

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> <b>Facilities</b>	<i>Policy Number</i> <b>710</b>
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<i>Original Approved Date</i> <b>Sept. 27, 1994</b>	<i>Subsequent Approval Dates</i> <b>June 8, 2010</b>

**POLICY TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: OUR SACRED EARTH**

## **SECTION A**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The York Catholic District School Board recognizes its moral responsibility to uphold the two principles of 'sacredness of the earth' and 'living in harmony with God's creation'. The board will educate its pupils and maintain learning and working environments which promote a reverence for the environment and encourage sustainability through the effective stewardship of all resources.

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the board's belief that environmental education and effective stewardship of God's gifts are a shared responsibility of learners, staff and community members, and to provide direction with respect to the implementation of programs and curriculum initiatives that deepen and broaden student learning about the environment and guide efforts to put environmentally responsible practices in place.

### **2. POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board to promote learning about environmental issues and solutions, to engage pupils to participate actively in practicing and promoting environmental stewardship, both in the school and in the community. The York Catholic District School Board will provide leadership by implementing and promoting responsible environmental practices throughout the education system so that staff, parents, community members and pupils become dedicated to living more sustainably in harmony with God's creation.

### **3. PARAMETERS**

- 3.1 Reverence for the environment must be the foundation for all decision making.
- 3.2 Environmental education and ecological literacy will be fostered throughout the board.

- 3.3 All board sites will continue and expand best practices with respect to waste management: reduce, reuse, recycle.
- 3.4 Rigorous attention shall be given to environmental principles and energy efficiency in the siting, design, operations and maintenance of all facilities, grounds and equipment.
- 3.5 Where appropriate, staff shall cooperate with and support environmental programs developed by local municipalities, agencies and the coterminous Board.

#### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 4.1 Director of Education
  - To ensure compliance with this policy.
- 4.2 Superintendents, Senior Managers and Principals
  - To provide leadership in ensuring that mandatory environmental programs and initiatives are implemented.
  - To maintain a focus on the effective stewardship of God's gifts including living in harmony with creation and reverence for the environment.
- 4.3 All Staff:
  - To model reverence for the environment, promote environmental stewardship, and maintain learning and working environments which encourage sustainability through the effective stewardship of all resources.

#### **5. DEFINITIONS**

Environmental Education:

Education about the environment, for the environment and in the environment that promotes an understanding of rich and active experience in, and an appreciation for the dynamic interactions of:

- The Earth's physical and biological systems;
- The dependency of our social and economic systems on these natural systems;
- The scientific and human dimensions of environmental issues;
- The positive and negative consequences, both intended and unintended, of the interactions between human created and natural systems.

#### **6. CROSS REFERENCES**

- 6.1 Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: a Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools
- 6.2 Shaping our Schools, Shaping our Future: Environmental Education in Ontario Schools
- 6.3 Ready, Set, Green Tips, Techniques and Resources from Ontario Educators
- 6.4 Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8, Environmental Education: Scope and Sequence of Expectations

- 6.5 Ontario Curriculum Grades 9-12, Environmental Education: Scope and Sequence of Expectations
- 6.6 YCDSB First Class: Environmental Education conference, teacher resources and links
- 6.7 Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations
- 6.8 YCDSB Policy 802 - Purchase, Lease and Rental of Products and Services
- 6.9 YCDSB Guideline - Purchasing Reference Guideline
- 6.10 YCDSB Independent Procedure - Selection of Architects

<b>Approval by Board</b>	<i>Date</i>
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