

Policy Title	Environmental Sustainability		
Date of Issue	November 21, 2000	Related Procedure	AP 2105-D
Revision Dates	June 4, 2004; June 16, 2009; February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan); April 18, 2017; September 17, 2019	Related Forms	
Review Date	September 1, 2024	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993, S.O. 1993, c. 28; and “A Guide to Waste Audits and Reduction Work Plans”, Ministry of Environment, 2008; Ontario Ministry of Education Documents – “Ready Set Green: Tips, Techniques, and Resources from Ontario Educators”, 2007 and “Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future: Environmental Education in Ontario Schools – Report of the Working Group on Environmental Education”, June 2007; BP 3501-D “Purchasing”; AP 3862-D “Pesticides, including Insecticides and Herbicides”; AP 3850-D “Asbestos”; AP 3853-D “Designated Substances”; Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32; Ontario Regulation 243/07 “Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries”; BP 2108-D “Outdoor Education”)			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Bluewater District School Board recognizes the need to support and encourage environmental programs.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 It is the belief of Bluewater District School Board that all students, staff and trustees as well as the community are responsible for the implementation of practices that result in an environmentally friendly place to work and learn.
- 2.2 Bluewater District School Board supports and promotes, where possible, the implementation of environmental procedures, practices and programs that are consistent with a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment.
- 2.3 It is the policy of Bluewater District School Board to:
 - i. integrate local and global environmental awareness into the curriculum of the board (e.g., BP 2108-D “Outdoor Education”);
 - ii. support on-going professional development programs for board employees regarding environmental issues;
 - iii. maintain a culture where students and staff are encouraged to work together to provide input to change practices that will effectively reduce environmental impact;
 - iv. consider environmental principles, impact and sustainability in the design/construction of new facilities, and also for renovations/additions to existing facilities;

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- v. ban the purchase and sale of commercially bottled water in single use plastic containers from board administration buildings and all schools, except in specific circumstances (i.e., after-hours School Council hosted/community-based events and when access to municipal water supply is unavailable). The board encourages all staff and students to bring their own refillable water containers to work or school, which they can refill at a water tap, water fountain, or bottle-filling station (where available).
 - o Bluewater District School Board is governed by the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32, and related Ontario Regulation 243/07, which regulate the safety of drinking water in schools;
 - vi. reduce greenhouse gas emissions wherever feasible, through the implementation of AP 2105-D "Environmental Sustainability – Vehicle Emissions";
 - vii. provide opportunities where students and staff are involved in environmentally friendly practices;
 - viii. advocate programs and practices which will demonstrate respect for the environment;
 - ix. encourage staff and students to reduce the generation of waste material;
 - x. reuse products and materials;
 - xi. encourage recycling of non-hazardous materials;
 - xii. encourage the use of environmentally friendly products;
 - xiii. store and dispose of hazardous materials in a safe manner and in accordance with legislative requirements;
 - xiv. work and cooperate with our local communities in the development of proactive approaches that reduce environmental impact;
 - xv. adhere to Provincial and Municipal regulations pertaining to environmental issues; and
 - xvi. determine if specific environmental initiatives would be best addressed at the system or the local level.