



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board

BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> STUDENTS	<i>Policy Number</i> 816
<i>Administrative Procedure Number</i> AP-S-816	<i>Page</i> 1 of 4

POLICY TITLE

Environmental Stewardship

1.0 PURPOSE

The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board believes that we are called to be leaders in environmental stewardship in our community and in the world. As Catholic believers we are called to see the entire universe as a creative work of God's love. Our Catholic community is called to share, nurture, and develop that vision.

The Board acknowledges the protection of the environment as a moral responsibility; therefore, we must act as stewards of creation and exercise ecological sustainability. We shall foster a safe, healthy, and just environment for future generations as we celebrate our connectedness with all of creation.

2.0 POLICY

It is the policy of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board to ensure that environmental principles be considered in Board programs, policies, and procedures. The Board shall promote environmental literacy aligned with environmentally responsible management practices, in waste minimization, energy conservation, and purchasing.

3.0 GUIDELINES

3.1 The Board shall develop student environmental capacity by:

- (a) improving student knowledge, skills and perspectives, through environmental education and environmental practices which foster environmental stewardship;

- (b) providing leadership support to enhance student engagement, action, and community involvement.

3.2 All Board procedures and practices shall:

- (a) increase the extent to which environmental education is aligned with School Board policies, procedures, strategic plans, and Catholic School Improvement Plans;
- (b) increase the capacity of all employee groups to implement evidence-based environmental practices and operations;
- (c) enhance the integration of environmentally responsible practices into the management of resources, operations, and facilities.

4.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental Stewardship is the act of caring for all of God's creation. Stewardship involves understanding that we need to use and care for the natural environment in a responsible way and make the effort to pass on to future generations no less than what we have access to ourselves. Values that are central to responsible stewardship: reducing consumption; using non-renewable resources with care; re-using and recycling; and switching to renewable resources (Ontario Curriculum Grades 1 – 8 Science and Technology, 2007, p. 5).

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education is education about the environment, for the environment, and in the environment that promotes an understanding of, rich and active experience in, and an appreciation for the dynamic interactions of:

- the Earth's physical and biological systems;
- the dependency of our social and economic systems on these natural systems;
- the scientific and human dimensions of environmental issues;
- the positive and negative consequences, both intended and unintended, of the interactions between human created and natural systems (Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future. p. 6).

4.3 ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Ecological Sustainability is the concept of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the natural ability of ecosystems for renewal or regeneration. Sustainability ensures future generations are able to meet their needs (Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 – 8: Science and Technology, 2007, p. 5).

5.0 REFERENCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools, Ontario Ministry of Education, Feb. 2009

Environmental Education Scope and Sequence, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2009

Ready Set Green! Ontario Ministry of Education, 2007

Shaping our Schools, Shaping Our Future, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2007

The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Science and Technology, 2007

The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Science, 2008

The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Science, 2008

6.0 RELATED POLICIES

Policy 204, Purchasing

7.0 RELATED FORMS

8.0 APPROVED BY BOARD

March 27, 2007

9.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

November 23, 2010

10.0 POLICY REVIEW DATE

November 2015

11.0 REVIEW BY

Eco Steering Committee