



## Policy Manual – Buildings/Plant/Grounds

### B.M.05 Environmental Policy

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*The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.*

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth recognizes that if learning takes place in an appropriate and challenging environment it is to reflect not only Gospel values and the responsible use of human and financial resources but also the wise use of natural resources. The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board recognizes the need for the school system to respond **to Laudato Si, Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home**, to have a knowledgeable concern **for the stewardship of action**, for the quality of the natural environment and its impacts on the poor, the careful use of natural resources.

In order to **promote** of stewardship of creation and sustainable development, the Board supports and encourages its employees, students and school communities to promote programs, practices and initiatives in the areas of **Christian service**, environmental literacy, waste management, purchasing, food services, energy efficiency and conservation:

**Responsibility: Associate Director of Corporate Services**

#### **Purpose**

**The Board affirms the shared responsibility of Stewardship for the gift of creation by supporting programs that will:**

- provide leadership initiatives and support **achievement of stewardship of action** at the system, school and community levels;
- **Help students draw connections between the dignity of human life and care for the environment;**
- pursue the implementation of curriculum which promotes environmental literacy and the ethic of stewardship of creation;
- encourage schools to actively participate in activities and events that help fulfill our responsibilities as good stewards of our environment;
- encourage schools to have an active Eco Schools committee that would include students, school staff and parents who would plan and initiate positive environmental activities;
- provide an environment **within the workplace** that meets or exceeds government standards for health and safety and reflects concerns for environmental protection;
- continue to **strongly discourage or ban** the use of ecologically damaging materials and chemicals on Board properties and promote the use of organic or environmentally sensitive alternatives;
- supervise outside contractors to ensure their practices are consistent with Board policy;
- support the use of natural landscaping and preservation of wildlife habitats on school board properties; and,

- encourage schools to enhance the natural environment on school properties; and in the design and construction of all new facilities and/or renovations, ensure that environmental principles are followed, subject to budget. Construction practices that result in greater energy efficiency and occupant comfort such as LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) or other design criteria leading to superior buildings should be encouraged.

The Board promotes the use of the “A4-R's” - Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and in so doing, will endeavour to provide all the means possible to support this initiative.

### **Responsibility**

The Board shall maintain the role of its Social and Ecological Responsibility in Education Committee (SERE), in order to support this policy.

The purpose of the committee is to:

- a) support the implementation of the Board’s environmental policy;
- b) encourage students and staff to **be good stewards of action and** Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle;
- c) promote energy conservation practices, waste minimization, school ground greening and the fostering of ecological literacy; and,
- d) encourage ~~the Catholic school board~~ **communities** to respect all living things and help enhance the natural environment.

The committee shall submit an annual report to the Religion, Family Life & Faith Formation Committee.

**Related Board Committee:** Religion, Family Life & Faith Formation

### **Policy Review Date:**

BM Original Policy Approved March 4, 2003

Revisions: 24 June 2008, 05 March 2013, 19 June 2018, 01 February 2022

To be reviewed every five years