

**DATE:** May 25, 2021

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Trustee Michelle Draper

**SUBJECT:** Motion regarding the City of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program

**ORIGINATOR:** Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Learning Services

**RESOURCE**

**STAFF:** Maegan Lukian, Coreen Moccia, Christopher Wright

**REFERENCE:** [Trustees Handbook Section 5.2.2 - Motions and Recommendations](#)

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## ISSUE

Trustee Draper served the following Notice of Motion at the May 16, 2021, Board meeting:

Given the important role education plays in taking action on climate change, the Board of Trustees moves that Edmonton Public Schools participate in the City of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and increase our climate resiliency.

## BACKGROUND

In 2019, the City of Edmonton declared a state of climate emergency. As the largest school division in Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools has an opportunity to demonstrate a leadership role in continuing to pursue and showcase important environmental efforts, as well as investigate new climate change initiatives and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Since 2008, the Division has demonstrated innovation and vision through the establishment of the EnviroMatters Office. Since 2014, EnviroMatters staff have worked with a sustainable consulting firm to monitor the Division's carbon footprint in accordance with internationally-accepted WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol and ISO 14064. The next step in this reporting process is for the Division to begin setting targets for GHG reductions and disclosing this information publicly. This can be achieved by becoming the first school division in the City to participate in the City of Edmonton Corporate Climate Leaders Program. The program's goal setting and reporting framework, access to data for corporate member organizations, the anticipated expansion of the Division's network with other environmental leaders, and our ability to feature initiatives represent a unique opportunity for the Division to consider. Division goal setting expands opportunities for active student engagement through curricular ties, innovative project-based learning, evaluation and advocacy.

The City of Edmonton Corporate Climate Leaders Program aims to help corporations take action on climate change through active GHG management across their operations. The goals of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program are to help corporations to reduce their GHG emissions, increase their climate resilience, promote collaboration, fast-track the transition to a green economy and showcase climate actions to inspire others to take action.

Membership calls on corporations to make the following three commitments, and demonstrate that they have been achieved within 12 to 18 months of signing up:

1. Establish and maintain a corporate GHG inventory
2. Develop plans and targets for reducing GHG emissions
3. Share these commitments publicly
4. There are not any membership fees

## RELATED FACTS

- In 2019, the City of Edmonton declared a state of climate emergency. As the largest school division in Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools has an opportunity to demonstrate a leadership role in continuing to pursue and showcase important environmental efforts, as well as investigate new climate change initiatives and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Since 2014, the Division's EnviroMatters staff have worked with a sustainable consulting firm to monitor the Division's carbon footprint in accordance with internationally-accepted WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol and ISO 14064.
- The next step in this reporting process is for the Division to begin setting targets for GHG reductions and disclosing this information publicly. This can be achieved by becoming the first school division in the City to participate in the City of Edmonton Corporate Climate Leaders Program.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That Board of Trustees confirm the Division's application to the City of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program.**

## OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve the recommendation.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for approval.

## CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

The Division can invest in infrastructure, but also explore low- and no-cost strategies, in collaboration with students and stakeholders, that will further the goals of Corporate Climate Leadership.

Examples of potential and existing initiatives that can be pursued and expanded to reduce the Division's carbon footprint include:

- potential procurement of utilities
- classroom science and exploration projects
- increasing Division-wide waste diversion and waste sorting efforts (electronic waste, source separated organics recycling, etc.).
- behavioural changes related to Division fleet vehicles such as routing efficiencies, 'no idling' and vehicle maintenance practices
- challenges in schools/buildings like "Lights Out Challenge" and turning other equipment off when not in use.
- Further investigating building controls optimization (lighting controls, setback temperatures, occupancy sensors, etc.)
- LED lighting and energy retrofits through allocation of Maintenance and Renewal funds or available grants

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval of the recommendation, Administration will confirm the Corporate Climate Leaders Program membership application with the City of Edmonton. A report on targets as well as monitoring and evaluation findings on Division Climate Leaders Program related initiatives will be presented at public board annually.

MD:kk