

# Board Meeting Agenda

## Board of Trustees

**Board Chair:** Saadiq Sumar

**Vice-Chair:** Linda Lindsay

Nickela Anderson

Sarah Doll

Melanie Hoffman

Julie Kusiek

Holly Nichol

Sherri O'Keefe

Jan Sawyer

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

2 p.m.

McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education  
1 Kingsway NW, Edmonton AB T5H 4G9

**A. Land Acknowledgement**

**B. O Canada**

**C. Roll Call**

**D. Approval of the Agenda**

**E. Communications from the Board Chair**

**F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

**G. Approval of the Minutes**

1. DRAFT – Board Meeting – April 14, 2026

**H. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on items on the Meeting Agenda**

*NOTE: To speak under this item, pre-registration with the Board Office (780-429-8443) is required by noon on Monday, April 27, 2026, to reserve a speaking time.*

**I. Reports**

2. Revised 2026-27 School Year Calendar  
(Recommendation)
3. Division Energy and Environment Strategy Update  
(Information)

**J. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

**K. Trustees and Board Requests for Information**

**L. Notices of Motion**

**M. Meeting Dates**

**N. Adjournment**

# Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Edmonton School Division of Alberta, held in the Centre for Education McCauley Chambers on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 2 p.m.

## Present

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Nickela Anderson, Sarah Doll, Melanie Hoffman, Julie Kusiek, Linda Lindsay, Holly Nichol, Sherri O’Keefe, Saadiq Sumar</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	<b>Angela Anderson, Todd Burnstad, Grace Cooke, Andrea Cooper, Kelsey Duebel, Martin Fechner, Kathy Muhlethaler, Kent Pharis, Nancy Petersen, Cliff Richard, Carrie Rosa, Ron Thompson, Liz Yule</b>		
<b>Board Chair</b>	<b>Saadiq Sumar</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Catherine Angeles</b>

### A. Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chair called the meeting to order. Before starting the Land Acknowledgement, Board Chair Sumar mentioned that he was at an event the previous night, organized by the Education Society of Edmonton, and after hearing the Land Acknowledgement delivered by President Carmen Glossop, asked if he could share it at the public Board meeting.

The Board Chair acknowledged that we live, work, and play on this beautiful Treaty 6 territory. This is the travelling route, gathering place, and meeting grounds for Indigenous people, including the Nehiyaw, Denesuline, Siksikaitisitapi, Stoney Nakotea, Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Metis Otipemisiwak and Esikisimu Nunangat.

In April, we celebrate the Frog Moon. It signifies the start of spring. Birds, bugs, and budding plants will soon start to be visible. With the thawing temperatures, it awakens the frogs from their hibernation. Much warmer weather is to come. Winter puts things to rest, while spring is a time of rebirth. As the brown grass turns green and the bare branches grow leaves, he thanked Mother Earth for these new first gifts. The frog’s song encourages humans to “sing their own truth”. Spring is officially here, and in some yards, green blades of grass are even present. Chair Sumar gave gratitude to Mother Earth for everything she provides for us and to our Grandmother Moon as new seasons bring new beginnings.

Where there is light, there is hope. Where there is hope, there is a way. Hiy Hiy.

### B. O Canada

The 2026 EPSB Night of Music video version of O Canada was played.

### C. Roll Call

2:05 p.m. – The Superintendent advised that Trustee Sawyer was absent. All other Trustees were present.

### D. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED BY Vice-Chair Lindsay:**

**That the agenda for the April 14, 2026, Board meeting be approved as presented.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

### E. Communications from the Board Chair

The Board Chair recognized that April is Sikh Heritage Month in Canada, which celebrates the rich history, culture and contributions of Sikh Canadians. Canada was the first country in the world to adopt this formal designation, acknowledging over 120 years of community impact. This month highlights the Sikh tradition of SEVA, also known as self-service, equality, compassion and generosity. It also includes the celebration of Vaisakhi, marking the founding of the Khalsa. Board Chair Sumar recognized the strong representation and contributions of Sikh students, staff, and community members within the Division.

The Board Chair shared that April is also World Autism Acceptance Month, which focuses on promoting diversity, understanding and acceptance for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. This year's theme celebrates differences and is centred on advancing advocacy to support the one in 50 children and youth in Canada with autism.

The Board Chair said that this week is also Education Week, which celebrates the power of learning and the people who make it possible. The Division recognizes how staff spark curiosity, how students inspire growth, and how school communities work together to create places where children flourish. It reminds us that learning doesn't just shape minds, it reshapes the future.

