

POLICY: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP # 908

SECTION: 900 School and Community Relations Page 1 of 1

APPROVAL/REVISION EFFECTIVE REVIEW  
DATE: September 2015 DATE: September 2015 DATE: September 2020

CROSS REFERENCE: Environmental Stewardship Procedures

A: **POLICY**

1. 1.1 The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board believes that we are called to show leadership in environmental stewardship in our community. As Catholic believers we are called to see the entire universe as a creative work of God's love. As Catholic educators, we are called to share, nurture, and develop that vision with our students
- 1.2 We are called to be stewards of creation and to exercise leadership in ecological responsibility, and to work to change systems and structures that are ecologically unsound. To face this enormous challenge, we will move from awareness to an active realization of a cooperative healing of our planet. We will maintain and recover a safe, just and sustainable environment for future generations and celebrate our profound connectedness with all of creation.

B: **ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL**

2. 2.1 It is the responsibility of the Director of Education to provide leadership and support for the implementation and review of this policy.
- 2.2 It is the responsibility of the appropriate Superintendents to monitor and review this policy.
- 2.3 It is the responsibility of principals and supervisors to maintain school and work environments, which reflect the goals of this policy.
- 2.4 It is the responsibility of all staff to promote, where possible, all environmentally related curriculum.
- 2.5 It is the responsibility of Board employees to maintain work sites in a manner consistent with this policy.
- 2.6 It is the responsibility of students to participate individually, and collectively, in ways that demonstrate an understanding of this policy.
- 2.7 This policy shall be administered in accordance with the Environmental Stewardship Procedures.

## Environmental Stewardship Procedures

### A. GENERAL

1. The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board acknowledges:
  - a) the inherent value of all life in the broadest sense including the flourishing of ecosystems, biomes and the Earth as a whole;
  - b) that people are an integral part of nature;
  - c) the limited resources of the Earth necessitate sound resource allocation and conservation practices.
2. Environmental education within the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board will:
  - a) encourage sensitivity of individuals to the richness and diversity of life,
  - b) promote an understanding of how Earth systems function;
  - c) promote an understanding of how we are personally connected to ecosystems;
  - d) recognize our responsibility as caretakers and guardians of the Earth.
3. The Board will implement the Environmental Stewardship policy through curriculum, operational and staff development initiatives.

### B. CURRICULUM

1. Environmental Education shall, where possible, be incorporated into the content and methodology of the instructional program in all divisions, and be consistent with the Ontario Curriculum.
2. Specialized courses in Environmental Education shall, where possible, be developed, and be consistent with the Ontario Curriculum.

3. The Student Achievement Department will, where possible, encourage opportunities for outdoor natural science educational experiences and support the selection of educational programs and materials that are consistent with this policy and the Ontario Curriculum.

### C. OPERATIONS (Care of the Environment)

#### 1. Purchasing Practices

- a) As far as practically and financially feasible the Board shall purchase “environmentally friendly” products which have an acceptable level of performance. See Purchasing Policy: 306.

#### 2. Waste Management and Conservation Practices

- a) The Board shall, where possible, reduce, re-use, and recycle waste materials in all departments and schools.

#### 3. Energy Conservation

- a) The Board shall support the reduction of energy consumption by:
  - encouraging users to conserve
  - converting to more efficient heating fuels and heating systems during replacement
  - installing energy control systems
  - improving the energy efficiency of buildings
  - purchasing energy efficient products.

## Environmental Stewardship Procedures

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### 4. Maintenance

- a) The Board shall use, where possible, maintenance and housekeeping products that are non-toxic, non-polluting and biodegradable.
- b) The Board shall comply with Ministry of the Environment guidelines and Regulations for the disposal of chemicals and solvents.

- c) Disposable Dishes: The Board shall encourage the use of reusable dishes and discourage the use of disposable cutlery and dishes.
- d) Garbage: The Board shall encourage composting of cafeteria waste.

### 5. Indoor Air Quality

- a) The Board shall use, where possible, non-toxic, hypoallergenic building and maintenance products.

### 6. Pest Control

- a) The Board shall, where possible, avoid the use of toxic chemicals for pest control.
- b) When professional pest control is required, only licensed personnel shall be used or engaged.

### 7. Grounds Care

- a) The Board shall, where possible, use grounds care procedures that increase natural methods, and reduce the use of chemicals, fertilizers and herbicides.
- b) The Board shall, where possible, encourage and support the development of natural landscaping and wildlife habitats on Board property.

### 8. Food Handling

- a) The Board shall encourage cafeteria operators and food services students and personnel to implement sound environmental practices within their food services facilities.
- b) Packaging: The Board shall encourage replacement of individual packaging with bulk servicing, given the constraints of economics and the relevant legislation.

## D. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- 1. The Board shall provide, where possible, opportunities and encouragement for community-based, system-based or school-based programs, projects, and events designed to advance environmental awareness, education and care.
- 2. Information shall, where possible, be made available for teachers to increase their awareness of environmental curriculum issues.