



# Energy Catalyst

ISSUE NO. 7 | MAY 2026

SD42 Sustainability & Energy Management Newsletter

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District facilities department collaborates with BC Hydro, FortisBC, and CleanBC to make our schools more energy efficient while reducing our carbon footprint and operating costs.

The *Energy Catalyst* brings you updates on the district's ongoing sustainability initiatives, energy conservation tips, and stories of environmental stewardship from across our schools.

We invite contributions and stories from schools and students. If your school has a sustainability project, eco-club update, or green initiative to share, we'd love to feature it in an upcoming issue!

# SD42 Eco-Challenge Week

February 23 - 27, 2026 | Results & Highlights

Our district-wide Eco-Challenge Week, supported by BC Hydro, was a great success. Schools participated in daily sustainability challenges focused on reducing electricity use, natural gas consumption, and waste generation. Here are the results:

## Monday – Reduce Electricity

Winner: Pitt Meadows Elementary, Desk Pet Earth Helpers

## Tuesday – Reduce Natural Gas

Winner: Kanaka Creek Elementary, Green Team

## Wednesday – Reduce Waste

Winner: Yennadon Elementary, Team Turtle

## Thursday – PowerSmart for Schools

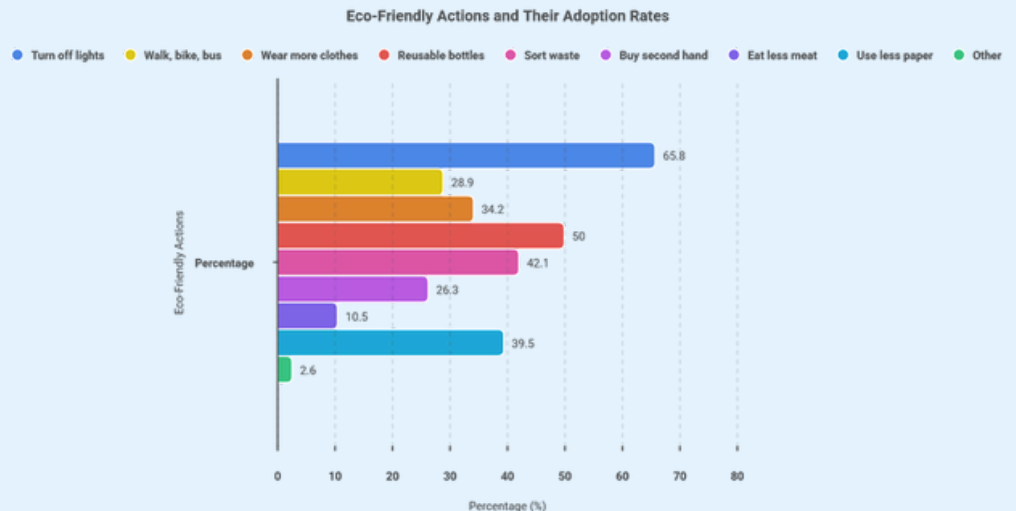
Winner: Maple Ridge Secondary, English 8 Block H

## Climate Action Pledge

65

Students Pledged

Sixty-five students participated in the Climate Action Pledge during the week. The most common commitment was turning off lights when leaving a room. Students also pledged to reduce waste, walk or bike to school, and conserve water.