The Board Chair expressed appreciation to the federal and provincial government for recent funding announcements supporting school nutrition, school safety and low incident supports and services. The Division appreciates the investment and the recognition of the needs of our students.

The Board Chair addressed Bill 25, recently introduced by the Minister of Education and Childcare. Bill 25 is an act to remove politics and ideology from classrooms, which represents significant changes to the *Education Act*. Education is a community-led journey, and locally elected trustees serve as the vital pulse of that journey, ensuring that the values and diverse perspectives of the community are reflected in the classroom and in the overall direction of this Division. Board Chair Sumar said that the Board, as elected representatives, aren't just a rubber stamp for provincial mandates. They are the bridge between government policy, students, families and the community they serve. A strong education system isn't built in a vacuum. It's built by listening to the local voice. Pending further information on the legislation's impacts, the Board Chair noted that the

Board remains dedicated to being the community's voice, advocating for a system that stays rooted in the community it serves and provides every student with a place to belong.

The Board Chair congratulated Zaki Hirabe, a Division staff member on the Strategic Division Support Team, who was recognized as an Edified Emerging Leader and featured in the April issue of the Edify magazine.

The Board Chair also recognized another important leader within the Division, Tessa Muddle, a student from Strathcona school, who was the recipient of the 2026 Loran Scholar. This award is given to young people who demonstrate strength, character, commitment to service and exceptional leadership potential. Chair Sumar thanked Tessa for sharing her gifts with us and showing leadership in our school community.

The Board Chair noted that the Strategic Plan Survey ends soon. Information can be found on the Division's website and SchoolZone.

#### **F. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent welcomed everyone in attendance today and those watching online. He also welcomed principals from the Superintendent's Community of Practice in Education (SCOPE), who also joined today's Board meeting: Linda Speelman and David Sloan from Baturyn and Joey Moss schools.

The Superintendent also welcomed everyone back after spring break, hoping everyone had a relaxing break and a great first week back in class.

The Superintendent shared that every year, as part of the pre-enrolment process, the Division launches the Division Feedback Survey, seeking input from students, staff and families. He thanked everyone for providing their feedback and perspectives with the Division and noted that there has been great participation this year. More than 71,000 responses this year, which is a 13 per cent increase from last year.

The Superintendent said that Trustees have been hard at work creating the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan for the Division and want to hear from our community about their draft Vision, Mission and Priority statements. Everyone's feedback will help finalize the statements that form the foundation of the Strategic Plan and guide development of the goals for each of the priorities. The survey is open for a short window. Students, staff, community and families have until April 19 to share their feedback.

The Superintendent reported that last week, the province announced it's investing \$22 million to strengthen school safety across the province. The total investment is divided into two primary streams: building security upgrades and safety training. The province also announced they are creating consistent standards to support student safety across the province. The Division will receive \$3.43 million as part of the initiative. In the coming weeks, the Division will be developing plans about how the funds will be used.

## G. Approval of the Minutes

### 1. Board Meeting - March 17, 2026

**MOVED BY Trustee Nichol:**

**That the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 17, 2026, be approved as presented.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

## H. Recognition

### 2. Confirmation of Principal Designations (Information)

The Superintendent announced that the following principals have been confirmed, effective September 1, 2026:

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ● Nellie Alves, John Barnett        | ● Francisco Gaviria, Forest Heights |
| ● Basem Ayoubi, Glengarry           | ● Donna Hunter, Brightview          |
| ● Danielle Couillard, J.A. Fife     | ● Terriss Paliwoda, Donnan          |
| ● Pam Depeel, Sifton                | ● Rhonda Sader, Ormsby              |
| ● Melissa Dziendzielowski, Hillview | ● Scott Slatter, Glenora            |
| ● Holly Fisher, Kameyosek           | ● Jennifer Williams, Grace Martin   |
| ● Tamara Franko, Virginia Park      | ● Jen Wilson, Waverley              |

## I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives on items on the Meeting Agenda

The live stream of the Board meeting was suspended at 2:19 p.m. to hear from registered speakers.

The Board of Trustees heard from two registered speakers for this item.

There was a short break in the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

The meeting and live stream resumed at 2:36 p.m. after all registered speakers had been heard.

**J. Reports**

3. Omnibus Updates on Board Policies re: Protection of Privacy Act and Access to Information Act  
(Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee Anderson:**

**That administrative changes identified from the omnibus removal of references to the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in board policies be read for the first, second, and third and final time and be approved.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

4. Revised Process and Timeline for the 2026-27 Budget  
(Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee O’Keefe:**

**That the Revised Process and Timeline for the 2026-2027 Budget, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

5. 2026-27 Distribution of Funds  
(Recommendation)

Trustee Doll left the meeting at 3:40 p.m. and returned at 3:42 p.m.

