A Tale of Two Boards

A Community Approach to Environmental Education

Presented for

Environmental Education in Ontario: Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow

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Session Presenters

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After observing the planet for eight days from space, I have a deeper interest and respect for the forces that shape our world.

*Shaping our Schools, Shaping our Future*, 2007, quote from Dr. Roberta Bondar
Session Structure

- Welcome and Set the Context
- Power of Collaboration
- Process of Collaboration
- Partnerships
- Tips to Get Going
- Reflection and Closure
Proposal Criteria

➢ Our focus promotes:

✓ learning about environmental education

✓ building teacher capacity and resources linked to Environmental Education

✓ fostering student, teacher, and system leadership related to Environmental Education
Session Goals

- illustrates the power of collaboration
- provides a specific process and model for collaboration
- offers suggestions for taking a community approach
Why are we here?

“Over the past decade, changes in the Earth’s environment and its natural systems have emerged as a matter of increasingly urgent concern around the world. While the issues are complex and diverse, there is a shared and universal recognition that solutions will arise only through committed action on a global, national, regional, local, and individual scale.”
Why are we here?

Schools have a vital role to play in preparing our young people to take their place as informed, engaged, and empowered citizens who will be pivotal in shaping the future of our communities, our province, our country, and our global environment.”

(Shaping our Schools, Shaping our Future, 2007, page 1)
Why we are here? What brought us together?

- passion and commitment
- shared values and beliefs
- perceived need
- coordination of services
- professional learning
- stewardship

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow  HDSB/HCDSB
温馨提示，该页面包含一个世界地图，展示了1990年全球表面温度变化的模拟预测。地图上的颜色代码标识了不同温度的变化情况。颜色从蓝色（代表温度降低）到红色（代表温度升高）不等。该预测由加拿大气候建模和分析中心、气象服务加拿大和环境加拿大合作提供。
Climate Change

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment: Impacts of a Warming Arctic

Available at: http://www.acia.uaf.edu/
Changes in Sea Ice: A Key Climate Change Indicator

Just as miners once had canaries to warn of rising concentrations of noxious gases, researchers working on climate change rely on arctic sea ice as an early warning system...In recent years, the rate of retreat has accelerated, indicating that the “canary” is in trouble.
This NASA website animation progresses at a rate of six frames per day from January 1, 2007 through the minimum extent which occurred on September 14, 2007.
2007 UN Climate Change Conference

- Limit the warming of the planet to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels (Bali Declaration)
- Currently 0.8°C above and growing by almost 0.2°C per decade
Consequences to human health attributed to air pollution

- 5800 premature deaths
- 9,800 hospitalizations
- 13,000 visits to hospital emergency rooms

- Ontario Medical Association (June 14, 2005)
Power of Collaboration
Success Stories

✓ York Environmental Education Consortium
✓ Ontario EcoSchools
✓ Halton Student EcoCelebration
✓ Halton Children’s Water Festival
✓ Youth Conferences
✓ Other Projects and Programs
✓ Networking
York Environmental Education Consortium

CURRENT PROJECT PARTNERS

Canada  
Ontario  
Guelph  
Toronto

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Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education program for grades 1-12 that helps students develop ecological literacy while engaged in practices to become environmentally responsible citizens. It also helps schools and school boards improve their operations to reduce their environmental impacts.

www.ontarioecoschools.org
Halton Student EcoCelebration
Power of Collaboration
Success Stories

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow    HDSB/HCDSB
Power of Collaboration Success Stories

Youth Conferences:

ECO-INNOVATION 2008
Power of Collaboration
Success Stories

Other Projects and Programs:

Solar Photovoltaic Panels

*An Inconvenient Truth*
Power of Collaboration
Success Stories

Networking
Process of Collaboration
Communication, Schools, and Classrooms

In the Environment

For the Environment

About the Environment

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow HDSB/HCDSB
Process of Collaboration

- Common Ground – Common Need
- Time, Energy, and Resources
- Planning and Presenting Event
- Formation of Board Team
- System Support
Halton Catholic DSB

- Focus on Faith

  - Strengthens school improvement goal for Catholic Faith Community and Culture
  - Provides unifying Catholic themes for each grade (e.g., Stewardship of Creation, Community and the Common Good)
Halton Catholic DSB

❖ System Support

• Environmental Steering Committee (Superintendent, Facilities, Curriculum, Health and Safety, Purchasing, IT, School Administrators)

• Facility Management Services

• Curriculum Services

• Resource Services
Halton DSB is committed to:

- Promoting environmental literacy in all staff and students,
- Providing leadership for developing a knowledge of and respect for the balance between Earth’s ecosystems and human impact on them,
- Promoting life-long learning about our Earth, including linking Environmental Education to different areas of the curriculum, and
- Encouraging active, responsible citizenship emphasizing care and protection of the environment.
Halton DSB

Environmental Management Team

• represents all Halton District School Board employee groups, students, and parents

• guides, supports, and monitors the implementation of the Halton DSB’s Environment Operational Policy
Halton DSB

STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2010

Mission:
The Halton District School Board is committed to every student. We will:

• inspire and support learning;
• create safe, healthy and engaging environments;
• provide opportunities for challenge and choice.

Values: Responsibility
We will model sound environmental practices

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow  HDSB/HCDSB
Halton DSB Strategic Plan

STUDENTS
Safety and Well-being

Target /Goal:
100% of schools will establish eco-friendly practices leading to EcoSchool Certification by 2010.

Strategy:
Continue to provide support to schools to implement and sustain environmental education and eco-friendly practices, including EcoSchool Certification.
Halton DSB and Halton Catholic DSB

✅ System Support
Partnerships

✓ Halton DSB/Halton Catholic DSB
✓ Region of Halton
✓ Conservation Halton
✓ Local Distribution Companies
✓ Towns and Cities
✓ Community Groups
Looking Ahead – Next Steps

- Focus on Priorities
- Determine our Future Directions
- Examine New EDU Environmental Policy
- Revitalize and Sustain Steering Committee

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Connecting to

Shaping our Schools, Shaping our Future

- Introduction – Programs and Partnerships
- Leadership and Accountability – School Boards and Schools
TIPS to get going

1. Find common ground/moral purpose - a meeting of “like” minds
2. Start small and let it grow
3. Set Directions
Reflection and Closure

- Share with your elbow partner one of the key messages
- Identify your next steps
What a wonderful world!

Source: www.missouriskies.org

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow   HDSB/HCDSB