

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: February 2023  
TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Nicole Davey, Director of Instruction  
SUBJECT: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.

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**Overview**

The district is working to be a leader in Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.

**Department of Learning Services' Strategy:**

- Review and incorporate the NLPS Environmental Action Plan
- Increase learning opportunities for students and staff on climate and sustainability.
- Increase outdoor education opportunities throughout the district with a specific focus on building the capacity of our elementary teachers

**Background**

**The NLPS Environmental Action Plan**

1. The Environmental Stewardship Action Plan (ESAP) puts into action the Board's Strategic goal of being a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability and will impact all areas of the District from teaching and learning to reconciliation to infrastructure.
  - a. This plan will be shared with school leaders and district managers this year with the intention of highlighting this work as a priority and having schools and departments amplify this work as part of their plans.

**Increase learning opportunities for students and staff on climate and sustainability.****1. Regional District of Nanaimo Partnership around Environmental Stewardship**

- a. NLPS is in year 3 of a partnership with the RDN. This project will utilize a Spiral of Inquiry Approach (Halbert & Kaser, 2013) to look at changing practice in relationship to environmental stewardship. This project started with 4 schools 3 years ago and has grown to include 10 schools this year. Our goal is to increase the number of schools each year.

Participating classroom teachers will be looking at ways to provide educational opportunities for their students to gain a holistic understanding of stewardship, and the interconnectedness of our actions with the environment. Incorporating Indigenous understandings will be an important part of this work.

- b. Zero Waste Project: Zero Waste aims to reduce and eliminate garbage through reuse, repair and recycling. Discarded materials will become resources that can continue to be used. As a part of this project, schools received enough 4-part recycling/waste stations (with district signage) for the hallways and recycling and compost containers for the classroom. Six schools are involved this year. Our goal is to increase the number of schools each year.

**Increase outdoor education opportunities throughout the district with a specific focus on building the capacity of our elementary teachers.**

1. As of the 22/23 school year, all secondary schools have Outdoor Education courses (plus West Coast Wilderness at NDSS). There is release time for mentorship between Outdoor Ed teachers to support co-teaching opportunities between secondary Outdoor Ed teachers and elementary teachers.
2. Fifty plus (50+) teachers across the district have received their OCC Level 1 Certification.
3. Pro-D opportunities are offered to support teachers with land-based approaches to teaching and learning.