

EW ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

An initiative from SD43's Facilities Department - Energy Management and Sustainability

Issue No. 19 Date: Feb 2024

About Us

We are the District's Sustainability and Energy Management Team.

We work with BC Hydro, Clean BC, and Fortis 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.

Calendar of Sustainable Events:

April 22nd- 26th - Save The Date 2024 Eco-Challenge – Earth Day week.

Please plan to participate in the Earth Day Eco-Challenge week either as a Team or as an Individual.

Participate in the daily activities listed below for a chance to win prizes!

Day 1 – Earth Day - Climate Action Commitment – Pledge Day. (Monday)

Day 2 – Reduce Electricity (Tuesday)

Day 3 – Reduce Natural Gas (Wednesday)

Day 4 – Reduce Waste (Thursday)

Day 5 – Walk, Bus, Bike, Scooter to school (Friday)

This will be a similar challenge to the one we ran last year structured to bring awareness to Climate Action and Sustainability. Stay tuned for further details.



April 26th - STEAM Sustainability Fair



Finish up Earth Week by attending the STEAM Sustainability Fair

STEAM projects with a sustainability theme will be exhibited for all schools to view.
Details to come.

Winter Shutdown Competition – and the winners are:



Thank you to all the schools that participated in our past Winter Shutdown.

From all the schools that had Teams go out and shut things down, we drew three Teams to win a Pizza Party.

Congratulations: Gleneagle Secondary, Kilmer Elementary, and Aspenwood Elementary.



Giant Pumpkin Competition – Planting in April.

\$200 for the winner.

Register Now I need to get the seeds soon.



We will be having a Giant pumpkin-growing competition starting this Spring.

We have contacted Dave Keen, our local Giant Pumpkin growing expert who is happy to provide us with seeds from his biggest pumpkin and assist us with growing tips and encouragement.

The pumpkin seeds will need to germinate and then be planted by the schools. A pumpkin does not need an elaborate planting spot, you can select a spot on school grounds, or a school can select an alternative planting spot such as a staff, student, or neighbor's place to provide better care over the summer.

\$200 will be given to the school with the biggest pumpkin to spend on anything to do with sustainability education. The big weigh-off will take place on Halloween 2024.

We now have eight schools signed up to be a part of this. We need to plant the seeds in April so please let me know if your school would like to join soon. Please email me apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca.

