

North Vancouver School District

Sustainability Update – Sept 2019

Context and History

North Vancouver School District (NVSD) is committed to demonstrating leadership and providing the highest standard of education in environmental stewardship through programs, education and facilities that foster greater sustainability.

In March 2011, the North Vancouver Board of Education adopted [Policy 613: Sustainability](#). The policy outlines that the Board of Education will, among other actions, develop and maintain a current, school district-wide Sustainability Plan that is progressive, transparent, and measurable.

In 2017, after two years of consultative planning, the NVSD launched [the North Vancouver School District Sustainability Strategy](#) to articulate our vision, strategic priorities, goals, and actions.



Sustainability Initiatives

The following is an overview of the key sustainability projects and initiatives completed or initiated since the launch of the NVSD Sustainability Strategy in 2017.

- Advanced the district-wide strategic energy management program (details below)
- Added one electric vehicle to the maintenance fleet
- Implemented new procurement practices to facilitate the use of recycled paper in all sites
- Added Environmental Learning content to the [NVSD Curriculum Hub](#)
- Added Sustainability Resources to the NVSD staff portal
- Re-established the NVSD Sustainability Committee (District Representative Committee)
- Supported the establishment of the North Vancouver Youth Sustainability Network
- Hosted two NVSD “Green Celebrations”

- Communicating news and updates about Sustainability through the “Sustainability News” bulletins to staff and parents
- Joined the North Shore School Food Network as a founding member
- Launched a new recycling program for used writing instruments at all sites

Strategic Energy Management

In 2010 NVSD established an organizational energy conservation objective, which evolved over the years to target 20% savings by 2020.

NVSD has adopted a strategic approach to energy management that includes technical, behavioural and organizational initiatives. The annual Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP) provides the framework for guiding our energy-related activities and includes an action plan for achieving the 20% by 2020 target.

The following is a summary of the major energy-related projects completed since the launch of the NVSD Sustainability Strategy in 2017.

- Twelve complete elementary school LED lighting and controls retrofits
- Nine common area LED lamp retrofits
- Five high-efficiency boiler upgrades
- Two building envelope upgrades
- Three major mechanical system upgrades
- Four cabin envelope upgrades at Cheakamus Centre
- Two energy efficient secondary schools designed with low-carbon heating systems

For the 12 months ending June 30 2019, NVSD annual energy savings was 18.0%, leaving us with a further 2% savings to realize before the June 2020 deadline.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As a public sector organization, NVSD is mandated to measure, report, and offset carbon emissions on an annual basis. The scope of the reporting includes emissions from buildings (typically 90% of total), fleet (typically 5% of total), and supplies (typically 5% of total).

Over the past five years, total annual emissions have been between 3,500 and 4,000 equivalent tonnes of CO₂, with associated annual carbon offset costs of \$90,000 - \$100,000.

As we continue with the renewal of our facilities and their systems, we are exploring opportunities for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions while balancing upfront capital and ongoing operational cost considerations.

Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Starting in 2020, the province will report every two years on the risks to BC that could reasonably be expected from a changing climate, along with the actions being taken to reduce them.

As a public sector organization, NVSD can expect to see more pressure from the province to consider and plan for climate-related risks such as poor quality (e.g. smoke), localized flooding, and extended periods of hot weather.