



Developing a Sustainability Strategy for the NVSD

Board Standing Committee Meeting

April 12, 2016

Welcome

An opportunity to share your thoughts



Meeting Objectives

- Provide an overview of the NVSD Sustainability Strategy Process
- Discuss draft vision, mission, and values regarding sustainability in the NVSD
- Discuss draft strategic priorities and goals for sustainability in the NVSD
- Confirm next steps

Meeting Agenda

7:00 Welcome & Introductions

- Context for Sustainability Strategy Initiative
- Overview of NVSD Sustainability Report, Sustainability Strategy Process & Draft Sustainability Strategy

7:20 Small Group Discussions

- Draft Vision for sustainability
- Draft Mission for sustainability
- Draft Values for sustainability

8:10 Carousel Discussions

- Draft Strategic Priorities and Goals

8:55 Next Steps and Closing Remarks

9:00 Adjournment



- Everyone has wisdom
- We need everyone's wisdom for the wisest results
- Everyone will hear and be heard
- There are no wrong answers

Source: The Institute of Cultural Affairs Canada

Sustainability Strategy Working Group

Our task:

To develop a Sustainability Strategy that provides coherence, direction, focus and coordination to sustainability-related activities in the NVSD.

- Provide strategic direction re: "provide leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices"
- Assist in communicating sustainability-related activities to students, staff and partners
- Provide clarity re: roles, responsibilities and mandates for implementation of the strategy

Sustainability Strategy Working Group

John Lewis – NVSD Superintendent

Pius Ryan – Assistant Superintendent

NVSD Facilities - Jim MacKenzie, Michael Chapman and Jeff Jackson

Stephen Wurz – Director of Finance

Joanne Robertson – Director of Instruction

David Jennings – Director of Info & Communication Technology

NoVA - Diane Ehling, Vic Elderton, Rob McLeod, Susan Owens, Tracey Todd, Justin Wong

Cheakamus Centre - Conor McMullan, Cathy Jenkins, Jason Fullerton

Christie Sacré – Board of Education

Krista Alvano – Sherwood Park

Mireille Appelbe - Braemar

Keith Gallant - Handsworth

Danae McKay – Ross Road

Tessa Harrington - Lynnmour

Ethan Tse – Student Leadership Council

Robert Greenwald – Energy Manager

Sarah Smith – Workplace Conservation Awareness Program

Wayne Cousins – BC Hydro PowerSmart

Caroline Jackson – City of North Vancouver

Hilary Kilgour – Unati Strategies



“Learning for Sustainable Development can be compared to taking a compass bearing for the future.”

– WWF Sustainable Schools document

“Sustainability” defined . . .

"Sustainability is an economic state where the demands placed upon the environment by people and commerce can be met without reducing the capacity of the environment to provide for future generations.

It can also be expressed in the simple terms of an economic golden rule for the restorative economy: leave the world better than you found it, take no more than you need, try not to harm life of the environment, make amends if you do."

- Paul Hawkins, Ecology of Commerce

The Big Picture



- 1) Where are we now?**
- 2) Where do we want to be in the future?
- 3) How will we get there?
- 4) How do we measure our progress?

Where are we now? Existing Context

- NVSD 2011-2021 Strategic Plan
 - Goal #6 – “Provide leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices”
- Board Policies – Sustainability & Outdoor Classrooms
- Operating Plan
 - Objectives and strategies related to Goal #6
- Sustainability Report
 - Inventory of activities and programs (!!)

NVSD Strategic Plan – Goal #6

“Provide leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices”

- Leaders in environmentally sound practices
- Learn and practice to have a positive impact on the future
- Renowned outdoor education centre
- Engage students proactively in understanding and protecting the environment
- Ensure we are using less and creating greater efficiencies
- Demonstrate responsibility when managing our financial resources

Sustainability Policy

- Maintain and operate facilities and services in a sustainable manner
- Opportunities through short- and long-term planning to reduce environmental footprint.
- Do not jeopardize current and future social, environmental, and economic resources.
- Integrate economic, environmental, and social considerations into its decision-making.

Sustainability Policy

This policy is built upon four pillars of sustainability:

- Support environmental education and sustainability initiatives
- Decrease dependencies upon the earth's finite resources
- Reduce waste and harmful emissions into the environment
- Respect green space through responsible stewardship

3 Year Operating Plan – Objectives & Strategies

- Facilitate student participation in environmental leadership and sustainability practices.
- Embed sustainability in all planning, decision making, and daily practice.
- Utilize our resources to optimize the well-being of learners and benefit the long-term interests of the community.