# Impact of Lighting Upgrades

Glenwood Elementary | Case Study



Before

Lower Energy Costs



After

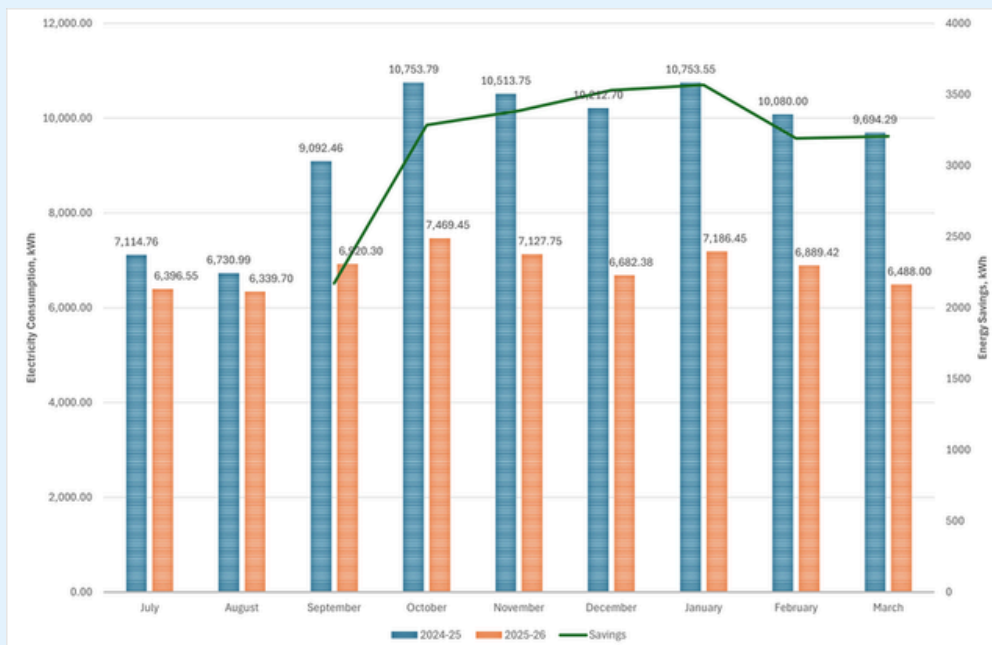
Improved Comfort

Reduced Emissions

## 31% reduction in electricity consumption since upgrade

In August 2025, the school district completed lighting and controls upgrades at Glenwood Elementary using Annual Facilities Grant (AFG) funding. The project is expected to reduce annual electricity consumption by approximately 30,000 kWh while improving lighting quality and comfort throughout the school.

Utility data collected after the upgrade shows a significant drop in electricity consumption, indicating the upgrades are working as intended.



# Developing a Sustainable Fleet

## Electric Vehicles & Charging Infrastructure



SD42 has taken a significant step toward reducing fleet emissions by replacing aging vehicles with electric alternatives. In April 2026, four new electric vehicles (EV) were added to the district fleet, bringing the total to six EVs.

To support this growing fleet, two additional EV chargers were installed, bringing the total number of charging stations across district facilities to six.

The transition to electric vehicles aligns with the district's broader sustainability goals and is expected to significantly reduce fleet-related carbon emissions in the coming years.

6

Electric Vehicles

6

EV Chargers

\$6,794

Estimated total annual fuel  
cost savings

In the future, the district will continue to replace its aging fleet vehicles with electric alternatives where financially feasible.

# Impact of Sugar Sheets Adoption

## Transitioning to Sugarcane-Based Paper



Paper is the second-largest contributor to the school district's emissions profile. Following successful testing in 2024, the district expanded the use of Sugar Sheets in 2025. This transition supports the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District's sustainability goals and reduces the environmental impact of paper consumption.

Research by the Climate Solutions Division confirmed that sugarcane bagasse paper and 100% recycled paper have among the lowest carbon footprints for public sector organizations. Since April 2025, Sugar Sheets have accounted for 54% of all 8.5" × 11" paper used across the district. The transition also resulted in estimated cost savings of \$21,183.

The six-month implementation reduced emissions from 8.5" × 11" paper by an estimated 34 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. While increased use of larger paper sizes partially offset these reductions, overall paper-related emissions still decreased by 27 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing a 14% reduction.

