

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.