

Greening Our Schools: A Survey of Environmental Education in NB - 2010

Number of schools surveyed: 187

Environmental Curriculum

Number of schools that provide environmental education:

In addition to what is demanded by the curriculum for grades:

K-5: 39

6-8: 32

9-12 : 18

Invite guest speakers to talk on environmental matters: 176

Invite guest speakers to talk on social/economic matters: 109

Invite guest speakers to talk on health matters: 132

Invite guest speakers to talk on culture/cultural matters: 114

Conduct field trips with an environmental focus: 178

Conduct field trips with a social/economic focus: 70

Conduct field trips with a health focus: 81

Conduct field trips with a culture/cultural focus: 102

Use the Earth Ed catalogue to find environmental education materials: 5

Schools which receive environmental materials from:

Non-Profit Groups: 170

Atlantic Salmon Federation 94

Conservation Council of NB 73

Ducks Unlimited 94

Kindness Club 68

NB Federation of Naturalists 43

Canadian Parks + Wilderness Society - NB 35

Other 46

Industry Sector: 166

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd 30

Cdn Nuclear Association 12

Forest Products Association 77

J.D. Irving 119

NB Power 133

Other 13

Green Programs/Operations

Recycling

Number of schools implementing a recycling program: 185

Schools which are recycling:

Beverage Containers: 184 Office Items: 102 Paper: 161

Schools are using reusable dishes: Always: 76 Often: 36 Sometimes: 0 Rarely: 32

Schools interested in starting a recycling program: 15

Schools not interested in starting a recycling program: 20

Reasons schools are not interested in recycling :

Concerns about hygiene: 2 Lack of motivation: 1

Employee time: 6 Lack of physical space/infrastructure: 9

Lack of knowledge: 1 Poor access to recycling depots: 6

Composting

Number of schools implementing a composting program: 46

Schools with this type of composting program:

Municipal: 17 On-site food waste: 24 On-site yard waste: 8 Vermicomposting: 4

Schools interested in starting a composting program: 69

Schools not interested in starting a composting program: 90

Reasons schools are not interested in composting:

Concerns about hygiene: 18 Lack of knowledge: 18

Employee time: 50 Lack of motivation: 9

Few compostables in the waste stream: 4 Lack of physical space: 47

Lack of access to recycling depots: 11 Vandalism: 11

School environmental operations/programs

Number of schools with environmental operations/programs: 187

Energy conservation programs: 167

Schools that save energy with the following measures:

Close doors: 73 Have computers controlling the heat: 92

Destination Conservation: 23 Turn off computers: 100

Draw shades: 43 Turn off lights: 144

Energy conservation awareness: 79

Water conservation programs: 68

Schools that have the following measures to conserve water:

Low flush toilets: 27 Timed flushes: 22 Water saving devices in taps: 37

Indoor air quality programs: 183

Schools that have the following measures to control indoor air quality:

Not Smoking on school property: 159 Use unscented/non-toxic cleaning products: 159
Scent-free controls: 129 Use ventilation to control indoor air quality: 94

Healthy outdoor environment programs: 129

Schools that have the following measures to control outdoor air quality:

Anti-Idling Zones for Buses: 88 Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides on School Grounds: 88

Anti-litter programs: 155

Schools using the following measures to control litter:

Adopt a Highway: 12 Use PR (signs/fancy cans): 28
Use biodegradable products: 17 Use yard clean-up: 141
Eat only in cafeteria: 64

Health / Social programs: 141

Schools participating in the following health and social programs:

Anti-bullying programs: 134 Healthy Eating programs: 127
Multi-culturalism programs: 57 Partnerships with community groups: 72
Volunteer programs: 77

School ground programs:

School Ground Naturalization: 48 Beautification: 138 Vegetable Gardening: 18

Schools without an environmental program/operation but interested in starting one: 37

Schools without environmental program/operation who are not interested in starting one: 13

Reasons why schools are not currently interested in starting an environmental program:

Employee time: 10 Lack of motivation: 2
Lack of knowledge: 3 Lack of physical space: 4

Schools that have experienced problems with the drinking water supply: 59

Schools that monitor their environmental impact from year to year: 44

Schools that consider environmental and social factors when making purchases: 62

Student Activity

Number of schools with a student environmental group: 113

Student environmental groups supported by: Student environmental groups which function:

Administration: 60 As part of the class curriculum: 38
Student Council: 35 Independently: 65
Teacher Advisors: 91 As part of the student council: 25

Number of schools with a student social justice group: 27

Student social justice groups supported by: Student social justice groups which function:

Administration: 16 As part of the class curriculum: 7
Student Council: 10 Independently: 15
Teacher Advisors: 20 As part of the student council: 5

SEEDS Program

Number of schools that:

Participate in the SEEDS (Green school) program: 35

Are interested in participating in the SEEDS program in the future: 56

Are not familiar with the SEEDS program: 47

Wrap-up

Number of schools that would partner with non-profit groups for:

Improving green operations/programs: 104 Increasing student activity: 124 Programs: 92

Number of schools that are involved in additional environmental activities not mentioned above: 76