Policy 17

SUSTAINABILITY and the ENVIRONMENT

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools is committed to the principle of sustainability in all its operations, and to provide leadership in improving and protecting the quality of the natural environment. As such, the Board commits to the procurement of sustainable products and services, to the greatest extent practical, and at a reasonable cost.

Sustainable products are those products and services that:

- Specifically minimize negative impacts on human health and the environment
- Are able to perform the intended function at least as well as non-sustainable products; and
- Are available for a purchase price (freight in) no greater than 5% higher than other products.

The Board expects that:

1. Schools will ensure that aspects of the curriculum which relate to the environment are implemented and activities organized for students and staff directed at promoting awareness and understanding of environmental issues and solutions.

2. Plant Operations and Maintenance Department will reflect environmental values in the design, operation and maintenance of Board facilities.

3. The environmental impact will be considered carefully in decision-making and that concern for the environment will be reflected in the daily activities and decision making of students and staff.

4. Action will be taken, to the greatest extent possible by all persons in leadership positions, to provide students and staff with knowledge, skills and attitudes conducive to behaviour and decision-making which is environmentally responsible.

5. Staff will make environmentally responsible purchases by:
   5.1 Considering a product’s longevity of use;
   5.2 Selecting products which are recyclable and/or made from recycled materials; and
   5.3 Selecting alternatives to products whose use and/or disposal can be harmful to the environment.
6. Staff will:
   6.1 Conserve materials and energy;
   6.2 Store and dispose of hazardous wastes properly; and
   6.3 Cooperate with environmental programs sponsored by the community
        and/or government agencies.

7. The application of this policy will:
   7.1 Improve energy and water efficiency;
   7.2 Reduce waste and support reuse and recycling;
   7.3 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air contaminants;
   7.4 Reduce hazardous waste; and
   7.5 Reduce the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and substances.