





Burnaby is on Coast Salish territory
in the traditional and ancestral lands
of the ḥḥqəmiḥəm and skwxwú7 mesh speaking people
on whose traditional territory we teach, learn and live.

Introduction

While work connected to sustainability is not new at the Burnaby School District, we recognize there's an even greater impact to be made with a concrete plan that mobilizes our efforts and sets targets.

The way we aim to do this is how we approach everything: together.

Our efforts to capture the thoughts of the Burnaby Schools community began with an in-person launch event called We Mean Green in early 2020 with students, staff and special guests. Extensive online engagement followed with all stakeholders, including families and other partners.

As the ideas and goals began to take shape, they benefited from input from leadership at the Board, staff, and student levels – including secondary student-led groups the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network and the District Student Advisory Council.

A broad-based Sustainability Working Group was struck to further refine the work that would ultimately lead to this plan. The group included students, teachers, and principals from schools that had previously implemented sustainability initiatives, as well as those at a District level who would have a role in operationalizing the final plan. Together they viewed everything through the lens of:

How can we empower our community over the next three to five years to learn and act together for the strength and well-being of people and the planet?

The District is deeply grateful to Squamish Nation Elder Latash Nahanee, who shared his feedback and blessings for the work, and to Elder Roberta Price from the Coast Salish Snuneymuxw and Cowichan Nations, who provided the grounding and blessing for the launch of this work at the We Mean Green event.

What follows reflects the voices and values of our entire Burnaby Schools community, lays out the direction for implementation of goals, objectives and actions to increase our climate action response, and aims to further empower youth in the District to be the leaders of today and tomorrow in sustainability.



Connection to the Burnaby Board of Education's Strategic Plan



Strategic Priority 5, Goal 3

Increase District awareness of climate change and decrease the District's environmental impact

- Reduce the overall green-house gas output and carbon footprint of the District.
- Reduce the District's overall physical waste, diversion, and consumption.
- Engage the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) to deliver quantifiable environmental outcomes.
- Build awareness of the efforts undertaken by the Burnaby School District as a model for environmental awareness and sustainability.
- Review and strengthen policies and practices related to environment impact.



Vision and Values

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VISION STATEMENT

A sustainable learning community where we inspire action and take care of the environment for generations.



VALUES

Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives

Students, staff and community walk alongside each other and include traditional knowledge and perspectives to protect the land for generations.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We hold the strengths of equity, diversity, and inclusion as vital aspects of sustainability.

Collaboration, Creativity, and Innovation

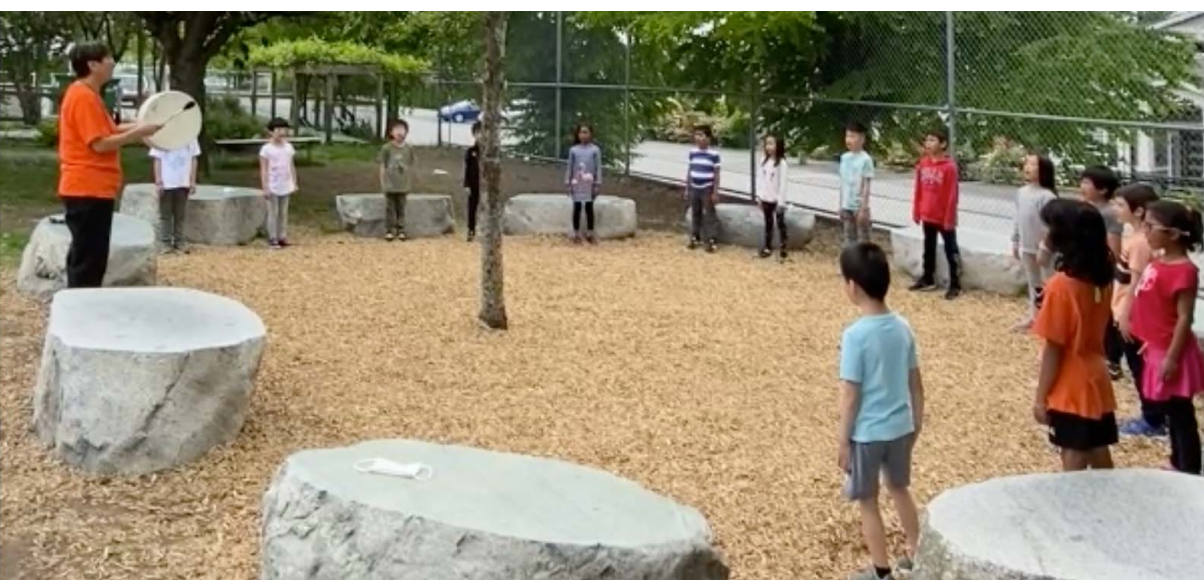
We collaborate with school and community partners to implement sustainable practices through creativity and innovation.

Leadership and Action

We encourage and empower students, community, and staff to demonstrate individual and collective leadership to create a more sustainable environment.

Mindful Resource Use

We use the earth's natural resources in a manner that is adaptive, sustainable and respectful.



Goals, Objectives and Actions

1 Support meaningful and innovative educational practices in the curricular areas of sustainability

i Expand and support professional learning opportunities and nurture leadership around sustainability.

- Create and support opportunities for Sustainability Innovation Grants.
- Create and expand communities of practice through opportunities such as sustainability-related community partnerships.
- Develop a professional learning series for students and staff.

ii Create learning environments for experimentation and transformation.

- Identify and strengthen connections with the natural environment, such as expanding the development of outdoor learning spaces and school gardens.
- Develop a list of recommended open-ended resources to support sustainability curriculum from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

iii Identify innovative means and additional opportunities to enhance and inspire student engagement with sustainability.

- Engage school-based sustainability teams to lead sustainability initiatives in their school learning community.
- Honour diverse student voices with particular attention to Indigenous Ways of Being to directly inform further action.
- Identify additional opportunities to inspire student engagement with sustainability learning, experiences, and practices.
- Engage the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) to support the District in delivering environmental outcomes by leading initiatives and creating systemic change.
- Support the development of programs, including Board Authority Authorized (BAA) courses, that have a curricular focus on sustainability.

Goals, Objectives and Actions

2

Include Indigenous Knowledge as the foundation to understanding and leading sustainable practices

i Understand local history and implement Indigenous knowledge and perspectives to guide sustainable practices.

- Identify collaborative opportunities, including receiving teachings from local Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members, to deepen our understanding about our interconnectedness with the land.
- Continue to include local stories and welcome local First Nations representatives at school-based and District-wide events with a focus on sustainability.
- Identify authentic Indigenous resources, including First Peoples Principles of Learning, to support sustainability initiatives.

3

Reduce the District's environmental impact in the areas of energy, paper, waste, and procurement

i Reduce the overall green-house gas output and carbon footprint of the District.

- Identify and incorporate measures to decrease the environmental impact of facilities' operations through minor and major capital projects.
- Encourage students and school communities to use eco-friendly transportation, such as cycling and walking.
- Ensure the District's fleet of vehicles are energy efficient.

ii Reduce the District's overall physical waste and consumption.

- Intentionally incorporate updated procurement standards to purchase sustainable goods and services.
- Reduce paper consumption through technology, innovation, and systems change.
- Incorporate enhanced sustainable landscaping practices.
- Investigate ways in which the environmental impact of food services can be further reduced.
- Reduce overall waste through training and a District-wide zero waste management strategy.
- Identify and work with community partners to strengthen sustainability initiatives in schools.

Our Board



Jen
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Chair



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Vice-Chair



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Christine
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Larry
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If you have questions or comments
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