



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

POLICY:	Green Policy	CODE: DG-24
Origin:	General Directorate	
Authority:	Resolution #10-06-16-3.1	
Reference(s):	Related EMSB policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutrition (CS-15)• Transportation (CS-10)• Purchasing (DG-16)	

This policy is in keeping with the English Montreal School Board's mission to foster the development of educated and responsible persons who will assume their position as active members of a democratic society.

RATIONALE

Education plays a vital role in the fabric of our society. A modern, forward-thinking approach to education must raise consciousness about the importance of sustainable development. It must also provide a healthy, ecological, economically sound and socially responsible learning environment.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has defined Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as helping people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions.

In line with UNESCO's objectives, the School Board seeks to "integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, in order to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental problems we face in the 21st century." (See <http://www.unesco.org/en/esd/>)

The School Board acknowledges its responsibility to empower all stakeholders to develop an active and respectful relationship with their environment while maintaining a critical attitude towards exploitation of the environment, technological development and consumer/industrial goods.

POLICY STATEMENT

The English Montreal School Board aims to become a model of best practices in its community and is committed to making a positive impact on society through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and by setting an example of a sustainably viable approach in all areas of its organization.

FIELD OF APPLICATION

This policy applies to all stakeholders (students, staff, administration, governance, parents) in the schools, centres and the Administration Building.

OBJECTIVES

The *Green Schools Initiative* established four pillars which serve as the foundation for decision-making related to the establishment of healthy and sustainable schools and centres (refer to <http://greenschools.net>). These pillars provide a framework for the following objectives which have been formulated with the understanding that any undertaking must be practical and financially viable.

Pillar 1 – Education

The School Board will make all efforts to integrate ESD, as part of every day school life, in order to build a solid knowledge and skill foundation to understand and positively impact the world we live in. This includes the following ESD principles which are to:

- 1.1 Develop a connection with the natural world;
- 1.2 Develop an understanding of the necessity of sustainable resource use;
- 1.3 Develop appreciation for the protection of the environment;
- 1.4 Develop the knowledge and the desire to minimize their ecological footprint;
- 1.5 Become knowledgeable consumers of material goods and services;
- 1.6 Understand the social, economic, cultural and environmental impact of its actions.

Pillar 2 - Green and Healthy Space

The School Board will make all efforts to:

- 2.1 Promote green spaces in and around schools, centres and the Administration Building;
- 2.2 Maintain the air quality in all buildings to meet CSST standards, the *Règlement sur la qualité de l'air*, the *Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement (Chap. Q-2)* and the *Loi sur le développement durable (QC)*;
- 2.3 Establish practices to reduce its ecological footprint while implementing its nutrition policy;
- 2.4 Reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation of all its stakeholders;
- 2.5 Reduce the carbon and ecological footprint associated within all the operations of the School Board.
- 2.6 Apply green building principles where possible.

Pillar 3 – Sustainable Resource Use

The School Board will make all efforts to:

- 3.1 Establish procurement practices that are socially, economically and environmentally sound;
- 3.2 Foster attitudes and practices in keeping with the four principles of reduce / re-use / recycle / repurpose;

- 3.3 Increase energy efficiency in schools, centres and the Administration Building and favour renewable energy sources.

Pillar 4 – Strive to be Toxic Free

The School Board will make all efforts to reduce and eventually eliminate use of toxic products and materials in:

- 4.1 Building cleaning and maintenance at schools, centres and the Administration Building;
- 4.2 Building design and renovation;
- 4.3 Pest and weed control;
- 4.4 De-icing material.

In addition, the School Board will make efforts to ensure that the disposal of goods is handled in an ecologically sound manner whenever financially feasible.

RULES OF APPLICATION

This policy encompasses all areas of operation. The School Board is committed to ongoing measurable improvements in environmental education and operational practices within its budgetary control. The School Board is also committed to favouring those suppliers of goods and services that adhere to this policy.

The policy will be implemented through five-year Board and school/centre action plans that include:

1. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) objectives
2. Clear indicators
3. Measurable means of evaluation
4. Timeline for monitoring and reporting
5. Follow-up and update of the action plans

The action plans must be aligned with the School Board's partnership agreement and strategic plan, and with the schools' and centres' educational projects, success plans and management agreements with the understanding that any undertaking must be practical and financially viable.