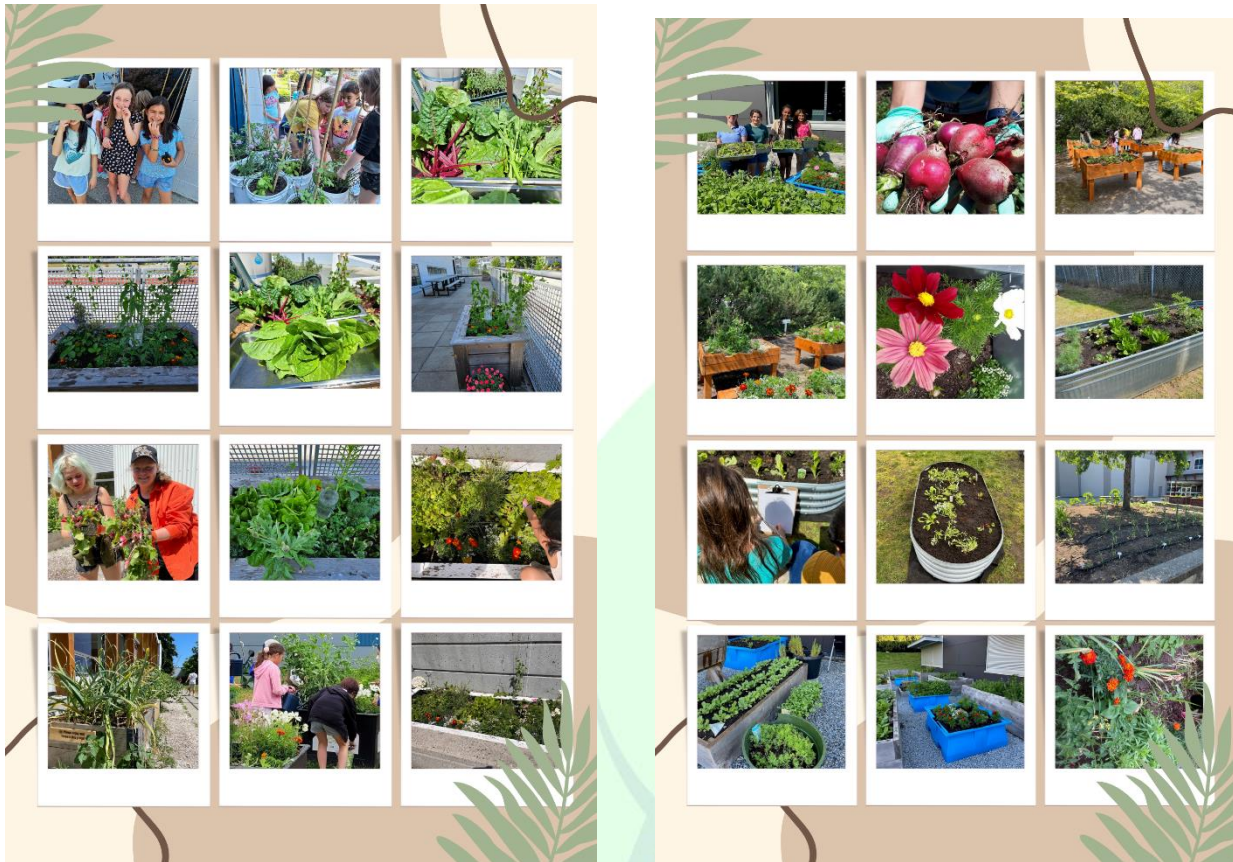
SPRING GARDENS

Garden Clubs

Unfortunately, Urban Roots, who supported and supplied our garden clubs with plants over the last couple of years, is no longer able to supply us.

I am searching for a supplier but have not found one yet. Please let me know if you have any connections or suggestions.

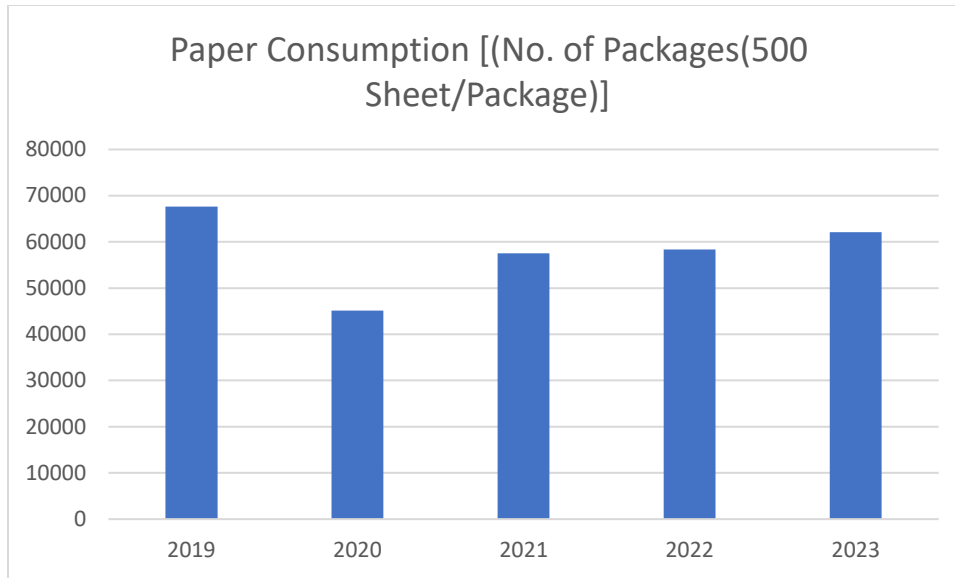
I am confident that we will find some supplies to get your Garden Clubs going this Spring, so please let me know if you would like to receive plants at apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca and I will add you to the list.



Exploring Sugar Sheets to replace 8.5"x11" White Paper

Coquitlam School District is always looking for ways to reduce its carbon footprint. Paper use is the third largest contributor of our carbon emissions and consequently our carbon tax. Our paper use contributed 368 tCO₂e of carbon emissions last year.

As we are a growing district, it is hard to reduce our paper consumption as we need to ensure all schools have the paper they need, so we need to use and purchase paper wisely.



We are exploring the possibility of replacing our existing 8.5" X 11" white paper made from wood pulp with a product made from sugar cane waste called Sugar Sheets. If we replace the use of our traditional 8.5" X 11" pulp paper with Sugar Sheet, we will reduce our emissions by 122 tCO₂e.



Sugar Sheets Information			
PCR(%)	PKs	Emissions Factor (TCO ₂ /unit)	tCO ₂ e
0	46229	0.006357551	293.9032
30	8463	0.005653122	47.84237
TOTAL			341.7456
Replacing with Sugar Sheet			
	PKs	Emissions Factor (TCO ₂ /unit)	
Sugar Sheets	54692	0.004009757	219.3016
		100% PCR Eq	
Net Savings (tCO₂e)			122



As per the Climate Action Secretariat, sugar sheets are treated as 100%PCR and their emissions are equivalent to 100% PCR (recycled) paper.

Sugar Sheet is now the paper of choice with most Post Secondary Education and many Government organizations.

We are working with our purchasing department to secure an equivalent price and reliable supply to what we are accustomed too.

We will be providing sample packs for your schools to try.