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**That the Distribution of Funds for the 2026-2027 Budget be approved.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting at 3:45 p.m., and it resumed at 4:00 p.m.

6. Three-Year Capital Plan 2027-30  
(Recommendation)

**MOVED BY Trustee O’Keefe:**

**That the Three-Year Capital Plan 2027–2030 be approved for submission to the provincial government.**

**MOVED BY Trustee Doll, the motion be amended:**

**That the Three-Year Capital Plan 2027–2030 be approved for submission to the provincial government, **subject to the removal of the Autism Centre of Excellence from the capital priorities and the removal of all references to the Autism Centre of Excellence from the Three-Year Capital Plan Report.****

**MOVED BY Trustee Hoffman:**

**That the Board meeting be extended beyond 6 p.m. and not past 6:30 p.m.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Anderson, Doll, Hoffman, Kusiek, Lindsay, Nichol, and Sumar

**OPPOSED:** Trustee O’Keefe

**(CARRIED)**

There was a short break in the meeting at 5:46 p.m. before the debate of the amended motion.

The meeting resumed at 5:55 p.m.

**The Board Chair called the question on the amendment.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Anderson, Doll, Hoffman, Nichol, and Sumar

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Kusiek, Lindsay, and O’Keefe

**(CARRIED)**

The Board Chair noted that the time was 6:34 p.m and asked a Trustee to make a motion to extend the meeting past 6:30 p.m.

**MOVED BY Trustee Kusiek:**

**That the Board meeting be extended to the end of this agenda item.**

**(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

**The Board Chair called the question on the amended motion.**

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Anderson, Doll, Hoffman, Lindsay, Nichol, and Sumar

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Kusiek and O’Keefe

**(CARRIED)**

Due to time constraints, the Board did not reach agenda items K through M.

**K. Other Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**L. Trustees and Board Requests for Information**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**M. Notices of Motion**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**N. Meeting Dates**

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 2 p.m.

**O. Adjournment**

6:37 p.m. – The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Saadiq Sumar, Board Chair

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Kelsey Duebel, Director Board and  
Superintendent Relations

DRAFT

<b>Date</b>	April 28, 2026
<b>To</b>	Board of Trustees
<b>From</b>	Ron Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
<b>Subject</b>	Revised 2026–2027 School Year Calendar
<b>Originator</b>	Cliff Richard, Chief Infrastructure and Technology Officer
<b>Resource Staff</b>	Vicki de Haan, Ernest Kwan, Clair Sprake
<b>Reference</b>	<a href="#">Election Act</a> , Section 52(4) <a href="#">Education Act</a> , Section 60 <a href="#">Board Policy GCA.BP Approval of the School Year Calendar</a> <a href="#">Administrative Regulation GCA.AR The School Year Calendar</a>

### ISSUE

An amendment to the 2026–2027 School Year Calendar, which was approved at the December 9, 2025, Board meeting, is required to accommodate the provincial referendum event to occur on October 19, 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the attached revised 2026–2027 School Year Calendar be approved.**

### BACKGROUND

The 2026–2027 Division school year calendar was finalized in December 2025. However, on April 1, 2026, the Alberta Chief Electoral Officer notified school authorities of a planned provincial referendum scheduled for October 19, 2026. In accordance with the *Election Act*, to facilitate school-based polling, Elections Alberta has requested that this date be designated as a Professional Development day.

### RELATED FACTS

Proposed changes represented in the draft revised 2026–2027 School Year Calendar consist of moving the Professional Development day from Tuesday, October 13 to Monday, October 19. This will result in the provincial referendum event occurring on a non-instructional day which helps to prevent issues related to hosting polling stations in schools.

### CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

Declaring October 19, 2026, a Professional Development day would result in no classes on the date of the provincial referendum event. Currently, Tuesday, October 13, 2026, is designated as a Professional Development day and does not fall on a day of significance. This Professional Development day was originally scheduled immediately following Thanksgiving Monday to group days off together for families. Moving the October Professional Development day allows for minimal disruption to the calendar.

