



SD42 Bimonthly Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

An initiative by the Energy and Environmental Sustainability division of the SD42 Facilities Department

ISSUE NO. 3 – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

About Us

Sustainability is one of the largest movements of our time and students continue to have a key role to play. The Facilities Department at Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District works with BC Hydro, FortisBC, and CleanBC to make schools more efficient by reducing our carbon footprint and operating costs.

This newsletter is designed to share the district's sustainability initiatives with the community. Throughout the district, students and staff are taking action to make our schools, our community, and our world more sustainable.

We want to know what you are doing and how you are doing it. We are always looking for more stories and we encourage students to write for this bimonthly newsletter.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

District Interactive Sustainability Workshop

The facilities department is organizing a district-wide interactive workshop focused on promoting sustainability through the district on the upcoming non-instructional day (January 28).

FEBRUARY

Sustainability-focused Training for Custodian Staff

The facilities department plans to provide sustainability-focused training for custodian staff to share what they have learned from the industry.

Waste Audits in Schools

The district will conduct a waste audit at five schools based on waste diversion rates to promote education among students and staff about best waste management practices.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!



The facilities department would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! We look forward to collaborating with you to create a sustainable future for our schools and community.

Sustainability contact at each school

The facilities department is looking for a designated sustainability contact at each school to help share stories about sustainability efforts and advocate for sustainability initiatives throughout the district. Please fill out the form if you haven't already.

Administrators are invited to nominate themselves, a teacher, or a staff member who is interested in collaborating with the energy management and sustainability manager.

Please submit your nomination on the MS form by [clicking here](#).

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ashish Dev, the energy and environmental sustainability manager (ashish_dev@sd42.ca).

District Interactive Sustainability Workshop

On the upcoming non-instructional day (January 28), the facilities department is hosting an in-person Sustainability Workshop for teachers and administrators. The workshop will focus on promoting energy conservation and sustainability in the classroom, featuring presenters from various subject areas who will share resources available to schools.

The agenda is as follows:

1. **Impact of Climate Change**
2. **Sustainability Quiz:** Prizes and swag from BC Hydro for winners.
3. **BC Hydro Presentation:** An overview of Power Smart for Schools, with a focus on lesson plans related to sustainability.
4. **Talk from Friendlier Plastic:** Opportunities to reduce single-use plastic in schools.
5. **Waste Management in Schools:** Strategies and ideas to improve waste diversion rates.
6. **Sugar Sheets (Alternate Paper):** How alternative paper use can help reduce carbon emissions.
7. **EcoSchools Certification:** Learn about a certification program that recognizes environmental learning and climate action in elementary and secondary schools.

We currently have 50 spaces available for this live program. Please register online at <https://learning.sd42.ca>

If you are having trouble registering, you can watch the following video tutorial on how to enroll in a course: <https://hml.sd42.ca/Player/4104>. Use your SD42 credentials to log in.



THIS PRO-D DAY, SIGN UP FOR THE

District Sustainability Interactive Workshop

Join our District's Energy and Sustainability Team for an interactive in-person workshop focused on the development of sustainability initiatives and awareness within our community of schools.

8:15 - 8:30	Meet the Energy & Sustainability Team
8:30 - 9:00	Report on Climate Change: What's happening, what's to come, and what can we do about it
9:00 - 9:10	Let's have some fun: Sustainability Quiz!
9:10 - 9:45	PowerSmart for Schools
9:45 - 10	Break + coffee
10:00 -10:45	Friendlier Plastic
10:45 - 11:30	Waste Management in Schools
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch
12:00 - 12:30	Sugar Sheets
12:30 - 1:15	Eco-Schools Certification
1:15 - 1:30	Post Workshop Survey



AEE Foundation Scholarships

The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) Foundation is accepting applications from students planning to pursue undergraduate courses in energy engineering, energy management, environmental engineering, or sustainability. All individual applicants must be nominated by a local AEE Chapter. Please submit your scholarship application electronically to your local AEE Chapter no later than **April 26, 2025**.

Learn more on their website: <https://aeefoundation.org/apply-for-a-scholarship/>

If you need further support, please don't hesitate to contact Ashish Dev, SD42 energy and environmental sustainability manager.