Provincial Direction

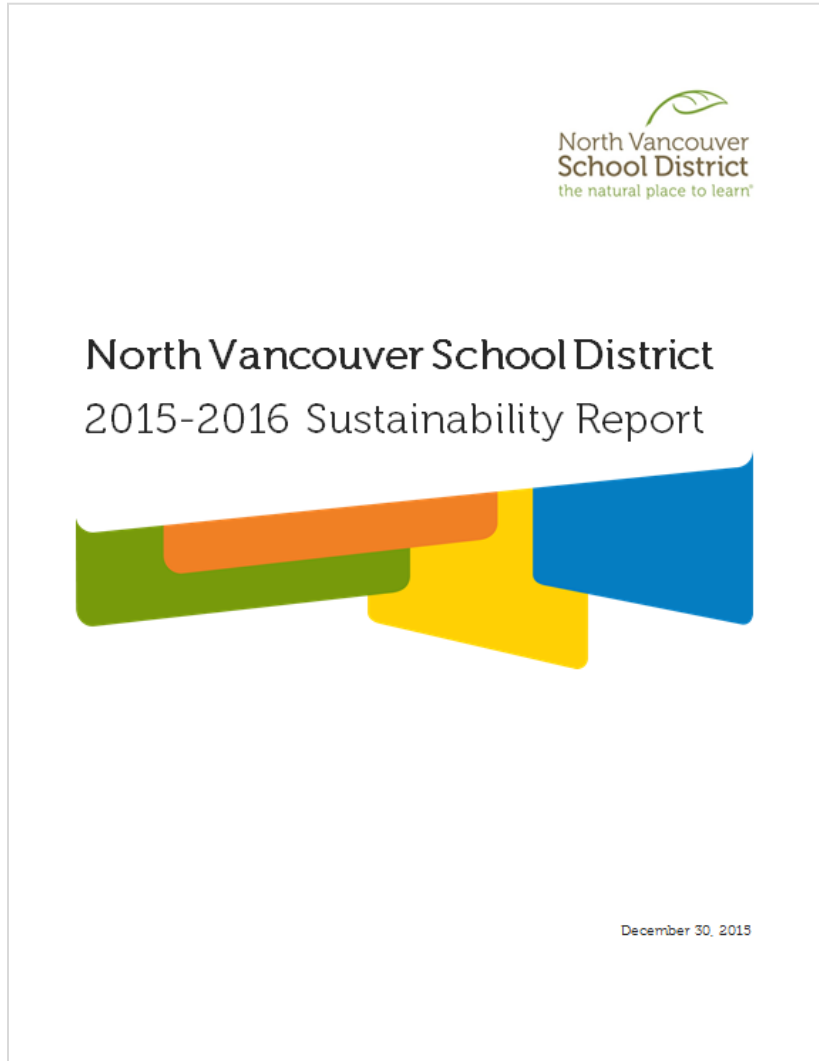
“The purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.”

BC Ministry of Education, Statement of Education Policy Order (1989)

Provincial Direction

- BC Ministry of Education – **Statement of Education Policy Order**
- BC Ministry of Education – **Sustainability Education Framework (2008)** for K-12 education system
- **BC Energy Plan strategy**
- Redesign of **BC Curriculum**
- Carbon Neutral Government Regulation
- LEED gold or equivalent for provincially funded buildings

NVSD Sustainability Report 2015



Committee and Groups

- Sustainability Leadership Committee
- Learning In Nature Working Group
- Green Champion Network



District-Led Initiatives

- Energy Management Program
- Sustainability Engagement and Communications
- LEED Construction
- Recycling and Waste Diversion System
- Green Clean Project



Curriculum

- Framework for Learning in Nature
- Cheakamus Centre
- 'Excellence in Environmental Education' is a key goal in the Ten Year Strategic Plan.



School-Led Initiatives

- Environmental Clubs
- Sustainability Expo
- Green Fairs



photo credit: Sarah Smith



School-Led Initiatives

- Long list of projects:
 - School Gardens + Composting
 - Salmonids
 - Clothing “Swap+Shop”
 - Stream clean-ups
 - Recycle your cell
 - Tree planting initiatives
 - Invasive species initiatives



Programs + Partnerships

- BC Hydro FirstWave Programs
- Healthy Schools BC & WildBC
- Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
- Edible Gardens Project
- City of North Vancouver: Walking Wednesdays
- HUB: Bike to School



Why a Sustainability Strategy Now?

