

## **POLICY 124 CLIMATE ACTION**

The Board of Education of School District 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) recognizes that the planet is in a state of climate emergency (see Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018). We acknowledge the legitimacy of the United Nations Climate Action Charter (2016) and B.C.'s Climate Action Charter (endorsed March 10, 2009, by our district).

School District 83 is responsible for the education and well-being of our current and future students. Therefore, in the face of global climate change we are obliged to:

- promote the growth of ecological literacy and ethics within students
- embed environmental education within the curriculum's core competency framework
- emphasize the First Peoples knowledge and other traditional ecological knowledge
- address environmental issues and climate action projects in ways that students can contribute
- naturalize school grounds with an ecological and educational lens
- provide students with flexible work skills in a changing world
- support students in developing emotional coping skills and strategies
- cultivate kindness, adaptability, creativity, and resilience within the context of climate change

Additionally, we recognize that School District 83 is a large consumer of energy and resources. Both as an attempt to reduce our consumption and to serve as an example to our students, we believe that it is incumbent upon staff and students to take immediate, positive, and collective action towards mitigating climate change and adapting to its inevitable impacts. This includes:

- responsible consumption and purchase of resources (including energy conservation, water conservation, conservation of teaching materials such as paper, etc.)
- reducing and properly sorting and disposing of waste, including electronic waste
- effectively managing energy use in existing buildings and ensuring new buildings and building enhancements optimize energy efficiency
- limiting emissions created by Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and considering alternate fuel sources for transportation
- limiting emissions created by the heating/cooling of buildings
- working in partnership with other governments and organizations
- keeping ourselves accountable to charters, regulations, policies and targets that have been previously endorsed by our school board.

### **References**

IPCC 2018 [Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by governments — IPCC](#)  
UN Climate Action Charter, 2016 [Climate Change – United Nations Sustainable Development](#)  
BC Climate Action Charter <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/comm/comm/climate/climateactioncharter/>