

POLICY

It is the policy of Upper Grand District School Board to promote and support an understanding, respect and life long appreciation of the environment through the development of academic, experiential and practical programs.

Administrative Detail

1. It is the responsibility of the Director of Education to provide leadership and support for the implementation and review of this policy.
2. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Superintendents to monitor and review this policy.
3. It is the responsibility of principals and supervisors to maintain school and work environments, which reflect the goals of this policy.
4. It is the responsibility of all staff to promote, where possible, all environmentally related curriculum.
5. It is the responsibility of Board employees to maintain work sites in a manner consistent with this policy.
6. It is the responsibility of students to participate individually, and collectively, in ways that demonstrate an understanding of this policy.
7. This policy shall be administered in accordance with the Environmental Policy Procedures Manual # 210-A.

A. GENERAL

1. Upper Grand District School Board acknowledges:
 - a) the inherent value of all life in the broadest sense including the flourishing of ecosystems, biomes and the Earth as a whole;
 - b) that people are an integral part of nature;
 - c) the limited resources of the Earth necessitate sound resource allocation and conservation practices.
2. Environmental education within Upper Grand District School Board will:
 - a) encourage sensitivity of individuals to the richness and diversity of life,
 - b) promote an understanding of how Earth systems function;
 - c) promote an understanding of how we are personally connected to ecosystems;
 - d) recognize our responsibility as caretakers and guardians of the Earth.
3. The Board will implement the Environmental Policy through curricular, operational and staff development initiatives.

B. CURRICULUM

1. Environmental Education shall, where possible, be incorporated into the content and methodology of the instructional program in all divisions, and be consistent with the Ontario Curriculum.
2. Specialized courses in Environmental Education shall, where possible, be developed, and be consistent with the Ontario Curriculum.
3. The Program Department will, where possible, encourage opportunities for outdoor natural science educational experiences and support the selection of educational programs and materials that are consistent with this policy and the Ontario Curriculum.

C. OPERATIONS (Care of the Environment)

1. Purchasing Practices
 - a) As far as practically and financially feasible the Board shall purchase “environmentally friendly” products which have an acceptable level of performance. [See Purchasing of Goods and Services Policy #302]

2. Waste Management and Conservation Practices

The Board shall, where possible, reduce, re-use, and recycle waste materials in all departments and schools.

3. Energy Conservation

- a) The Board shall support the reduction of energy consumption by:
- encouraging users to conserve
 - converting to more efficient heating fuels and heating systems during replacement
 - installing energy control systems
 - improving the energy efficiency of buildings
 - purchasing energy efficient products

4. Maintenance and Housekeeping

- a) The Board shall use, where possible, maintenance and housekeeping products that are non-toxic, nonpolluting and biodegradable.
- b) The Board shall comply with Ministry of Environment and Energy guidelines and Regulations for the disposal of chemicals and solvents.

5. Indoor Air Quality

The Board shall use, where possible, non-toxic, hypoallergenic building and maintenance products.

6. Pest Control

- a) The Board shall, where possible, avoid the use of toxic chemicals for pest control.
- b) When professional pest control is required, only licensed personnel shall be used or engaged.

7. Grounds Care
 - a) The Board shall, where possible, use grounds care procedures that increase natural methods, and reduce the use of chemicals, fertilizers and herbicides.
 - b) The Board shall, where possible, encourage and support the development of natural landscaping and wildlife habitats on Board property.
8. Food Handling
 - a) The Board staff shall encourage cafeteria staff and food services students and personnel to implement sound environmental practices within their food services facilities.
 - b) Packaging: The Board shall encourage replacement of individual packaging with bulk servicing, given the constraints of economics and the Food and Health Act.
 - c) Disposable Dishes: The Board shall encourage the use of reusable dishes and discourage the use of disposable cutlery and dishes.
 - d) Garbage: The Board shall encourage composting of cafeteria wastes.

D. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

1. The Board shall provide, where possible, opportunities and encouragement for community-based, system-based or school-based programs, projects, and events designed to advance environmental awareness, education and care.
2. Information shall, where possible, be made available for teachers to increase their awareness of environmental curriculum issues.