Questions of

- Focus
- Priorities
- Sustaining and growing our impact

Opportunity to

- Learn from our experience
- Improve our effectiveness and impact on sustainability throughout the School District



Why Now?

Why a Sustainability Strategy Now?



A “strategic” plan should

- Clarify role (mission)
- Provide future direction (vision)
- Provide clarity on priorities (goals/objectives)

Interview quote

We need a sustainability strategy because . . .

“We want to leave a smaller ecological footprint and instill a sense of value and belonging in nature to the next generation.”



Situation Analysis – Conclusions

- Widespread ***support and pride*** in existing activities and initiatives
- Vision of School District leadership in sustainability
- Opportunity to ***share experiences*** within and outside the School District to ***increase our impact***
- Desire for
 - Clarity regarding focus, priorities and responsibility
 - Increased engagement at all levels
 - Increased efficiency, effectiveness and awareness of sustainability initiatives

The Big Picture



- 1) Where are we now?
- 2) Where do we want to be in the future?**
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Sustainability Strategy Framework

- **Vision** – What would an ideal future look like if our sustainability strategy is wildly successful?
- **Mission** – What is NVSD's role vs. sustainability?
- **Values – Trust, Responsibility, Respect and Collaboration**
 - What is important about how we work together towards sustainability? What do we believe in?
- **Strategic Priorities and Goals**
- **Objectives and Strategies**
- **Performance Measures**

The Big Picture



- 1) Where are we now?
- 2) Where do we want to be in the future?
- 3) How will we get there?**
- 4) How do we measure our progress?

Sustainability Strategy Process

December 4 – An Introduction

- Introduction to the process
- Visioning exercise



January 27 – Crafting a Draft Strategy

- Draft Vision, Mission & Values
- Draft Strategic Priorities, Goals & Objectives

February 17 – Refining the Strategy

- Revised Draft Strategy
- Discussion re: Implementation and Monitoring

April 12 – Review Draft Strategy with Partners

Draft Vision for Sustainability



Imagine 2021

Our learning community values, models and actively contributes to a positive relationship with the earth and our place within it.

Draft Mission for Sustainability

NVSD will achieve our vision by working collaboratively to:

- Provide leadership in partnership, support and resources for sustainability programs and projects
- Design educational opportunities for learning in, with, and for nature
- Model environmental stewardship, social inclusion and global citizenship
- Advance, nurture and celebrate our culture of sustainability at NVSD

Draft Values and Guiding Principles re: Sustainability



We believe in:

- Collaboration and social inclusion
- Respect for each other and the earth
- Critical thinking and continuous improvement
- Community-connected learning
- Integrative and intergenerational learning
- Trust and responsibility
- Leadership, celebration and recognition

Draft Strategic Priorities

- #1 – Policy, standards and planning
- #2 – Learning for Sustainability
- #3 – Resource Management
- #4 – Facilities and Operations
- #5 – Partnerships
- #6 – Communications and Engagement

Strategic Priority #1:

Policy, standards and planning

Sustainability is integrated into all planning, decision-making and daily practice.

Goal 1.1 Policy, planning and decision-making embeds sustainability in all aspects of the NVSD organization.

Goal 1.2 Dedicated human resources and support ensure coordination of SD44 sustainability initiatives.

Strategic Priority #2:

Learning for Sustainability

The SD44 learning community has a strong connection to place and understands its role as environmental stewards.

Goal 2.1 Sustainability related curriculum (educational content) and resources exist and are readily accessible

Goal 2.2 Teachers are aware of, understand, and are comfortable implementing environmental learning in their daily practice

Goal 2.3 Sustainability training and professional learning opportunities are provided for all SD44 employees

Goal 2.4 A variety of resourced outdoor learning pilot programs are in place

Strategic Priority #3:

Resource Management

SD44 demonstrates continuous improvement by reducing resource consumption, waste and harmful emissions into the environment.

Goal 3.1 Waste is minimized and diversion rates are maximized across the District.

