

**Limestone District School Board
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

**Limestone Education Centre
220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston**

Agenda

1. **Welcome**
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
4. **Community Organizations Updates**
5. **Limestone DSB Update**
6. **Community Presentation: Kathy Moulton, Hydro One**
7. **New School Energy Efficiency Request Update**

The Government of Ontario has demonstrated through its words and actions that it cares about climate change and conserving energy in the built environment, and Ontario's Minister of Energy has stated publicly that every dollar invested in energy conservation saves at least two dollars in the long term and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by thousands of tonnes.

The Limestone District School Board (LDSB) is committed to modelling and instilling a sense of environmental responsibility and leadership in Limestone students of all ages, and is similarly committed to conducting its operations in a financially responsible and sustainable manner, including by lowering utility costs by reducing energy consumption in schools. Meanwhile, it is the City of Kingston's vision to be the most sustainable city in Canada, and the LDSB wishes to play a meaningful role in achieving that vision.

MOTION:

A) That whenever the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) has an opportunity to build a new school, that the LDSB direct the architect to make high-performance energy-conservation features a design priority from the start; and

B) That the LDSB formally ask the Ministry of Education and Infrastructure Ontario (IO) to add school boards to its list of eligible borrowers for either IO or other funding, so that all Ontario school boards that wish to implement high-performance energy measures in new school builds, renovations or retrofits will have access to a low-interest borrowing facility that will enable them to implement these measures

8. 2014/15 Sustainability Report

9. Other Business

10. Next Meeting Date (The next meeting of the ESAC is scheduled for T.B.A. at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, at 6:00 p.m.)

11. Adjournment

The 2014-2015 LDSB Sustainability Update is an overview of some of the sustainable initiatives that occurred in the 2014-2015 school year. These initiatives outlined in this snapshot helped move the Board's sustainability strategy forward. Focusing on one or more of the 10 Sustainability Priority Areas (*Administration, Climate Change and Energy, Environmental Leadership, Facilities Services, Food, Student and Community Engagement, Teaching and Learning, Transportation, Waste, Water*); these initiatives foster environmental education and sustainable school communities

During the 2014-2015 school year the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee met four times (October 14, January 28, April 1 and May 6). ESAC has representatives from many local sustainability-related organizations that helped gather feedback on different sustainable initiatives and provided insight on collaborative opportunities for LDSB. This year ESAC heard from community presenters including Loving Spoonful's Mara Shaw on school food gardens & Parent Jeremy DaCosta on Active Transportation Planning at J.R. Henderson P.S.

EcoSchools Certification – In the 2014-2015 school year, the Board had 14 schools achieve Ontario EcoSchools Certification. Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for Grades Kindergarten-12. The program runs from September to June. Each year schools apply, they are encouraged to take action in six areas and are later assessed on their involvement. Schools which certify will receive a platinum, gold, silver or bronze level status. The six areas are: Teamwork and Leadership, Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, School Ground Greening, Curriculum, and Environmental Stewardship. This is Limestone's highest number of certified schools ever!



- Bath P.S. – *Bronze*
- Bayridge S.S – *Gold*
- Cataraqui Woods E.S. – *Gold*
- Centennial P.S. – *Gold*
- Central P.S. – *Silver*
- John Graves Simcoe P.S. – *Gold*
- Lord Strathcona P.S. – *Silver*
- Loughborough P.S. – *Silver*
- North Addington Education Centre – *Silver*
- Prince Charles P.S. – *Gold*
- Rideau P.S. – *Bronze*
- Selby P.S. – *Silver*
- Southview P.S. – *Gold*
- Welborne Ave. P.S. – *Bronze*

Battery Recycling Program (Ongoing) – The Board currently has 17 schools which participate in a battery recycling program. To date, the program has recycled more than 1,500 pounds of household batteries. *(Priority Area – Waste)*



Recycling Programs (Ongoing) – All schools in the Board have a collection service for both waste and recycling to reduce the amount of material which is sent to a landfill. Many schools have created their own recycling systems with custom signs and labels to make it more user-friendly. There is a continuous effort to improve recycling systems at our schools. *(Priority Area – Waste)*

Kingston Transit Bus Pass and Orientation (Fall 2014) – During the fall, the Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator and staff from Kingston Transit visited eligible secondary schools to distribute Grade 9 bus passes and take students on a mini trip to orientate them and allow for questions regarding public transit. *(Priority Area – Transportation)*



Development of the School Food Gardens Administration Procedure 531 (Fall 2014) – The procedure was approved by senior executive during the 2014-2015 school year that encourages a process for the establishment of food gardens on school property. This procedure has been developed to ensure that the gardens are well planned and maintained to ensure their safety and long-term sustainability. *(Priority Area – Food)*

Earth Hour @ Limestone (March 2015) – Considering roughly 70% of Ontario’s energy supply is non-renewable, all actions matter and this exercise proved it. Together we really did make a significant difference. Cumulatively our sites saved approximately, 833 kWhs. This could:

- power 64,077 CFLs (13watt) light bulbs for one hour;
- save 253 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions;
- power a laptop for 18,511 hours.