**\$21,183**

Cost Savings

**27 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

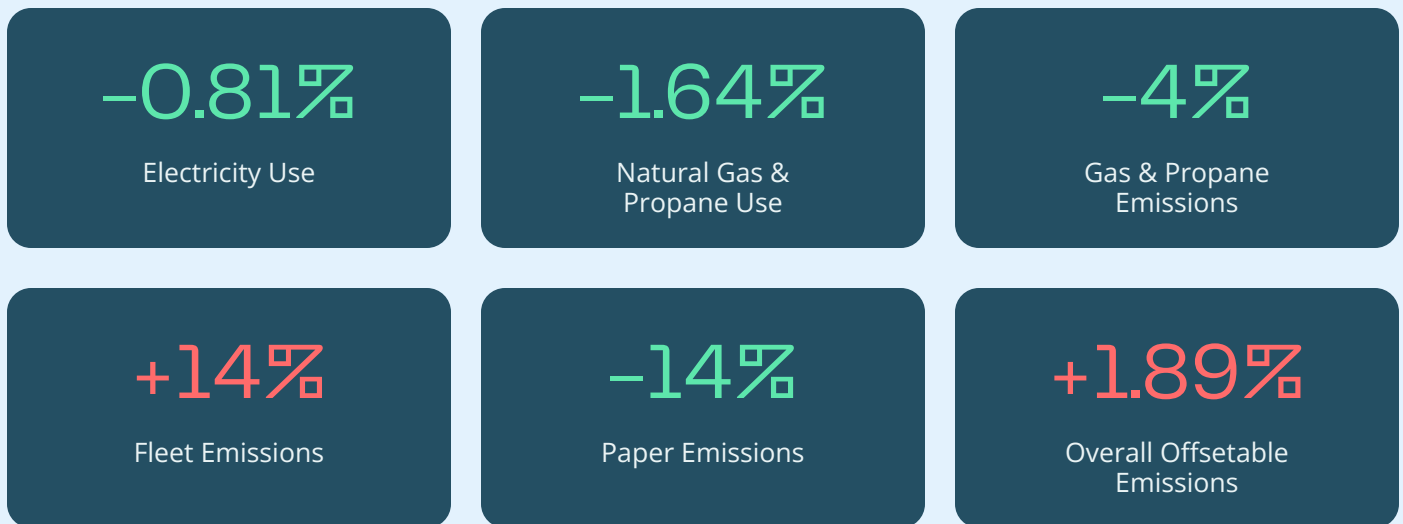
Emissions Reduced (14%)

# SD42 Carbon Emissions Report

## 2025 Emissions Data & Year-Over-Year Trends

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District reports its carbon emissions annually through the Carbon Neutral Government program. In 2025, the district improved its reporting methodologies to include refrigerant (HFC) fugitive emissions (13.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) for the first time.

Despite reductions in energy consumption, total offsetable emissions rose by 1.89% primarily due to higher non-renewable electricity generation in BC Hydro's supply mix and the inclusion of new refrigerant-emission reporting requirements.



## Key Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Measures

- Continuous optimization programs
- Direct Digital Controls (DDC) upgrades
- Boiler upgrades and replacements
- Schedule reviews and adjustments
- Unit ventilators with heat pump installations
- Sugar Sheets paper transition (54% adoption)

Targeted GHG reduction measures continue to support long-term emissions reductions.

# Upcoming Initiatives

## Summer Shutdown Campaign

Encouraging all students to unplug switches, lamps, and equipment before summer break to conserve energy across district facilities.

## Waste Assessment Survey

A district-wide survey to evaluate waste sorting practices, contamination levels, and staff awareness of waste management.

## Custodial Workshop

Training for custodial staff on sustainability practices, climate change awareness, and improved waste management techniques.

## Energy & Sustainability Mascot

A new mascot to promote environmental education and awareness, developed with input from teachers and students.

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## What is going on at your school?

We want to hear about the environmental initiatives happening across SD42 schools. Whether it's a garden project, waste reduction campaign, or student-led energy-saving idea, share your story for a chance to be featured in a future newsletter.

### Contact Us

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*Together, we're building a greener and more sustainable SD42!*