

EW ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

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

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About Us

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

We work with BC Hydro, Clean BC, and Fortis BC in finding 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:

Winter Shutdown Competition – Dec 16th.



As we do every year, we will be asking your school to participate in shutting things off or down before the two-week winter break. An information email will be sent out to all schools on November 28th. The top 3 schools will win a pizza lunch in January 2023 on the day of their choice.

Save The Date 2023 Eco-Challenge – Earth Day week. April 16 – 22nd 2023.

Please plan to participate in the Eco-Challenge next year from April 17 through April 22. With Earth Day at the end of this week, we hope to get more schools participating this year in this fun and educational structure to bring awareness to Climate Action and Sustainability. Stay tuned.

Survey on EV Chargers

The energy management and sustainability team will be issuing a survey to all schools around interest in EV chargers. The focus of this survey will be on gauging interest across the schools in the district for the installation of EV Chargers. We want to know your interest in having charging available at your school. We'll be asking about the existing number of EVs being used by Staff and students as well as how influenceable the availability of access to charging at school would be in your next vehicle purchase.

Installing EV chargers is an expensive undertaking for our district. However, we hope to provide more chargers to staff over time.

Your feedback is important! A survey will be sent to all schools, and we ask that you participate and share your thoughts with us.



Currently, we have installed charging at:

- Gleneagle SS
- Port Moody SS
- Heritage Woods SS / Eagle Mtn Mid
- Kwayhquitlum Mid
- Banting Mid
- Maintenance Yard
- ELC – Board Office

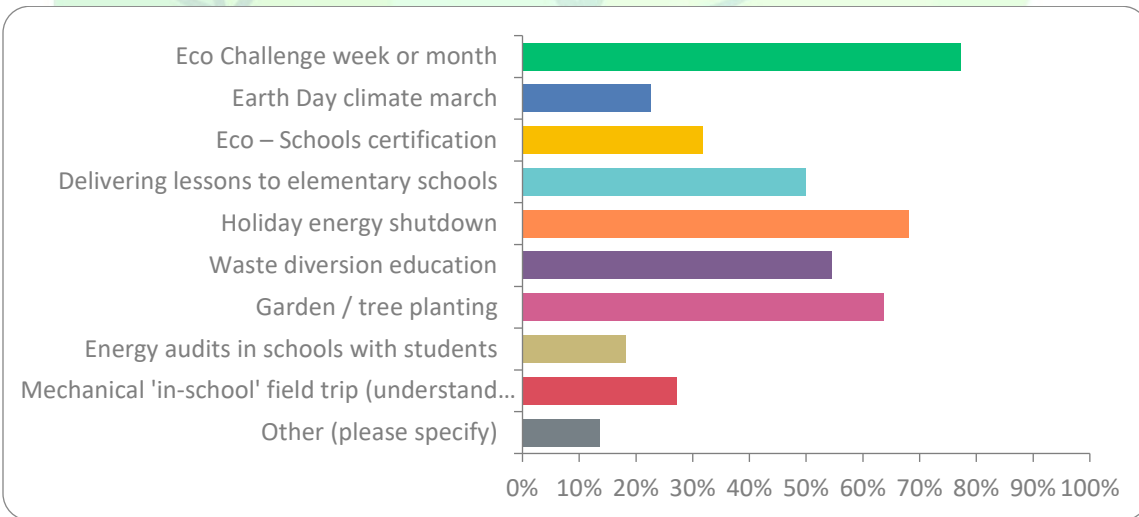
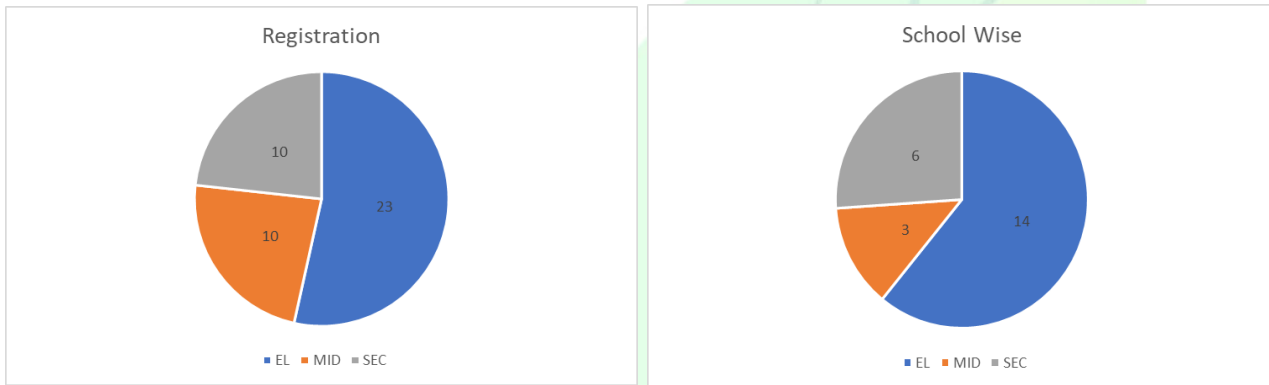
Results of District Sustainability Interactive Workshop

On the October 21st Pro D Day, we, the energy, and sustainability team conducted a Sustainability Interactive Workshop for teachers around our district that focused on developing the sustainability culture in our schools.



