

School Sustainability Checklist

This checklist is intended to be reviewed periodically to determine if the school's sustainability initiatives have been making progress and if the cultural of the school is becoming one focused on sustainability.

School Culture and Education:

- ☐ Are professional development sessions offered at your school for teachers to learn about education for sustainable development and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals?
- ☐ Do staff and students discuss sustainability in the classroom and during casual conversations in a positive way?
- ☐ Do teachers at your school integrate climate change education, including climate justice, across all curriculum subjects?
- ☐ Is Earth Day recognized and celebrated school-wide?
- ☐ Do teachers at your school have access to climate change resources or collaboration time with other teachers?
- ☐ Do staff members support each other by sharing sustainability resources?
- ☐ Do students actively participate in climate action initiatives?
- ☐ Are their visual reminders throughout the school of the core values of sustainability?
- ☐ Do classes regularly connect with the community for project-based and place-based learning?
- ☐ Are students being provided opportunities to contribute to sustainability initiatives and initiate projects?

Transportation

- ☐ Does your school have secured and easily accessible bike and skateboard storage?
- ☐ Are there safe routes for students and staff to take on bike or foot to get to the school?
- ☐ Does your school highlight the health benefits of active transportation, like walking or biking?
- ☐ Has your school campaigned for bike to work week and taught lessons about pedestrian and road safety?
- ☐ Does your school have an idle-free zone where students are dropped-off and picked-up?
- ☐ Do students know how to take public transportation safely and how to navigate the system?
- ☐ Do all students that are eligible to take the school bus have the appropriate pass and take it regularly?
- ☐ Do teachers know how to use the city bus for greener field trips?

Food Program

- ☐ Does your school use reusable or biodegradable plates and cutlery?

- ☐ Does your food program offer incentives for people that bring their own reusable coffee cups or dinnerware, such as a reduced price for food or drinks?
- ☐ Does your school have meatless or dairy-free meals to reduce it's greenhouse gas emissions?
- ☐ Does your school make use of leftover food by serving it before fresh foods the following day or sending leftovers home with students in need of extra food?
- ☐ Does your school compost food waste either on school grounds or through a municipal composting program?

Electricity

- ☐ Are students and staff encouraged to turn off lights that aren't needed?
- ☐ Are lights in areas not used frequently on timers or motion sensors?
- ☐ Does your school use more efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs, such as the T-5 and T-8 fluorescent bulbs?
- ☐ Does your school use clean electricity, such as solar power, wind power, or hydroelectricity, rather than sourcing energy from fossil fuels?
- ☐ Are staff and students aware of "vampire" electronics that leech power even when not in use and know to disconnect them or turn them off completely?

School Grounds

- ☐ Do your school grounds have green space and native species growing?
- ☐ Do your school grounds have trees that provide shade and cooler temperatures to spaces used by students and staff, as well as close to the building to help shade it?
- ☐ Does your school have a garden for learning about and growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs that can be used by students or the school's food program?
- ☐ Is the maintenance of the garden scheduled with classes or staff members?
- ☐ Are your school grounds maintained with pesticide free alternatives and natural fertilizers, such as finished compost?
- ☐ Are students and staff often seen utilizing green spaces?

Works Cited

BC Ministry of Education. Sustainable Schools Best Practice Guide.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/teaching-tools/environmental-learning/sustbestpractices.pdf>.

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