

Greening Our Schools: A Survey of Environmental Education in NB

Number of schools surveyed: 85

Environmental Curriculum

Number of schools that provide environmental education:

Environmental studies as a component in science programs:

K-5: **53** 6-8: **33** 9-12: **17**

Environmental studies as a component in social studies:

K-5: **41** 6-8: **32** 9-12: **14**

Community Education:

K-5: **27** 6-8: **17** 9-12: **7**

Environmental science:

K-5: **28** 6-8: **24** 9-12: **19**

Other education/pursuits:

K-5: **28** 6-8: **24** 9-12: **19**

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

K-5: **12** 6-8: **10** 9-12: **7**

Invite guest speakers to talk on environmental matters:	78
Invite guest speakers to talk on health matters:	81
Invite guest speakers to talk on social/economic:	64
Invite guest speakers to talk on culture/cultural matters:	74
Conduct field trips with an environmental focus:	73
Conduct field trips with a health focus:	65
Conduct field trips with a social/economic focus:	51
Conduct field trips with a culture/cultural focus:	74

Schools which receive environmental materials from:

Non-Profit Groups: 76

Atlantic Salmon Federation	41
Conservation Council of NB	31
Ducks Unlimited	50
Canadian Parks + Wilderness Society - NB	29
Nature NB	25
Other	16

Industry Sector: 55

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd	5
Canadian Nuclear Association	2
Forest Products Association	22

J.D. Irving	31
NB Power	39
Other	6

Green Programs/Operations

Recycling

Number of schools implementing a recycling program: 80

Schools which are recycling:

Beverage Containers:	73
Office Items:	41
Paper:	61

Schools are using reusable dishes:

Always:	50
Often:	14
Sometimes:	0
Rarely:	9

Schools interested in starting a recycling program: 13

Schools not interested in starting a recycling program: 13

Reasons schools are not interested in recycling:

Concerns about hygiene:	4	Lack of motivation:	0
Employee time:	6	Lack of physical space/infrastructure:	8
Lack of knowledge:	1	Poor access to recycling depots:	3

Composting

Number of schools implementing a composting program: 32

Schools with this type of composting program:

Municipal:	13
On-site food waste:	15
On-site yard waste:	7
Vermicomposting:	1

Schools interested in starting a composting program: 39

Schools not interested in starting a composting program: 47

Reasons schools are not interested in composting:

Concerns about hygiene:	11	Lack of knowledge:	4
Employee time:	33	Lack of motivation:	1
Few compostables in the waste stream:	2	Lack of physical space:	15
Lack of access to recycling depots:	14	Vandalism:	6

School environmental operations/programs

Number of schools with environmental operations/programs: 85

Energy conservation programs: 77

Schools that save energy with the following measures:

Close doors:	40	Have computers controlling the heat:	34
Destination Conservation:	5	Turn off computers:	47
Draw shades:	20	Turn off lights:	63
Energy conservation awareness:	23		

Water conservation programs: 38

Schools that have the following measures to conserve water:

Low flush toilets:	14
Timed flushes:	8
Water saving devices in taps:	24

Indoor air quality programs: 82

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

Not Smoking on school property:	81
Use unscented/non-toxic cleaning products:	77
Scent-free controls:	74
Use ventilation to control indoor air quality:	55

Healthy outdoor environment programs: 57

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

Anti-Idling Zones for Buses:	41
Ban the Use of Cosmetic Pesticides on School Grounds:	36

Anti-litter programs: 70

Schools using the following measures to control litter:

Adopt a Highway:	5
Use PR (signs/fancy cans):	10
Use biodegradable products:	7
Use yard clean-up:	64
Eat only in cafeteria:	22

Health / Social programs: 82

Schools participating in the following health and social programs:

Anti-bullying programs:	80
Healthy Eating programs:	75
Multi-culturalism programs:	39
Partnerships with community groups:	61
Volunteer programs:	57

School ground programs:

School Ground Naturalization:	28
Beautification:	55
Vegetable Gardening:	27

Schools without an environmental program/operation but interested in starting one: 21

Schools without environmental program/operation who are not interested in starting one: 7

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

Employee time:	11
Lack of motivation:	2
Lack of knowledge:	3
Lack of physical space:	3

Schools that have experienced problems with the drinking water supply: 24

Schools that monitor their environmental impact from year to year: 30

Schools that consider environmental and social factors when making purchases: 54

Student Activity

Number of schools with a student environmental group: 46

Student environmental groups supported by:

Administration:	10
Student Council:	4
Teacher Advisors:	25

Student environmental groups which function:

As part of the class curriculum:	8
Independently:	20
As part of the student council:	6

Number of schools with a student social justice group: 29

Student social justice groups supported by:

Administration:	8
Student Council:	4
Teacher Advisors:	13

Student social justice groups which function:

As part of the class curriculum:	6
Independently:	12
As part of the student council:	2

SEEDS Program

Number of schools that:

Participate in the SEEDS (Green school) program:	16
Are interested in participating in the SEEDS program in the future:	17
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: 45

Increasing student activity: **51**

Programs: **39**

Number of schools that are involved in additional environmental activities not mentioned above: **40**

The New Brunswick School Sustainability Survey is administered annually by the New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN). The NBEN serves as secretariat for the Sustainability Education Alliance of New Brunswick. For more information, visit:

<http://nben.ca/index.php/en/groups-in-action/working-together/sustainability-educationalliance-of-new-brunswick>.