



SD42 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

An initiative by the SD42 Energy and Environmental Sustainability Wing under the Facilities Department

ISSUE NO. 5 – October 2025

1. About SD42 Sustainability Program

Sustainability remains one of the most significant movements of our time, and SD42 students play a crucial role in leading it. The Facilities Department collaborates with BC Hydro, FortisBC, and CleanBC to enhance the energy efficiency of our schools, thereby reducing our carbon footprint and operating costs.

This newsletter highlights the district's ongoing sustainability initiatives and achievements. Across our schools, students and staff are taking action to make our community—and our world—more sustainable.

We welcome stories from schools and students for future editions and encourage contributions from anyone passionate about sustainability and environmental stewardship.

2. 🏠 Projects completed over the summer break!

Over the summer, the Facilities team completed several key upgrades across district schools to improve comfort, efficiency, and performance:

- Heating plant upgrade (new boilers and heat pump) at Edith McDermott Elementary.
- Replacement of 10 unit ventilators with built-in heat pumps at Highland Park Elementary.
- HVAC controls upgrade at Alexander Robinson Elementary.
- Lighting and controls upgrade at Glenwood Elementary.
- Corridor lighting upgrade at Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary.

These projects collectively enhance energy performance, reduce maintenance requirements, and contribute to SD42's broader climate action goals. Please see the pictures of the completed upgrades below.



3. ⚡ Driving Toward a Greener Future

In alignment with the district's mission to act as a responsible steward of community resources, SD42 continues to prioritize sustainable transportation solutions. Each time the district expands its fleet, electric alternatives are carefully evaluated for feasibility.

This year, the district added a Ford F-150 Lightning and a new E-Transit van to support the Food Infrastructure Program (FIP)—demonstrating our ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility and operational efficiency.

- The F-150 Lightning is expected to save about \$7,800 annually in fuel costs, while reducing maintenance and eliminating tailpipe emissions.
- The E-Transit van will save approximately \$8,800 per year, with lower maintenance needs and zero emissions.

To support these vehicles, an EV charger is being installed at Riverside Centre.

These investments reflect our shared vision for a future where innovation, fiscal responsibility, and sustainability move hand in hand—ensuring every kilometre we drive supports a cleaner, more resilient tomorrow.



Source: Savings estimated using BC Hydro Fleet Electrification Tool (2025) and SD42 fleet performance data.

4. 🌳 Tree Plantation Drive (joint with the city of Maple Ridge)

In September 2025, the City of Maple Ridge collaborated with SD42 students to celebrate Tree Plantation Day.

Students from the Environmental School planted trees at Allco Park, while students from Alouette Elementary participated at Alouette Park. This event was funded through the [Growing Canada's Community Canopies](#) Program and supported by district staff and administrators. Please see some pictures of the event as it unfolded below.

The activity helped students understand the vital role trees play in mitigating climate change and enhancing community well-being. The event was filled with enthusiasm and teamwork, as students proudly planted dozens of trees that will benefit the community for generations.

The initiative will continue in the future, with additional tree planting events planned in partnership with SD42 schools and the city.



Program Reference: Growing Canada's Community Canopies Program, Government of Canada, 2025

5. ♻️ Electronic Recycling Association- Kids poster contest

The Electronic Recycling Association (ERA) launched its [8th Kids Poster Contest](#) on September 1, 2025. The competition runs until December 15, 2025, and invites students from elementary, junior high, and high schools across Canada to create posters illustrating their vision for a sustainable future.

The contest encourages youth to explore the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – and to connect their artwork to ERA's mission of responsible electronics recycling. Winners receive free laptops as prizes.

Teachers can upload entries online on behalf of students. [Submit your entry →](#)



Source: Contest details sourced from the Electronic Recycling Association (ERA) 2025 Poster Contest Guidelines

6. 💡 Lighting and Controls Upgrade at Glenwood Elementary

At Glenwood Elementary, the Facilities Department upgraded classroom lighting to LED fixtures and installed low-voltage controls. These upgrades are expected to reduce electricity consumption by almost 30,000 kWh annually while improving lighting quality and comfort for teachers and students. See photos of the completed upgrades below.

Before



After



Data source: SD42 Facilities Department – Lighting and Controls Upgrade Project Report, 2025.

7. Eco-challenge competition week

This school year, the Facilities Department will host an **Eco-Challenge Competition Week** to promote energy conservation and sustainability across SD42 schools.

Teachers and students can form teams with fun names such as “*Space Heater Defeaters*” or “*Climate Busters*.” Teams can register by scanning the QR code and submitting an entry form with photos.

The five-day event will feature a different challenge each day. Winners from the first four days will enjoy a pizza lunch, with five pizzas provided per team! The final day will culminate with a **Climate Oath Day**, where students can win individual prizes—**125 in total**.

Stay tuned for more details and get ready to take the challenge for a greener future!



Source: Developed by the SD42 Energy and Environmental Sustainability Team, 2025.

8. What is going on at your school?

If your school is leading an environmental initiative or hosting a green project, we’d love to hear about it and feature your story in the next issue.

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