



## XXXX: Environmental Stewardship (A/P)

Approved: 09 04 24

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### BACKGROUND

As caring leaders and stewards of the environment, the Board of Education (the Board) recognizes its responsibility to promote, support and align with initiatives that build a culture of environmental learning, sustainability, and food sovereignty, including recognition of traditional Indigenous ways of knowing and being and Nuu-Chah-Nulth Principles.

The Board is committed to supporting and incorporating sustainable practices into its schools and associated curriculum, educating students about environmental issues, and fostering a sense of responsibility towards our planet.

### REFERENCE

Nuu-Chah-Nulth Principles -

- **(Hišuk ma ćawak:** Everything is One. A notion of the interconnected, interdependent, and reciprocal relationship between the people, the land and the wider world(s) in a physical, spiritual and social sense.
- **(ʔuuʔaʔuk:** Taking Care Of... In this context, this is about taking care of present and future generations as well as taking care of the resources provided by the land and the natural world.
- **ʔiisaak:** Greater Respect. Personal and collective respect for the community and its people, traditional knowledge, the natural world, the metaphysical world and other peoples and communities.

### DEFINITION

Environmental Learning – education about, in, and for the environment.

Sustainable Practices – responsible interaction with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources and allow for long-term environmental quality.

Food Sovereignty – emphasizes local food economies, sustainable food availability, and centers on culturally appropriate foods and practices.

### PROCEDURE

1. The district will:
  - i. support the recognition of and learning towards traditional Indigenous ways of knowing and being and Nuu-Chah-Nulth Principles.
  - ii. give consideration through all district operations for the enhancement of environmental stewardship and sustainability practices, and food sovereignty initiatives.
  - iii. determine priorities and promote initiatives related to environmental learning, sustainability, and food sovereignty practices.



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- iv. support and encourage community engagement in environmental learning, sustainability activities, and food sovereignty initiatives.
  - v. Encourage all District employees to act as environmental stewards.
  - vi. Teach, support, and encourage students to be active in building a society that is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.
  - vii. Encourage the use of locally developed courses and/or learning activities that promote the teaching of environmental learning, sustainable practices, and food sovereignty initiatives.
2. The Superintendent, or designate, will form a District Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Advisory Committee whose function will be to create an Environmental Stewardship Action Plan (ESAP).
    - i. The Superintendent, or designate, will prepare an annual report which outlines progress in relation to sustainability initiatives, outcomes, and measures found within the Environmental Stewardship Action Plan.
  3. The Secretary Treasurer, or designate, shall create, manage, and monitor an Energy Management Plan that includes, but is not limited to:
    - i. Integration of environmentally sustainable considerations into the district's business decisions related to:
      - a. Lighting and energy efficiency
      - b. Heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems
      - c. Renovation and new construction
      - d. Recycling programs
      - e. Purchasing policies
      - f. Carbon reduction in keeping with provincial programs and expectations of government.
  4. Principals shall form school-based Environmental Learning and Sustainability Committees involving staff, students, parents, Rights Holders, and community members, where practicable, who's role is to determine priorities and promote initiatives related to environmental stewardship at each school site.
    - i. Principals will report to the Superintendent, or designate, annually on progress made by the school-based Environmental Learning and Sustainability Committee in support of environmental stewardship initiatives.

## **RESOURCES AND REFERENCES**

Environmental Learning and Experience: An Interdisciplinary Guide for Teachers, BC Ministry of Education

Sustainable Schools Best Practice Guide, BC Ministry of Education

Pacific Rim School District 70 2023/24 – 2027/28 Strategic Plan

Pacific Rim School District 70 Policy XXX: Environmental Stewardship

Qualicum School District 69 Board Policy 100: Sustainable Practices

Saanich School District 63 Policy 20: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability