



**Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance**

Board Received: May 27, 2019 Review Date: June 2023

**Policy Statement**

The Grand Erie District School Board is committed to the operation and maintenance of green and healthy equitable and accessible education facilities that contribute to a sustainable future. All facility operation and maintenance processes and procedures will consider the Board’s Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance Guidelines which are committed to achieving green and healthy facilities.

**Accountability**

- 1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
- 2. Criteria for Success – All Board facilities are operated and maintained following the established Environmental Standards

**Procedure – Facility Operations and Maintenance**

The Grand Erie District School Board’s Environmental Standards for Operations and Maintenance illustrates the Board’s commitment to green and healthy education facilities and provides an overview of the targets and guidelines for operating our facilities in a manner that is environmentally friendly and healthy. The Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance illustrates the Board’s commitment to green and healthy education facilities.

Standards for Facility Operation	Standard for Facility Maintenance
Waste Management	Energy Conservation/Building Automation Systems
Hazardous Waste	Purchasing Equipment
Green Clean	Waste Minimization
Water Conservation	School Ground Greening
Environmental Education	

A list of action items for achieving our Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance is attached as Appendix A and B.

## Appendix A

Guidelines for achieving our Environmental Standards for Facility Operations1.0 Waste Management

- The Grand Erie District School Board shall, where possible, aim to reduce, reuse and recycle waste materials in all departments, schools and facilities.
- The Board shall conduct waste audits at a minimum of one elementary and one secondary school each school year. Based on audit results, a reduction plan will be developed and posted at all board facilities. This is in accordance with Ontario Regulation 102/94.
- The Board will support, wherever possible, initiatives and programs to divert materials from disposal in landfills by encouraging the reuse and recycling of items. Programs such as E-waste and battery recycling are examples of these initiatives. FT112 Disposal of Surplus Damaged or Obsolete Furnishings and Equipment guides the disposal of such items.
- The Board will comply with the Waste-Free Ontario Act.

2.0 Hazardous Waste

- The Grand Erie District School Board is committed to the safe and environmentally friendly management of all hazardous waste generated through curricular activities and facility processes.
- The Board recognizes the importance of proper management and disposal of hazardous waste and compliance with legislative requirements (Ontario Environmental Protection Act), statutes, by-laws and procedures.
- Hazardous waste collection will be done each June where school staff will be responsible for completing the Hazardous Waste Inventory Forms and submitting to Facility Services.
- Examples of hazardous wastes created within our facilities include:
  - Chemicals, minerals, radioactive wastes, specimens, aged or obsolete chemicals.
  - Paints, wood, metal, chemical and construction wastes generated through technology.
  - Chemicals and supplies used in photo processing.
  - Oil, paints, solvents and lubricants used within auto technology programs.
  - Fluorescent Light tubes

3.0 Green Cleaning

- The Grand Erie District School Board is committed to using the most human and earth friendly products which leave the least negative impact on the building occupants and the environment.
- Through a management program, the Grand Erie District School Board will:
  - continue the green clean program;
  - strive to use certified green products through standards, such as: Forest Stewardship Council, EcoLogo, GreenSeal and GreenGuard;
    - For all products without green certifications, we are committed to considering and evaluating chemical contents and composition, including consideration of pH levels and raw materials used.
  - Include Green Cleaning product specifications in all requests for proposal and tenders issued for cleaning products.

4.0 Water Conservation

- The Grand Erie District School Board is committed to the protection of our local watersheds and resources.
- The Board recognizes the importance of water conservation and will seek to identify opportunities to reduce water consumption while promoting efficient use of water among staff, students and school community.
- The Board is committed monitoring and measuring potable water quality and consumption. This is in accordance with Ontario Regulation 170/03 and 243/07, made under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

5.0 Environmental Education

- Refer to Grand Erie District School Board's Policy SO18 - Environmental Education and Stewardship

## Appendix B

Guidelines for achieving our Environmental Standards for Facility Maintenance1.0 Energy Conservation/Building Automation System

- The Board will consider renewable energy options, when economically feasible, as a way to minimize the building's environmental impact.
- The Board will strive to conduct annual energy audits, which will include saving and cost Analysis. Based on audit results, a reduction plan may be developed in order to identify energy saving opportunities and trends of inefficiency. This is in accordance with the Ontario Green Energy Act.
- The Board supports the ongoing accountability and optimization of building energy performance and identifies opportunities for additional energy-saving investments through their Building Automation System (BAS).
- The Board's BAS monitors and controls the performance of mechanical equipment and major building systems, including heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting, regulating indoor comfort and conditions during occupied and unoccupied times.
- Through the BAS, information is collected and stored in order to make informed decisions regarding the buildings operations and potential energy-savings.
- The Board supports the purchase and installation of energy-efficient equipment, where feasible.

2.0 Purchasing Equipment

- The Grand Erie District School Board's Maintenance Department is committed to adhering to Board Policy F6 - Purchasing, specifically the subsection titled *Environment Protection*.

3.0 Waste Minimization

- The Grand Erie District School Board Maintenance Department shall, where possible, aim to reduce, reuse and recycle waste materials.
- The Board is committed to the safe and environmentally friendly management of all hazardous waste generated through curricular activities and facility processes.

4.0 School Ground Greening

- The Grand Erie District School Board will strive to provide school grounds that are safe, functional, maintainable, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally responsible.
- The Board Maintenance Department shall, where possible, partner with school's administration, staff, parents and local community to support, design and implement school ground greening projects, enhancements and rehabilitations.
- School Ground Greening projects will increase educational opportunities related to the Ontario Curriculum; encourage active, passive and learning spaces; improvements to the safety, comfort and aesthetics; and/or contribute to greening and environmental initiatives. Projects include, but are not limited to, tree planting, outdoor classrooms, shade areas/structures, creation of gardens, sports areas and passive play areas.