also drove immense operational efficiencies this year. Mechanical upgrades—including high-efficiency condensing boilers at Como Lake Middle School and Baker Drive Elementary, alongside massive LED lighting conversions at four of our campuses—successfully cut our footprint while saving an expected 381,000 kWh annually. Furthermore, our expanded EV infrastructure grew to 66 chargers across 13 sites, eliminating an estimated 63.19 tons of CO2 equivalent emissions



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



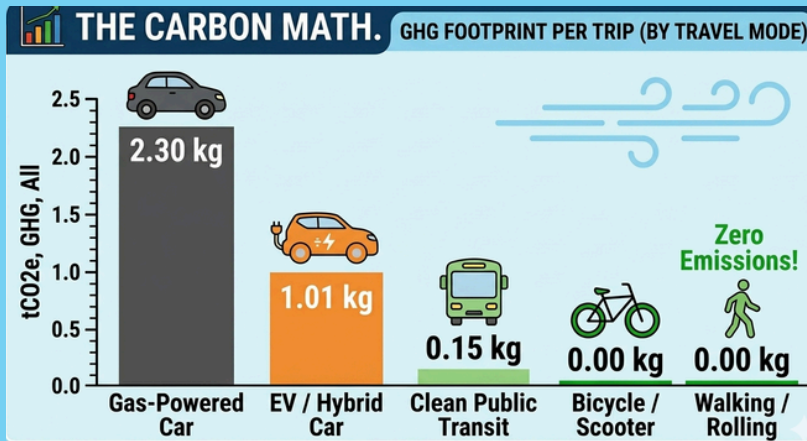
# CLEAN AIR MONTH

## JUNE 2026 - CHOOSE HOW YOU ROLL TO YOUR SCHOOL



### THE BIG PROBLEM

**Did you know?** Personal vehicles (cars, SUVs, light trucks) are the single largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gases in Metro Vancouver, causing **30% to 35%** of all regional emissions!



**Choosing to walk, bike, skate, or take transit directly cleans our local air, protects our health, and helps our community achieve its regional climate targets.**

**Sustainable transportation is not just an environmental victory, it is proven to boost academic focus and personal well-being.**

### BRAINPOWER & HEALTH BENEFITS

- 1 BOOSTS MORNING FOCUS**  
  
concentration
- 2 LUNG HEALTH ZONE**  
  
less idling cars
- 3 MENTAL REFRESH**  
  
Low stress points



### 3 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: CLEAN TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOLS THIS JUNE



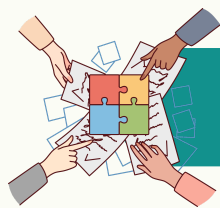
WALK TO SCHOOL



BIKE OR SCOOTER



TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORT



# 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](mailto:apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca).

**Let's work together to make a difference!**





### Rainforest Adventure Camps

Summer camp registration is now available through the Community School Programs.

Families can explore a variety of summer camp opportunities for elementary-aged children, including full-day and half-day options throughout July and August. Programs are designed to provide fun, engaging, and active experiences during the summer break.

### Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Eco-Activities

Various local parks (like Belcarra, Pacific Spirit, and Derby Reach) host weekend nature walks, invasive species pull events, and biodiversity tracking.

More information click [here](#)



### Canadian Environmental Week 2026

Canadian Environment Week takes place from May 31 to June 6, 2026, encouraging Canadians to celebrate and protect the environment through local action and community engagement.

This year highlights important environmental themes including climate action, clean air, biodiversity, and reducing pollution. Special dates during the week include Canada's Clean Air Day on June 3 and World Environment Day on June 5.

More information click [here](#)



## TORCA Mountain Bike Festival

The TORCA Mountain Bike Festival takes place on June 6, 2026 at Eagle Mountain Park in Coquitlam, celebrating local mountain biking culture and trail stewardship.

This free, family-friendly event features group rides, bike demos, skills zones, kids' activities, food, and community exhibitors.

More information click [here](#)



## General City Planning - Port Coquitlam

Don't forget to grab your physical or digital 2026 Community Calendar and Sort It Right Guide, which outline local waste reduction and seasonal collection schedules. Download them at the City of Port Coquitlam 2026 Calendar or via the official City of Coquitlam Waste Management app.

More information click [here](#)



# Professional Development



## Metro Vancouver REAC Conference Day (June 5, 2026)

Metro Vancouver's annual Conference Day returns on June 5, 2026, bringing together engineering and municipal professionals from across the region to discuss infrastructure, sustainability, and delivering best value for residents.

This year's event will feature keynote speakers, panel discussions, and technical sessions focused on asset management, climate resilience, project delivery, and regional collaboration.

More information click [here](#)



## Hatchery Open House

The Hoy/Scott Watershed Society offers ongoing community events focused on salmon conservation and watershed education in Coquitlam.

A highlight is the monthly Hatchery Open House (first Saturday of each month, excluding summer months), where visitors can tour the hatchery and learn about local salmon habitats.

More information click [here](#)



# JUNE - ECO DAYS TO HIGHLIGHT



Get involved! Whether in the classroom or at home, these global dates are perfect opportunities to take action and celebrate our planet.

## Canada's Clean Air Day



**Date:** June 3, 2026

Celebrate the first Wednesday of June by encouraging walking, rolling, or taking transit to school to reduce emissions. Discuss air quality awareness.

More information, click [here](#)

## UN World Environmental Day

**Date:** June 5, 2026

led by the United Nations, this year focuses heavily on a global call for climate action. Perfect for a school-wide plastic-free lunch challenge.

More information, click [here](#)



## World Ocean's Day

**Date:** June 8, 2026

Living in Metro Vancouver, the ocean is our backyard. Excellent day for families or school groups to do a shoreline cleanup or learn about local marine stressors.

More information, click [here](#)

## World Refill Day

**Date:** June 16, 2026

World Refill Day, celebrated annually on June 16, is a global campaign encouraging people to reduce single-use plastic waste by choosing reusable and refillable alternatives.

More information, click [here](#)



## What is going on at your school?



Every seed planted this year—whether it was a new idea, a sustainable habit, or a great friendship—is ready to bloom. Thank you for your hard work and for making our community a brighter place. Step into your summer with pride for everything you’ve accomplished, and get ready for the amazing adventures ahead.

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](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.

***THROUGH GLOBAL COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, AND COMMITMENT,  
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CAN POWER A CLEANER, GREENER, AND MORE  
EQUITABLE FUTURE.***

