



## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

# Briefing Notes

**Date:** October 16, 2008      **Topic:** **TCDSB Environment Committee**

This briefing note provides an overview regarding the achievements of the TCDSB Environmental Committee and various environmental system improvements made by the Facilities department in order to decrease the Boards' overall environmental footprint.

- Reduction of the Boards' Environmental Footprint contributes to the image of a responsible public institution, and is an important message to today's environmentally aware community, facilitating positive environmental awareness of staff and students. This report provides highlights of progress in this direction. In brief, industry leading practices are used in support of an environmental plan which is improving the classroom environment while reducing expenses and carbon emissions. The success of many of these initiatives is due to the assistance of TCDSB staff and students.
- In November 2005, Education Council approved the creation of an Environmental Committee, thus providing a mechanism for staff to focus on developing environmental awareness of staff and students. Starting in December 2005, the TCDSB Environmental Committee has met monthly. The Committee consists of representatives from all employee groups, including parent and student representation:
- The major environmental goals of the Committee include:
  - ✓ Increase the number of Ontario Certified EcoSchools each year;
  - ✓ Reduce the energy consumption in schools for natural gas and electricity;
  - ✓ Improve the amount of green space by reducing the amount of hard surfaces on school property;
  - ✓ Increase the Board's waste diversion rate by 5% each year;
  - ✓ Introduce renewable energy sources to the schools as a learning opportunity;
  - ✓ Introduction of Environmentally-Friendly Custodial cleaning products.
- During the 2007-2008 school year the Environmental Committee and Facilities staff, with the assistance of various other departments and students, focused on the following key environmental initiatives:
  - A. **Ontario Certified EcoSchools**
  - B. **Energy & Water Conservation**
  - C. **Waste Minimization**
  - D. **School Ground Greening**
  - E. **Environmental Awareness**
- 2008/09 Projects:
  - **Building Automation Systems**
  - **Commissioning**
  - **Lighting Retrofits:**
  - **Pilot Project (Lights Off During the Day)**
  - **Litterless Lunch Program**
- In summary, TCDSB has made a significant commitment towards reducing its environmental footprint through these initiatives. In addition, it is recognized that there are many other programs, individuals and groups in schools that are making significant contributions at the local level in further support of these initiatives.