Waste Audits at Four Schools

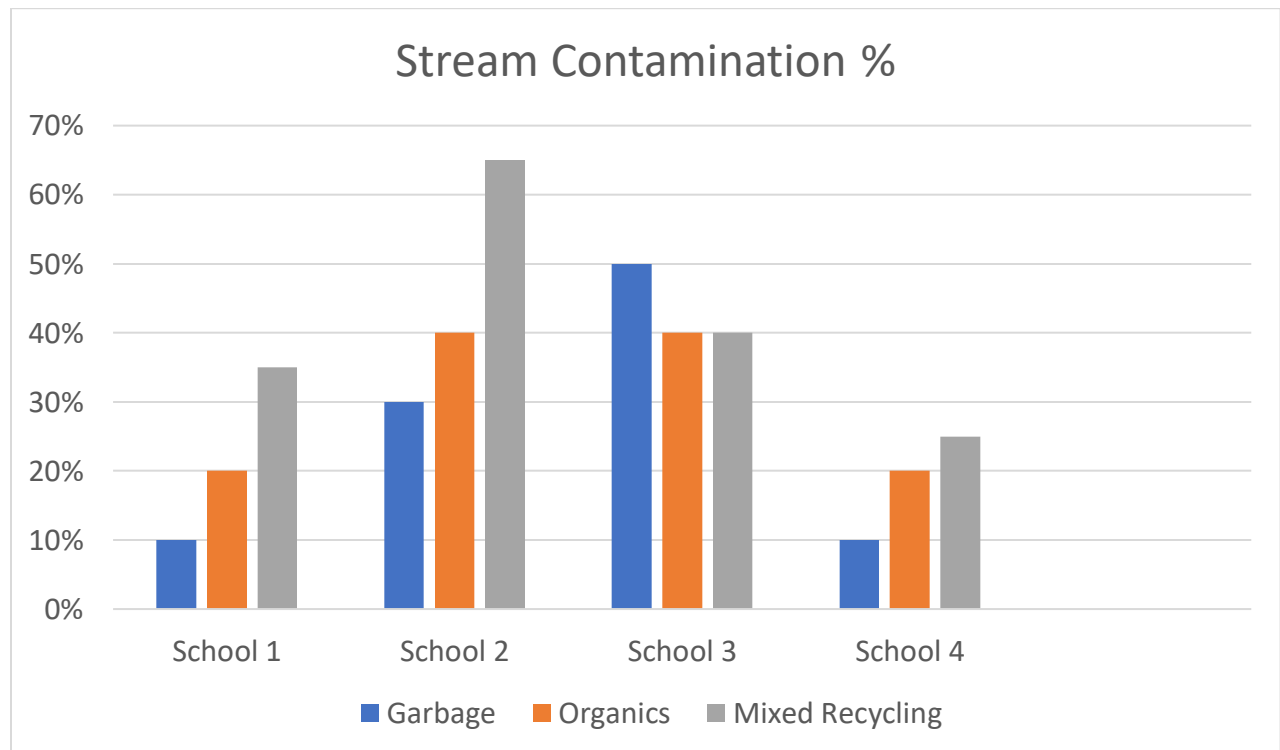
Under *Policy 6530: Environmental Sustainability*, the board of education supports initiatives to enhance waste diversion within the school district and promotes awareness among students and staff regarding energy usage, waste generation, and material consumption. With a waste diversion target of 85%, the district requires its waste management company to conduct annual waste audits at designated locations.

Last month, we completed a waste audit at four locations. The process included:

1. Coordinating with the schools to confirm audit dates.
2. Distributing transparent garbage bags for waste collection.
3. Collecting waste over a two-day period.
4. Conducting an on-site audit to review waste management practices and identify areas for improvement.
5. Providing a summary report of observations to each school.

We observed that the schools would benefit from training on proper waste management practices. Recyclables were found in the waste stream, which could have been diverted. Many paper towels were placed in the recycling stream, which could have been diverted to organics. Additionally, pencil shavings belong in the garbage, not organics, due to the presence of lead and paint.

