



ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 37
JUNE 2026



ABOUT US

We work with BC Hydro, Fortis BC and Clean BC, to find ways to make our schools run more efficiently to reduce our carbon footprint. New LED lights at your school? That was us. New efficient heating system? We were there too. Holiday Shut Down competitions, us too, and so much more.

This newsletter is designed to let everyone know about SD43 sustainability initiatives. All through the District, great things are going on to make our students, our community, and our world more sustainable. We want to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

MESSAGE FROM THE ENERGY MANAGEMENT TEAM

As the 2025–2026 school year draws to a close, the Energy and Sustainability Team wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to all SD43 administrators, teachers, support staff, and students. Together, we have shifted from simply "planting seeds" to nurturing deep-rooted environmental stewardship across our district.

From the rollout of purchasing's initiative to provide Sugar Sheet sustainable paper to hands-on student workshops and science expos, your dedication continues to drive our district toward meaningful carbon reduction and environmental leadership. Thank you for making sustainability part of our daily school culture!





Thank You, Gardeners!

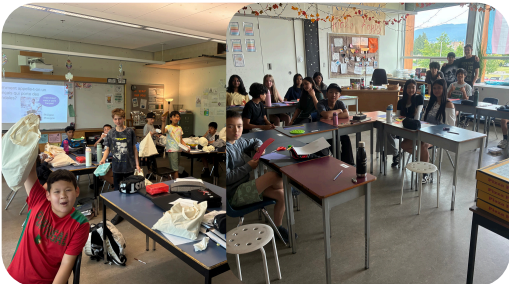
A big thank you to the 44 schools participating in our vegetable and herb project!

Over the summer, we have seen some of your gardens grow. We hope you are now enjoying the fruits of your labour and have vegetables and herbs for the Fall. We encourage you to keep caring for your gardens and plan for the year ahead.

Let's keep growing together!



Celebrating Our Eco-Challenge Champions!



Thank you so much for participating in this year's Eco-Week Challenge. We were incredibly impressed by your creativity, passion, and commitment to sustainability. Your efforts are a true testament to the dedication our district has toward building a greener future.



We hope all the winners enjoyed the pizza party and their sustainable prizes.



Summer Facility Infrastructure & Energy Efficiency Upgrades



While our classrooms are empty, the District Maintenance and Facilities teams will be hard at work executing critical infrastructure upgrades. These summer projects are highly focused on improving indoor air quality, upgrading mechanical efficiency, and advancing our district-wide energy reduction goals.

HVAC & Heating Plant Modernization

- Walton Elementary: Replace all unit ventilators (UVs) and upgrade the Direct Digital Control (DDC) building automation systems to maximize energy efficiency.
- Porter Street Elementary: Heating plant and domestic hot water (DHW) infrastructure modernization.
- Ranch Park Elementary: Replacement of the gas-fired gym rooftop unit with a high-efficiency packaged air-source heat pump (featuring a low-emission gas backup system) to reduce carbon reliance.
- Blakeburn Elementary: Heating plant upgrade and DDC recommissioning.
- Nestor Elementary: Heating plant upgrade.
- Rochester Elementary: DDC upgrade and 2 RTUs replacements.
- Glenayre Elementary: DDC upgrade, heating plant upgrade and Gym AHU upgrade.

Water Systems & Plumbing Efficiency (DHW Upgrades)

To lower energy consumption and improve system reliability, several schools are transitioning to high-efficiency, on-demand Navien tankless water heaters and updated storage systems:

- Gleneagle Secondary: Installation of 4 Navien systems and 1 new storage tank.
- Banting Middle & Scott Creek Middle: Installation of 2 Navien systems and 1 storage tank at each site.
- Hillcrest Middle: Installation of 1 Navien system in the northwest storage area.

District-Wide LED Lighting Upgrades

As part of our ongoing commitment to reducing electricity demand and improving classroom environments, comprehensive LED lighting retrofits will be executed at Anmore EL, Glenayre EL, Hillcrest Mid, Porter EL and Eagle Mountain Mid throughout the year.





Join Our Sustainable Leaders Committee!

The District Sustainability Leaders (DSL) team has wrapped up a successful year! At their final meeting at the Board Office, student leaders finalized an exciting, action-oriented vision for the 2026/27 school year.

If you are a student leader, leadership class, or club looking for high-impact projects, fundraising ideas, or volunteer hours, here is what is coming this fall:



- **DSL Instagram Launch:** Expanding our digital presence this September—get ready to follow and share!
- **Waste Sorting Campaign:** A major fall initiative to ensure everyone knows exactly how to sort waste correctly at school bins.
- **The Return of the Clothing Swap:** Our popular post-Spring Break event is back, offering great leadership and volunteer opportunities.
- **Sustainable Art Show:** A district-wide competition with prizes for art made from recycled materials, environmental photography, and creative writing.

We are aiming for at least one representative from every secondary school next year. The group meets online just once a month to collaborate and bring these green initiatives back to your campus.

Want to join or learn more? Reach out to apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca to secure your spot for September.



**JOIN OUR
TEAM**

Water Street Pedestrian Zone (Sundays, July 5 – Sept 6)

Head into Gastown to experience walkable, vehicle-free urban spaces promoting sustainable, active transit and community gathering.

More information click [here](#)



Reeve x Fairware Shoreline Cleanup (July 23)

Join a community-led cleanup at Hinge Park. This evening includes hands-on cleanup with plenty of opportunities to connect with industry folks and peers who care about sustainability.

More information click [here](#)



Parks Canada Learn-to-Camp (July 25–26)

Hosted locally at Woodward's Landing in Richmond, this event helps families build lifelong outdoor skills and connect safely with nature.

More information click [here](#).



JULY AND AUGUST - ECO DAYS TO HIGHLIGHT

Get involved! Whether in the classroom or at home, these global dates are perfect opportunities to take action and celebrate our planet.



Plastic Free July

Date: July 1st, 2026

A global movement encouraging individuals and communities to refuse single-use plastics to keep oceans and neighborhoods clean.

More information, click [here](#)

Canada Day

Date: July 1st, 2026

A wonderful opportunity to appreciate and commit to protecting Canada's vast, rich natural landscapes.

More information, click [here](#)



UN International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples



Date: August 9, 2026

Recognizing Indigenous communities as crucial stewards of global biodiversity and environmental conservation.

More information, click [here](#)

International Youth Day

Date: August 12, 2026

Living in Metro Vancouver, the ocean is our backyard. Excellent day for families or school groups to do a shoreline cleanup or learn about local marine stressors.

More information, click [here](#)



What is going on at your school?



We've officially wrapped up an incredible school year, and every small eco-friendly choice you made has created a powerful ripple effect across SD43. From reducing our day-to-day carbon footprint to championing student-led advocacy, your energy fueled real change.

Take that passion for environmental stewardship with you into our parks, beaches, and backyards this summer. Be proud of the collective impact we made, and enjoy every well-deserved moment of rest and outdoor adventure.

Thank you for your dedication to a greener future. Have a safe, refreshing summer break—we can't wait to see the momentum you bring back this September!

Have a brilliant green idea for the fall? Connect with Adrian Pettyfer at apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca and work together to get the word out and inspire more positive change.

**SMALL ECO-CHOICES TODAY
CREATE A GREENER
TOMORROW. HAVE A
BEAUTIFUL, SUSTAINABLE
SUMMER!**

