



Fair-Trade and Local Procurement Administrative Procedure 9.10

9.0 Education for Sustainability

Board Governance Policy Cross Reference: 2, 3, 5, 7, 16

Legal Reference: *Manitoba Clean Environment Act, Manitoba Sustainability Act*

Date Adopted: December 2014

Date Amended: November 2024

Evergreen School Division is committed to a sustainable future for our youth, our communities and our world. To formalize this commitment, the Board of Trustees have adopted a policy entitled Education for Sustainability.

Vision for Education for Sustainable Development:

Students will become informed and responsible decision-makers, playing active roles as citizens of Canada and the world, and will contribute to social, environmental, and economic well-being and an equitable quality of life for all, now and in the future.

This administrative procedure is one in a series of procedures that will allow us to model sustainable practices and achieve the goals as outlined in our policy. The goals targeted by this administrative procedure are as follows:

1. To implement strategies to ensure that operations, activities, programs and facilities are sustainable without compromising the ability of present and future generations to fulfill their own goals.
2. To apply sustainability principles to the design, construction and renewal of division buildings and all aspects of facility management, procurement, resource use and transportation.
3. To offer services and carry on its activities in such a way as to:
 - a. reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and the wastes generated from them;
 - b. use all renewable materials and energy resources at rates equal to, or lower than, their natural rates of deposition, reformation or reproduction in the ecosphere;
 - c. reduce and eventually eliminate the toxicity of these operations to the productivity and diversity of the ecosphere.

Purchasing **Fair-Trade** products, to the greatest extent possible, is an important way to promote the values inherent in sustainability. Research has shown that 90% of fair-trade operations in the developing world markedly improve the lives of producers and workers as exemplified in the three pillars of sustainability.

“Buying Local”, means purchasing products made, produced and sourced within our communities, Manitoba and/or Canada, to the greatest extent possible. This is an important way to promote the values inherent in sustainability.

With current market conditions, it has become increasingly less expensive to buy distantly produced goods, despite the increased costs of packaging, transport, inspection, and associated expenses.

However, along with lower prices comes the added cost of repercussions on the environment and impacts on the economic well-being of our communities.

Some statistics and quick facts about buying local goods include:

- Aircraft transport has greater fuel consumption and greenhouse- gas emissions per mile than any other mode of transport.
- Transportation by shipping produces emissions of 1 billion metric tons of CO2 and uses 11 billion gallons of fuel per year internationally.
- Food procession uses a lot of packaging, which is necessary for large farms to keep food from spoiling as it is transported and stored. But this packaging is often difficult or impossible to reuse or recycle.
- Local businesses are usually established in city or town centres, instead of on the margins of communities like large chains, so they contribute less to pollution, congestion, habitat loss and urban sprawl.

Note – Above information taken from www.eLocal.com

Fair Trade stands for:

- Fair pay to producers and workers in developing countries
- Environmental conservation and worker safety practices
- A “fair-trade premium” being paid to cooperative communities so that they may build schools and clinics and avail themselves of training and improved equipment that might not otherwise be available to them

Buy Local stands for:

- Buying food and goods that are grown, raised and produced close to home whenever possible.
- Supporting local farmers, harvesters, fishermen and businesses.
- Peace of mind knowing where goods have come from and that they must conform to all government guidelines and regulations in their production.
- Reducing one’s carbon footprint when purchasing goods and services.

Many of the actions, schools can take to support Fair-Trade and Buy Local Practices are small but significant, requiring only slight changes. Additionally, these actions can serve as great tools for teaching students about the impact of our choices upon others and the environment.

In keeping with our school division’s mission and vision, we see ourselves as helping our students become contributing citizens of a democratic society. Supporting fair-trade and buying locally to the greatest extent possible, should be considered in achieving those ends.

Recommended Practices

Each school in the division shall consider the following actions on an annual basis:

Procurement of Buy Local and Fair-Trade products – Adopt management practices and education programs that support Fair-Trade.

- The guidelines of The Fair-Trade Campus and Town programs run by Fairtrade Canada (licenser) and the Canadian Fair-Trade Network (national campaign) should be used to inform our practices.
- Purchasing of Fair-Trade and Buy Local products should be given priority to support local businesses and producers as much as possible.

- Bulk purchasing for the school division should be considered for items and products used by all schools and division offices. For example, larger sized packaging is available for Fair-Trade sugar, coffee, hot chocolate and wild rice.
- Schools and division office could work at phasing in of such products. For example, an institution can adopt three products in the first year and then add a product per year after that. Thus, the scaling up might mean coffee, tea and sugar or hot chocolate in Year 1, and new products such as Fair-Trade clothing or sports equipment added after that.
- For special events, such as grads, spirit week or sports activities, fair-trade and local clothing, jewelry or sports balls should be considered.
- For occasional gifts, fair-trade or locally purchased baskets filled with products should be considered.
- In cafeterias or kiosks in schools, it is possible to add fair-trade and local products.
- The School Division should let the local community know about this initiative and how it fits into the overall mission of the Division.
- Students may wish to participate in for-credit internships where they might pair with a local fair-trade committee or local business.
- Teachers may wish to use “dates” such as Halloween or Mother’s Day or World Fair-Trade Day in May to promote fair-trade.