The stream contamination for all 4 locations is as follows:

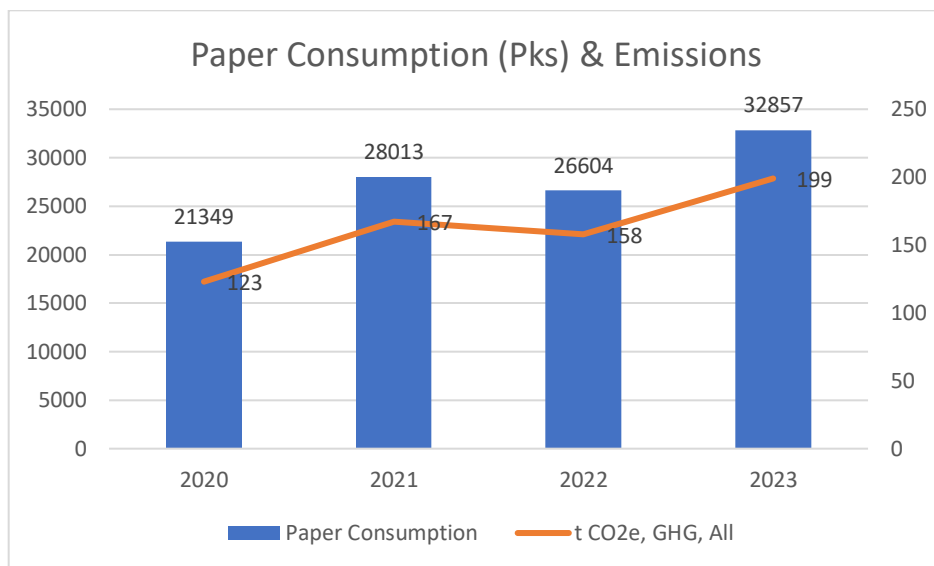


With support from relief teacher Lynn Truong, the facilities department has prepared a video explaining how to sort waste, titled *Know where it goes, think before you throw*. Click the photo to watch the video on YouTube.




Alternative Paper: Review of Pilot Study

Paper is the third most significant contributor to the district’s emissions profile. SD42 is in the process of finding ways to reduce paper consumption. For the past five years, the district has been using Papercut to raise awareness among users about their paper usage. Despite these efforts, paper consumption has increased. To address this, the district plans to reduce paper usage by encouraging staff to go paperless, adopting digital signing as the standard practice, and setting double-sided printing as the default on all printers.



The district is exploring the possibility of replacing its widely used 8.5” x 11” white paper (approximately 89% of total usage) with Sugar Sheets paper. Sugar Sheets are manufactured from Sugarcane bagasse, a fibrous material containing cellulose as its main component. No trees are cut in manufacturing this paper.

	Trees Required	CO2 Emissions	Cost for Carbon Offsets	Carbon Neutral	Recyclable Ream Wrapper
	0 trees	0 kg <small>294 kg before offset</small>	\$0	✓	✓
0% Recycled Paper	6 trees	2,360 kg <small>That's over 2 tonnes!</small>	\$50.90	✗	✗
30% Recycled Paper	4 trees	1,687 kg	\$42.20	✗	✗

Source: Social Print Paper: Carbon emissions are calculated by the online Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator 4.0 and verified by the Environmental Paper Network.

Assuming our future annual consumption remains consistent with 2023 levels, switching from 8.5” x 11” 20 lb. white paper to sugar sheets is estimated to reduce SD42's annual GHG emissions by approximately 65 tonnes and achieve a net annual savings of around \$30,000. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is also encouraging the increased use of alternative paper to help curb associated emissions.

To test our printer's feasibility further, a three-month pilot review was conducted on the printers in the maintenance department. The pilot study was successful, with no paper jams. Compared to virgin paper (no recycled content), the district saved 102 kg of greenhouse gas emissions.

What is going on at your school?

If you or your school is doing something to help sustain our environment, we want to hear about it and share it in our newsletter. Please contact:

- Ashish Dev, SD42 Energy and Environmental Sustainability Manager. ashish_dev@sd42.ca