(Priority Area – Climate Change and Energy)



Lord Strathcona Grow Garden (Spring 2015) – Lord Strathcona P.S. now has the newest school garden. Limestone has 10 gardens located at Bayridge P.S., Centennial P.S., First Avenue P.S., Lord Strathcona P.S. Rideau P.S., Rideau Heights P.S., J.G. Simcoe P.S., Southview P.S., Prince Charles P.S. and Winston Churchill P.S. The use of school food gardens is consistent with the Board’s commitment to sustainability and healthy food environments. A school food garden can also play a role in increasing the food security of the students, families and the

community by providing space for the production of food through collaborative community and school gardens. *(Priority Area – Food)*

The Great Lake Water Festival (June 2015) – Grade 4 schools from Limestone gathered at Lake Ontario Park on June 4, for a day of fun and information on a broad range of topics involving water at the first Great Lake Water Festival. Through interactive and hands-on activities, students learned about water conservation, protection, water health and safety, water science and technology. *(Priority Area – Water)*



Dear Ministers Sandals, Chiarelli and Murray,

Over the next two years the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) will be building a new intermediate/high school in Kingston. The total amount granted for this project by MOE was \$36 million, and our architect has produced an inspired design that students, teachers and the community will be proud of for decades to come.

However, there is one area where the school could be improved: energy efficiency. The school has been designed to meet a (non-certified) LEED Silver equivalent standard, and a few years ago this would have been considered a real achievement. Today, however, because of technological advances in the field of energy efficiency, this benchmark is less noteworthy than it once was.

Today, new schools around the world are incorporating cutting-edge energy technologies that not only make buildings more comfortable in summer and winter, but also dramatically reduce – or even eliminate – their energy costs. As your colleague, the Minister of Energy, has publicly stated on many occasions, every dollar invested in energy conservation results in at least two dollars of savings down the road, which is why Hydro One and private-sector energy providers offer generous financial incentives to homeowners, businesses and institutions that are willing to invest in energy efficiency. Clearly, the Ontario government knows that investing in energy conservation and energy efficiency is not only the right thing to do – it is the smart thing to do.

Unfortunately, in the case of our new high school, our Board is unable to act on this principle in any significant way. Its budget is enough to cover essential school components – classrooms, gyms, science labs, administration areas, etc. – but nothing more. The completed structure will meet (and, in some aspects, exceed) current Ontario Building Code standards for energy efficiency, but it would be a stretch to say that it will be a paragon in this regard. It will not have solar panels on the roof, or a greenhouse, or radiant-heat floors warmed by ground-source heat pumps. It will not have a green roof. It will not have small wind turbines or a charging station for electric cars. By depriving the Board of capital expenditure money sufficient to build to the highest standards, the government is shifting a funding burden to the board in the form of (avoidable) future operating costs. This point is underlined by the fact that future energy costs are unknowable but certain to increase, and thus represent a further – and avoidable – funding risk.

This is regrettable, for several reasons. First, our job as educators and trustees is to lead by example, so it is our duty to show students and local communities that we take our environmental responsibilities seriously. (This is a particular consideration in Kingston, whose stated municipal vision is to be “Canada’s Most Sustainable City”.) It is also imperative that school boards act in a fiscally responsible manner, and building energy-efficient schools that keep operating costs low is one way to do that.

The view of the LDSB’s Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is that every Ontario school board should aspire to build the most energy-efficient schools possible, and ideally to make every new school “net-zero” ready, so that they will be able to produce as much energy as they consume. The committee is greatly encouraged by the news that the Ontario government is contemplating similar energy-conservation goals in its upcoming Climate Change Action Plan (as [recently reported](#) in the Globe and Mail).

Of course, incorporating high-performance energy-efficiency measures into new schools from the start will cost more. But it is clear that, in the long run, the investment will save school boards, the province,

and Ontario taxpayers millions of dollars and – perhaps most importantly – help reduce the province’s greenhouse gas emissions by many thousands of tonnes over the expected lifetime of the buildings.

To that end, the LDSB respectfully requests that the government add all Ontario school boards to the list of eligible borrowers for Infrastructure Ontario funding or, alternatively, that a portion of the funds derived from the province’s new cap-and-trade system be made available to school boards specifically for energy-conservation purposes. This would allow school boards that are building new facilities to (if they wish) craft and submit a solid business case for innovative high-performance energy-conservation measures – based on the most appropriate technologies for the building – and repay the loan over time through the operational savings resulting from lower energy costs.

Given that construction of the LDSB’s new high school is not slated to begin until 2017, the LDSB is in a unique position to build exactly the sort of public facility that the government wants to see more of. It is a wonderful opportunity. Please provide us with the tools we need to take advantage of this opportunity – and extend the same wherewithal to all public school boards. This is the way of the future, and Ontario’s school boards should be in the forefront in preparing our students, and the public, for what that future will look like.

Respectfully,