

“The Limestone District School Board is committed to reducing our ecological footprint in a fiscally and socially responsible manner through the initiatives highlighted in our Strategic Plan. Our 10 “Sustainability Priority Areas” will guide us in fostering environmental education and sustainable school communities.”

■ Limestone District School Board’s Sustainability Statement

The 2013-2014 LDSB Sustainability Report is an overview of some of the sustainable initiatives that occurred in the 2013-2014 school year. These initiatives outlined in this snapshot helped move the Board’s sustainability strategy forward. Focusing on one or multiple of the 10 Sustainability Priority Areas (Administration, Climate Change and Energy, Environmental Leadership, Facilities Services, Food, Student and Community Engagement, Teaching and Learning, Transportation, Waste, Water) these initiatives foster environmental education and sustainable school communities

During the 2013-2014 school year the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee met four times (November 6, February 11, March 18 and May 7). ESAC has representatives from many local sustainability-related organizations that helped gather feedback on different sustainable initiatives and provided insight on collaborative opportunities for LDSB. ESAC members had the opportunity to provide feedback to the Ministry of Education by commenting on the work, *Great to Excellent: Launching the Next Stage of Ontario’s Education Agenda*. ESAC heard presentations by:

- School Garden Guidelines (Queen’s Health 415 Group)
- Sustainable Kingston (Katie Wall)
- One Earth One Chance Presentation (Steve MacLagan and Angela Evans from Bayridge S.S.)
- County of Lennox and Addington’s sustainable initiatives (Tracey McKenzie)

In the 2013-2014 school year, the Board had 12 schools which achieved Ontario EcoSchools Certification. Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for Grades Kindergarten-12. The program runs with the school year (September - June). Each year schools apply, take action in the six areas, and are assessed on their involvement. Schools which certify will receive a platinum, gold, silver or bronze level status. The six areas are: Teamwork and Leadership, Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, School Ground Greening, Curriculum, and Environmental Stewardship.

Points are given for their actions. Often staff and students will implement energy conservation programs, recycling systems and environmental focused learning activities (*Priority Area – Environmental Leadership*)

- Bath P.S. - Silver
- Bayridge P.S. - Gold
- Bayridge S.S. - Gold
- Cataraqi Woods E.S. - Silver
- Centennial P.S. - Gold
- Central P.S. - Gold
- Ecole Polson Park P.S. - Silver
- J.G. Simcoe P.S. - Gold
- Newburgh P.S. - Bronze
- N.A.E.C. - Bronze
- Prince Charles P.S. - Gold
- Southview P.S. – Silver

J.G. Simcoe Outdoor Classroom (Fall 2013) – In the 2012-2013 school year J.G. Simcoe Public School received \$20,000 toward school yard greening from the Canadian Automobile Association and the Ontario Tire Stewardship. The classroom was built over the summer months and unveiled in the fall of 2013. Some materials used in the installation are made from recycled tires. (*Priority Area – Student and Community Engagement*)



EcoSchools Workshop (October 2013) – On October 25, 2013 representatives from the Ontario EcoSchools program presented a workshop at the Limestone Education Centre. A total of 15 Limestone staff members attended this introductory workshop.

The workshop outlined the Ontario EcoSchools Program to school staff. This was Limestone’s largest group to the workshop. (*Priority Area – Environmental Leadership*)

Battery Recycling Program (Ongoing) – The Board currently has 16 schools which are participating in a battery recycling program. To date, the program has recycled more than 500 kilograms of household batteries. (*Priority Area – Waste*)



Recycling Programs (Ongoing) – All schools in the Board have a collection service for both waste and recycling. Schools have a recycling program in place to reduce the amount of material which is sent to a landfill. Many schools have created their own recycling systems with custom signs and labels to make it user-friendly. There is a continuous effort to improve recycling systems at our schools. *(Priority Area – Waste)*

Kingston Transit Bus Pass and Orientation (Fall 2013) – During the fall, the Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator and staff from Kingston Transit visited the seven eligible secondary schools to distribute Grade 9 bus passes and take students on a mini trip to orientate them and allow for questions regarding public transit. This year council also decided to extend the program to include Grade 10 students. *(Priority Area – Transportation)*

School Name	Date	# of Gr 9 registered
QECVI	27 Sept 2013	86
La Salle	16 Oct 2013	69
Frontenac	18 Oct 2013	65
Bayridge	24 Oct 2013	70
KCVI	29 Oct 2013	70
Ernestown	30 Oct 2013	52
LCVI	01 Nov 2013	63
Total		475



Queen's University Health 415 (2013-2014 school year) – Staff partnered with students from Queen's University to help research and build *School Food Garden Guidelines*. This research project was the base of the *Development and Maintenance of School Food Gardens Administrative Procedure*. (Priority Area – Food)

Welborne Ave. P.S Vermicomposting (Winter 2013)

– Enabled by a Limestone Learning Foundation Grant, Welborne students learned about vermicomposting (worm composting), and set up their own worm composters. (Priority Area – Waste)



Inter-Institutional Energy Sharing Session (March 2014)

–In March 2014, an inter-institutional energy sharing session was organized by the Board. Facilities managers gathered to share best practices on energy conservation. Representatives from the following institutions attended: Utilities Kingston, Providence Care, Kingston General Hospital, City of Kingston, Union Gas, Algonquin & Lakeshore District School Board, CFB Kingston and the Collins Bay Penitentiary. (Priority Area – Climate Change and Energy)

Earth Hour @ Limestone (March 2014) – Considering roughly 70% of Ontario's energy supply is non-renewable, all actions matter and this exercise proved it. Together we really did make a significant difference. Cumulatively 39 of our sites saved approximately 1547 kWhs. (Priority Area – Climate Change and Energy)

One Earth One Chance Environmental Summit (April 2014) – Almost 200 elementary and high school students attended the fourth annual One Earth One Chance Environmental Summit at Bayridge S.S. Environmental issues of all types were on the one-day schedule as the students went from workshop to workshop, learning from community members about pipelines, birds species, the pillars of sustainability, wildlife such as salamanders and turtles, and even how to make canned jam. (Priority Area – Environmental Leadership)



Granite Ridge Education Centre Nursery (Spring 2014) – The project, which was funded with the help of grants from the Limestone Learning Foundation, the TD Bank’s Environmental Fund and Lowe’s of Kingston, who donated the sawmill to the school, is part of the provincial government’s goal to plant 50 million new trees in the province. For the nursery project students planted dogwood, sugar maple, and white pine trees. One of the goals is to replace each tree that was cut down during the construction of the new school with 15 new trees. *(Priority Area –*

Student and Community Engagement)

Centennial P.S. Grow Garden (Spring/14) – Centennial P.S. built a school food garden. Limestone has nine gardens at Bayridge, Centennial, First Avenue, Rideau, Rideau Heights, J.G. Simcoe, Southview, Prince Charles and Winston Churchill Public Schools. The use of school food gardens is consistent with the Board’s commitment to sustainability and healthy food environments. A school food garden can also play a role in increasing the food security of the students, families and the community by providing space for the production of food through collaborative community and school gardens. *(Priority Area – Food)*



Kingston Climate Action Plan: Youth Climate Art Project (June 2014) – Hundreds of LDSB students made Climate Cloths — a piece of cloth containing a positive climate action message or idea. On June 4, these Climate Cloths were hung in front of City Hall as part of a public art display. *(Priority Area – Student and Community Engagement)*