



## Green Procurement and Resource Conservation

### **Administrative Procedure 9.20**

**Board Governance Policy Cross Reference: 2, 3, 5, 7, 16**

**Legal Reference:** Manitoba Clean Environment Act,  
Manitoba Sustainability Act

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**Date Adopted: December, 2014**

**Date Amended:**

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The Evergreen School Division is committed to a sustainable future for our youth, our communities and our planet. To formalize this commitment, the Board of Trustees have adopted a policy entitled Education for Sustainability.

#### **Vision for Education for Sustainable Development:**

Students will become informed and responsible decision-makers, playing active roles as citizens of Canada and the world, and will contribute to social, environmental, and economic well-being and an equitable quality of life for all, now and in the future.

This administrative procedure is one in a series of procedures that will allow us to model sustainable practices and achieve the goals as outlined in our policy. The goals targeted by this administrative procedure are as follows:

1. To implement strategies to ensure that operations, activities, programs and facilities are sustainable without compromising the ability of present and future generations to fulfill their own goals.
2. To apply sustainability principles to the design, construction and renewal of division buildings and all aspects of facility management, procurement, resource use and transportation.
3. To offer services and carry on its activities in such a way as to:
  - a. reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and the wastes generated from them;
  - b. use all renewable materials and energy resources at rates equal to, or lower than, their natural rates of deposition, reformation or reproduction in the ecosphere;
  - c. reduce and eventually eliminate the toxicity of these operations to the productivity and diversity of the ecosphere.

**Green procurement** takes into consideration the environmental aspects of goods and services being acquired. Green products purchased would be those that are made with less harmful materials or which when produced or used or consumed would have a minimal impact on the environment. This will include buying local, buying recycled and recyclable, using less chemicals and reducing the schools carbon footprint associated with products and services.

Green procurement practices benefit the health and safety of staff, students and the community. A green school creates a healthy environment (land, air, and water) that is conducive to learning, while saving energy, resources and money.

### **Categories**

Green Products, Green Paper, Green Cleaners, Green Building, Green Schoolyards, Green Transport

### **Facts**

- The typical “green” school division can save up to \$100,000 per year on operating costs.
- On average green schools use 33% less energy and 32% less water than conventionally constructed schools.
- Green schools have high indoor air quality by improving air circulation and removing toxic materials and products and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Green schools have high quality acoustics, temperature controlled systems and day lighting strategies that create welcoming learning environments that lessen distractions and encourages student participation. **The Center for Green Schools.org**
- A tap leaking one drop of water per second wastes more than 25 L of water a day! That’s 9,000 L a year!
- About 75% of indoor water use occurs in the bathrooms, and toilets are the single largest water users. Toilets use over 40% more water than needed **Ecokids.ca**
- Prairie Pulp and Paper have manufactured an environmentally friendly Step Forward Paper which contains 80% straw and 20% Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood fibre.

### **Recommended Practices**

Each school in the division will work towards the following actions on an annual basis:

1. **Sustainability Team** - Form a school Sustainability Team to advise and monitor school based sustainability initiatives (team members should include members from the whole school community: teachers, students, administrator(s), custodian(s) and parents/guardians).
2. **Green Procurement Practices** - Adopt management practices and education programs for green procurement:
  - Purchase recycled paper and products where reasonable and feasible;
  - Identify and expand the purchase of environmentally preferable products, services and processes;

- Reduce the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and substances through the purchase of products that are reputedly green certified such as “Ecologo”;
- Buy products in bulk where possible to reduce packaging and waste;
- Promote resource conservation with students and staff; through class projects and activities;
- Conduct a school energy audit;
- Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption in schools;
- Use HVAC heating and cooling systems in schools;
- Use energy efficient lighting in our schools, encourage a “Turn off the Lights” campaign and use more natural light in the classrooms;
- Promote power bar shut off at the end of the school day;
- Plant trees and seedlings to provide shade, wind barriers and air filtering;
- Use an aerator and water flow reducer in taps;
- Install low flush toilets or install a weighted plastic bottle in the water tank;
- Install water fillable stations at divisional schools and buildings;
- Reduce air contaminants by using environmentally friendly air filters;
- Acquire sustainable energy for bus transportation;
- Support reduce, reuse, and recycle programs;