

4209 Energy Management and Sustainability

Policy Energy Management and Sustainability

STATUS: ADOPTED

ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Board Approved: March 07, 2012

Last Reviewed: June 19, 2013

Description:

Rational:

A District focus on the natural environment is essential if we are to accept responsibility for a sustainable quality of life. The district and schools have a primary role in educating students and developing a culture that is reducing energy consumption, reducing waste and striving for a minimal environmental impact.

Policy:

The Board of Education is committed to accepting responsibility for our role in protecting the natural environment, reducing waste, and reducing energy consumption through new and innovative practices. All leaders in the District are expected to promote an attitude of environmental stewardship for their school, broader community, and the planet. The Board fully supports the development of an environmental ethic through project development and/or direct instruction in the classroom.

The areas of focus for energy management and reduction by the Board will be:

- **Conservation:** adhering to the principle of conserving electricity, fossil fuels, water, and through an energy management program designed to optimize energy use, reduce energy consumption. This will lead to a reduction in harmful emissions into the environment while still maintaining the highest possible level of safety, comfort and health for students and staff.
- **Protection:** adopting practices that protect the environment, and in particular our students, staff and community. Such practices in all District operations shall include, but not be limited to, substitution or elimination of the use of toxic and harmful substances, increased use of recycled and recyclable products, reduction in packaging and solid waste generation, and increased diversion of recyclable materials out of waste streams.
- **Education:** through educational programs, developing in its students and staff an awareness of and commitment to the concept of sustainability by establishing a leadership role in environmental stewardship, seeking to promote responsible attitudes, and fostering a holistic approach to climate change, energy utilization and waste reduction.
- **Governance:** on an annual basis, the Board will establish realistic and attainable conservation targets and timelines. The Board will also allocate an energy management budget that is directly linked to reducing energy consumption.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Board Approved: March 07, 2012

Last Reviewed: June 19, 2013

Description:

In order to achieve the goals established by the Board, the Superintendent will establish an Energy Management Team comprised of: The Secretary Treasurer; a Senior Manager (Education); the Energy Manager (Engineer); the Facilities Manager; and the District Energy Conservation Coordinator (DECC). The primary purpose of the Energy Management Team will be to develop and implement the annual Energy Management Plan. The Energy Management Plan will provide targets that are established annually. At the same time the Energy Management Team will maintain a strategic, three-year plan that will prepare for larger projects and associated budget requirements.

The Secretary Treasurer will work with the Facilities Manager to anticipate the budget required for annual and/or multi-year, energy saving initiatives. S/He will propose the required budget to the Board for approval and will oversee the completion of the initiatives. S/He will report to the Board annually the status of the Energy Management Plan.

The Senior Manager from education will communicate the District's Energy Management Plan to Principals, and the Board's expectations. S/He will work with Principals to enable the work of the DECC within schools. S/He will oversee the school-based energy saving initiatives and report them to the Board.

The *Energy Manager* will be responsible for identifying areas where savings can be developed, and will generate recommendations that shape the *Energy Management Plan*. S/he will keep the program visible, relevant, and responsive.

The *District Facilities Manager* will:

- establish the Energy Management Plan based on the recommendations from the Energy Manager;
- work with the Secretary Treasurer to establish the budget required to carry forward the initiatives within the Energy Management Plan;
- develop energy management initiatives and procedures for all facilities in consultation with the DECC;
- develop maintenance priorities and practices to achieve reductions in energy consumption;
- establish construction and renovation practices that maximize savings in energy consumption;
- establish purchasing practices that maximize savings in energy consumption and eliminates the use of toxic or harmful products to the environment;
- develop quarterly audits of energy consumption and report to the Energy Management Team, describing the progress toward meeting targets within the Energy Management Plan;
- communicate to the operational staff what the District targets are;
- assist schools in the development of energy-saving practices and foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

The *District Energy Conservation Coordinator* will:

- work with Principals to support and promote school based initiatives that will conserve energy, and report those initiatives to the Energy Management Team;

- work with Principals to identify “school champion(s)” who will promote the conservation of energy within their school.
- support classroom teachers to facilitate learning and project development in schools to study environmental issues and sustainable environments;
- promote waste reduction in schools;
- work with the Facilities Manager and Principals to establish annual school targets and communicate the energy used and progress being made within each school;
- foster a district wide culture of environmental stewardship;
- champion the connection between energy conservation and the benefit to the environment.

All new job postings will require that candidates have a strong commitment to reducing energy consumption by meeting school and district targets. All staff will be encouraged to participate in identifying strategies that will contribute to reducing the energy consumed or innovative strategies for reducing waste, and reporting them to their supervisor.

The district will produce regular reports that will describe the consumption patterns for each facility, in order for progress toward the energy consumption targets to be monitored and reduced.