



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

Always Supporting Learners

◆ Valuing Individuals ◆ Fostering Pride ◆ Expanding Opportunities

September 6, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

School District Energy Conservation Measures Supported by BC Hydro, Terasen Gas

BC Hydro and Terasen Gas are working in partnership with the Howe Sound School District to implement two energy conservation programs: e.Points and Destination Conservation.

Chair Doug Hackett, speaking on behalf of the Board of School Trustees, thanked BC's two largest energy corporations for their innovative programs and the financial support to implement them. "Every dollar we can save in energy costs is a dollar available to support student learning," he said. "It is also vital that we teach our students to become increasingly energy minded in a world with a growing appetite for both renewable and non-renewable sources of energy."

The School District, a member of BC Hydro's "e.Points" program, has received a total of \$22,810 worth of ePoints by adapting various operating practices and staff initiatives to achieve energy savings. During the 2004-2005 school year, the District earned \$11,465 in e.Points which will be applied to a \$59,659 lighting upgrade project at Howe Sound Secondary. The project is expected to save \$9,227 a year in reduced energy and maintenance costs and will pay for itself within 6.5 years. The District earned \$11,345 during the 2003-2004 school year which was applied to a lighting project at Don Ross Secondary. That project is expected to pay for itself in nine years.

The School District is working also with Terasen Gas commencing the first year of a three-year Destination Conservation Program which will be implemented in Whistler Secondary Community School, Myrtle Philip Community School and Spring Creek Community School. The program has been developed by the Pacific Resource Conservation Society and has three goals: to reduce natural resource consumption and environmental impact; to illustrate that it is possible to have a healthy environment, economy and society; and to make conservation manageable by focusing on daily activities with measurable results.

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The program will support the creation of school-based teams with training and resources to address both lifestyle and technical opportunities to conserve energy and water and to reduce waste. Students, with the support of their school team, will learn to assess how people in their school use resources and then develop strategies for changing habits. It is expected that the savings achieved in the first year of the program will fund the second and third years.

Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Edwards praised the Facilities and Services Department for its commitment to energy conservation and for seeking out partnership opportunities with conservation-minded corporations such as BC Hydro and Terasen Gas. "These partnerships are clear examples of how our support staff can have a direct impact on student learning, whether through increasing the number of dollars available for the classroom or through increasing student awareness of the need to conserve energy," Ms. Edwards said.

For further information contact Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Edwards (604-892-5228).