Goal 3.2 Energy consumption is minimized

Goal 3.3 Water consumption is minimized

Goal 3.4 Procurement decisions favour products and supplies with low environmental impacts and suppliers who demonstrate socially responsible work practices

Strategic Priority #4:

Facilities and Operations

Buildings, grounds, operations and services are developed and operated in a manner that minimizes our ecological footprint.

Goal 4.1 New buildings are designed and constructed to high environmental standards

Goal 4.2 Buildings and properties are maintained to provide safe, comfortable and efficient learning and work environments

Goal 4.3 *Goal regarding Outdoor Learning Spaces?*

Goal 4.5 *Goal regarding Grounds?*

Goal 4.6 Cheakamus Centre is recognized as a centre of excellence for environmental and indigenous education and a leader in sustainability practices.

Strategic Priority #5: Partnerships

Mutually beneficial partnerships help SD44 achieve its educational and sustainability goals

Goal 5.1 Mutually beneficial partnerships foster the achievement of educational and sustainability goals by building capacity and accessing resources.

Goal 5.2 Awareness of partnerships fosters broader participation, collaboration and engagement in sustainability initiatives.

Strategic Priority #6:

Communications and Engagement

The SD44 community is aware of District sustainability initiatives and are actively engaged in reducing the environmental impacts of our learning communities.

Goal 6.1 Consistent two-way communications reinforces that SD44 is "The Natural Place to Learn"

Goal 6.2 Sustainability successes, barriers and best practices are shared across the District and with the community

Goal 6.3 Sustainability Champion(s) (students, teachers or staff) across the District are empowered and supported

Goal 6.4 Annual District-wide sustainability behavior change initiatives are organized and supported

It's Your Turn!



Small Group Discussions

7:20 Vision, Mission, Values & Strategic Priorities

7:20 – Draft Vision for sustainability

7:35 – Draft Mission for sustainability

7:45 – Draft Values for sustainability

8:05 – Draft Strategic Priorities

8:15 Draft Strategic Priorities and Goal

8:15 – Strategic Priority Round #1 (15 minutes)

8:30 – Strategic Priority Round #2 (13 minutes)

8:43 – Strategic Priority Round #3 (12 minutes)

8:55 Next Steps and Closing Remarks

What is NVSD's vision for sustainability?



Imagine 2021

We are living in an ideal future where NVSD's sustainability initiatives have been wildly successful.

What is NVSD *known for* in relation to sustainability?

What are people *saying about NVSD*?

What have we *achieved*?

Draft Vision for Sustainability



Imagine 2021

Our learning community values, models and actively contributes to a positive relationship with the earth and our place within it.

Key Questions: What do you like about this draft vision? What would you add? What would you revise?

Draft Mission for Sustainability

NVSD will achieve our vision by working collaboratively to:

Provide leadership in partnership, support and resources for sustainability programs and projects

- Design educational opportunities for learning in, with, and for nature
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- Advance, nurture and celebrate our culture of sustainability at NVSD

Key Questions: What do you like? What would you add? What would you revise?

Draft Values and Guiding Principles re: Sustainability

We believe in:

- Collaboration and social inclusion
- Respect for each other and the earth
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- Integrative and intergenerational learning
- Trust and responsibility
- Leadership, celebration and recognition

Key Questions: What do you like? What would you add? What would you revise?

Which 3 values speak to you the most?

Draft Strategic Priorities

#1 – Policy, standards and planning

#2 – Learning for Sustainability

#3 – Resource Management

#4 – Facilities and Operations

#5 – Partnerships

#6 – Communications and Engagement

Key Questions: Is this list of strategic priority areas complete? Are there gaps? If yes, what priority area is missing?

8:15 – 8:55 Carousel Discussions

Strategic Priorities and Goals

Over the next 40 minutes, visit 3 tables to discuss draft strategic priorities and related goals

8:15 – 8:30 – STRATEGIC PRIORITY ROUND #1 (15 minutes)

8:30 – 8:43 – STRATEGIC PRIORITY ROUND #2 (13 minutes)

8:43 – 8:55 – STRATEGIC PRIORITY ROUND #3 (12 minutes)

Key Questions – What do you like? What would you add? What would you revise?

Next Steps



- Post meeting materials
- Online Survey: April 14 – 22
- Collate feedback
- May 16 – Sustainability Strategy Working Group Meeting
 - Review feedback from partners
 - Final Draft Sustainability Strategy
- Submit recommended Sustainability Strategy

Thank You