**2023/2024 Environmental and financial cost comparison
between wood fibre paper and Sugar Sheet copy paper**

Environmental impact of one 5000 sheet box of copy paper				
	0% RECYCLED	30% RECYCLED	100% RECYCLED	SUGAR SHEET
Paper Type	Uncoated Freesheet	Uncoated Freesheet	Uncoated Freesheet	SUGAR SHEET
Quantity	50 Pounds	50 Pounds	50 Pounds	50 Pounds
% Recycled	0%	30%	100%	100%
 Wood Use	0.1 U.S. short tons Equivalent to 0.6 trees	0.07 U.S. short tons Equivalent to 0.4 trees	0 U.S. short tons Equivalent to 0 trees	0 U.S. short tons Equivalent to 0 trees
 CO2	449 pounds (203.6 kg) CO2 equiv.	372 pounds (168.7 kg) CO2 equiv.	190 pounds (86.1 kg) CO2 equiv.	0 pounds (0 kg) CO2 equiv. (29.4 kg before offset)
<small>* Environmental impact estimates for Uncoated Freesheet were calculated using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator Version 4.0. For more information visit www.papercalculator.org ** Environmental impact estimates for Sugar Sheet are from S&P TruCost's Environmental Performance Report. For more information visit www.socialprint.com/ica </small>				

Canadian Carbon Tax calculations of one 5000 sheet box of copy paper at \$65 /mt CO2e				
	203.6 kg CO2e x \$65 /mt \$13.23 /box	168.7 kg CO2e x \$65 /mt \$10.96 /box	86.1 kg CO2e x \$65 /mt \$5.59 /box	0 kg CO2e x \$65 /mt \$0 /box

IN SUMMARY

The environmental and financial costs associated with the purchase of 100 boxes of copy paper are shown below

	0% RECYCLED COPY PAPER	30% RECYCLED COPY PAPER	100% RECYCLED COPY PAPER	SUGAR SHEET COPY PAPER
Trees Required	60 trees	40 trees	0 trees	0 trees
CO2 Emissions	20,360 kg <i>That's over 20 tonnes!</i>	16,870 kg	8,610 kg	0 kg 2940 kg before offset
CAD Carbon Tax	\$1323	\$1096	\$559	\$0

For more information please visit socialprint.com or email info@socialprint.com

We will be working with our Sustainability teams and students to further communicate this opportunity to make a positive change.

BC Lions Energy Champions!



Energy Champions is presented by FortisBC and the BC Lions to get kids excited about saving energy, improving safety, and sharing the importance of environmental responsibility. Through the power of the Internet, BC Lions football players are now able to huddle remotely with elementary school Grades K-7 throughout the province for interactive presentations that inspire students to become the next generation of energy Champions.

This Year the following schools from our district successfully applied:

- Feb 9: Baker Drive Elementary
- Feb 9: Mundy Road Elementary
- Feb 21: Leigh Elementary

There are only a very few presentations done each year. If you'd like to have the BC Lions visit your school next year please let us know your interest or contact the BC Lions directly through Brittany Sundher at bsundher@bclions.com or visit the BC Lions website, to reserve a spot.

Vancouver Landfill Open House

Where does your garbage and green waste go after it's picked up?

The Vancouver Landfill Open House for schools is back on Friday, June 7th, 2024.

Enter the fascinating world of Transfer and Landfill Operations and find out where your garbage, food scraps, and green waste end up!



The open house event offers students a fantastic opportunity to see firsthand and learn about where their garbage goes, as well as about recycling and environmental protection outside the classroom. The City of Vancouver will be offering bus tours of the landfill, educational booths, and interactive displays.

If your school is interested in learning more about the tour, let me know ASAP. Registration will open soon, and spots tend to fill up quickly. Email apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca

Let's applaud Snow Removal Efforts by Grounds Crew

What a snowstorm we experienced on January 17 and 18! The snow kept on falling and our Grounds crew worked tirelessly through both nights to ensure our schools were able to be opened as soon as possible.

Many schools have expressed their appreciation for the hard work.

Thank you once again to our Grounds crew for all your efforts in clearing snow at over 80 sites.



Farewell SD43 – Ashish Dev is leaving.

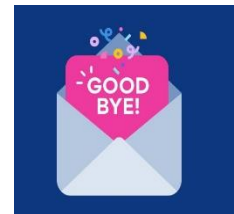
After 4 years as the Energy Specialist in our District, Ashish Dev, will be leaving us to take the Energy Manager position at SD42 (Maple Ridge). Ash has been a huge asset to our District and to the Energy and Sustainability team. His work will be most noticeable to you in his contribution in writing these newsletters and the numerous sustainability initiatives he has developed and implemented.

In his words: "This will be the last time I'll be writing the Energy Wire newsletter for the Coquitlam School District.

It's sad to say goodbye to amazing administrators and colleagues as I enjoyed working with everyone and value the relationship created over the four years.

It has been a great learning curve for me to work and learn while being with SD43.

Special thanks to Megan and Adrian who had been a great support to me, I couldn't be more than lucky to have them as the department's leader.



This might be the end of my time with the Board, but it is not the end of our friendship – please keep in touch and/or connect with me on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashish-dev-cem-cmvp-cre-pmva-fmp-7bb79824/>

What is going on at your school?

If you or your school is doing something that will help sustain our world's environment, we want to hear about it and let everyone else know. Please contact us so we can help get the word out.

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