The workshop discussed the successes of the different sustainability initiatives that we have developed in the past and brainstormed new ideas that we should all peruse in the future. This workshop was conducted at our newly inaugurated Education and Learning Centre building o Winslow Ave, Coquitlam. Post-workshop, a survey was conducted to assess the event and gauge the interest of teachers towards various sustainability initiatives. Here’s a summary of the results:

- 44 teacher participants
- Lunch and Learn Opportunity (Breakfast and Working Lunch)
- A mix of EL, MID & SEC Schools teachers
- Jeopardy Game in the middle to engage listening. Sustainable items as gifts were appreciated
- Excellent feedback (90% of Attendees were” Very Satisfied”)
- The presentation by Taniell (Prism) on the Climate Change report was appreciated
- Presentation by Ecoschools, HSR Zero Waste, PowerSmart for Schools by BCH
- Shared Past Success Stories and Experiences and engaged in Group Discussion over Lunch



Actions related to sustainability that teachers committed to this year included, Eco-schools, Eco-challenge, development of green teams, waste recycling, and PowerSmart for schools. All the initiatives are listed in the cloud below:

We invite more schools to join this league and become a part of a great sustainability story. If you wish to join EcoSchools, please check out the program and connect with us!

<https://ecoschools.ca/>

Review of Westwood EL, Birchland EL, and Eagle Mountain Middle!

The energy management and sustainability team have recently engaged ESC automation to review Westwood Elementary and Birchland Elementary which have been high-energy consumers. The focus of this review is to optimize the system operations to ensure energy savings.

We also engaged ESC Automation to provide a final review at Eagle Mountain Middle to ensure the heating plant is prepared for winter. During the summer we had the Eagle Mountain mechanical system recommissioned. Now we expect to be able to use the heat pumps to heat the building with minimal support from gas-fired backup boilers reducing our GHG emissions.

Tree Planting continues at Kilmer El. and Eagle Mountain.

We want to continue to support our schools to get involved in planting trees and educating our students about the importance of trees. This month both Kilmer El and Eagle Mountain received young Dogwoods that students have planted in a continuation of creating outdoor learning spaces.

Kilmer - Last week students celebrated their new school trees with an outdoor dance party during recess. Thanks to School District 43 Sustainability Team and Tri-City Green Council we were able to plant one Dogwood tree and one Mountain Ash tree in the same area as a previously planted Maple tree. Over time these trees will expand the shade zone for students to play in during the warm and dry months of the year. As Kilmer is a Summer Learning site, shade is important 11 of 12 months each year 😊



In addition to planting the trees, students planted an assortment of tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils around each tree as well as in the established courtyard garden. They also topped up the classroom planter boxes with new garden soil and mulch. These bins were recently donated to the school by Tri-City Green Council.

Eagle Mountain – With the prize money won at last year’s Eco-Challenge competition Eagle Mountain purchased a small Dogwood tree which a team of students planted this week in their courtyard to provide shade and a central piece for a new outdoor learning space.



Are you looking for some ideas to get started at your school?

Here are some links to guide your quest. Winter is a great time for planning Spring Projects.

[Spuds in Tubs](#)

[The Strawberry Project](#)

[Bulbs For Kids](#)

[Room to Play \(room to play\) - Profile | Pinterest](#)

[School Garden Grants](#)

If your school would also like to a tree and would like to apply, please let us know.

Vanier's Pollinator Meadows



October 25th may have been a wet day, but it didn't stop Karin Leathwood and her team of staff, students, volunteers, and sponsors from joining forces to prep their pollinating meadow by planting native plant species that will attract the surrounding insects, birds, and bats. They all gathered with shovel picks and forks in the drizzle with positive attitudes, a sense of community, and pride.

What a fantastic opportunity for our students to enhance their communities and build self-confidence and peer connections while creating and supporting local habitat space and our pollinators.

A tremendous thank you to The Coquitlam Rotary Club and TD Banks Friends of the Environment Grant for encouraging, supporting, and funding the Garden and Habitat Club at Vanier.

We look forward to seeing the final canopy next spring.

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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