A summary of the calendar is provided in the table below:

	<b>Approved Calendar</b>	<b>Proposed Revised Calendar</b>
Student Start Date	Tuesday, September 1, 2026	No change
Student End Date	Monday, June 28, 2027	No change
Number of Instructional Days	178	No change
Days Per Semester	89	No change
Breakdown of Instructional Days	32 Mondays 39 Tuesdays 37 Wednesdays 36 Thursdays 34 Fridays	31 Mondays 40 Tuesdays 37 Wednesdays 36 Thursdays 34 Fridays
Fall Break	Wednesday - Statutory Holiday Thursday - Board Approved Non-Instructional Day Friday - Board Approved Non-Instructional Day Monday - Teachers' Day in Lieu	No change
May Break	Thursday - Teachers' Day in Lieu Friday - Board Approved Non-Instructional Day Monday - Statutory Holiday	No change
Professional Development (PD) Days	8	No change
Board Approved Non-Instructional Days	4	No change
Operational Days	2	No change
Teachers' Days in Lieu	2	No change

### NEXT STEPS

If approved, the revised 2026–2027 School Year Calendar will be posted to the Division's website and the change will be shared with staff, students and families through the Division's communication channels.

### ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I [Draft Revised 2026–2027 School Year Calendar](#)

VdH:cs

# 2026–27 School Year Calendar

**DRAFT**  
April 2, 2026



## AUGUST • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## SEPTEMBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## OCTOBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## NOVEMBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## DECEMBER • 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## JANUARY • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## FEBRUARY • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## MARCH • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## APRIL • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## MAY • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## JUNE • 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### LEGEND

- Public Holiday
- PD Day (no students)
- First/Last Day of Classes
- Operational Day (no students)
- Teachers' Convention (no students)
- Teachers' Day in Lieu (no teachers or students)
- Board Approved Non-instructional Day (no teachers or students)
- Winter/Spring Break

### Important dates

<b>First Operational Day</b> (no students)	August 28
<b>First Day of Classes</b>	September 1
<b>Winter Break</b>	December 21–31
<b>Teachers' Convention</b> (no students)	February 25–26
<b>Spring Break</b>	March 30–April 2
<b>Last Day of Classes</b>	June 28
<b>Last Operational Day</b> (no students)	June 29

### Approved holidays

<b>Labour Day</b>	September 7
<b>The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</b>	September 30
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	October 12
<b>Remembrance Day</b>	November 11
<b>Christmas Day</b>	December 25
<b>Boxing Day</b>	December 26
<b>New Year's Day</b>	January 1
<b>Family Day</b>	February 15
<b>Good Friday</b>	March 26
<b>Easter Monday</b>	March 29
<b>Victoria Day</b>	May 24

### Dates of significance

<b>Yom Kippur</b>	September 21
<b>Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas</b>	November 8
<b>Winter Solstice</b>	December 21
<b>Lunar New Year</b>	February 6
<b>Eid al-Fitr</b>	March 10
<b>Eid al-Adha</b>	May 17
<b>Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day</b>	June 21

<b>Date</b>	April 28, 2026
<b>To</b>	Board of Trustees
<b>From</b>	Ron Thompson, Superintendent of Schools
<b>Subject</b>	Division Energy and Environment Strategy Update
<b>Originator</b>	Cliff Richard, Chief Infrastructure and Technology Officer
<b>Resource Staff</b>	Todd Burnstad, Erin Cook, Andrea Ducharme, Terri Gosine, Geoff Homes, Darryl Kaminski, Ernest Kwan, Andrew Lowerre, Maegan Lukian, Coreen Moccia, Carrie Rosa, Rob Tarulli, Christopher Wright
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Division Energy and Environment Strategy 2023–2026</a> <a href="#">Division Energy and Environment Strategy Update (October 2024)</a>

## ISSUE

The Division’s Energy and Environment Strategy guides work related to environmental stewardship through continual improvement and modeling best sustainability practices. In 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the Energy and Environmental Strategy Update and Emissions Reduction Targets recommendation [report](#) to set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of five per cent by 2025 and 45 per cent by 2035. Administration worked with expert consultants to develop an action plan to achieve the targets, and provides updates to the Board of Trustees on the sustainability initiatives conducted across the Division, as well as progress made in relation to the overall reduction targets.

## KEY POINTS

- The Division continues to make strong headway on the initiatives outlined in the Division’s Energy and Environment Strategy.
- Division emissions have decreased by approximately seven per cent from the base year of 2021 and by approximately 16 per cent from 2017.
- The Division successfully achieved and surpassed our inaugural emissions reduction target of five per cent by 2025.
- Division emissions continue to trend downward despite increasing student numbers, the addition of new schools into the Division’s inventory, and increased school utilization across the Division.
- Communication efforts, such as Division News stories, social media campaigns and media pitches have helped to profile initiatives and positive outcomes taking place across the Division.

## BACKGROUND

An important early contributor to the Division’s environmental sustainability work was the City of Edmonton’s Corporate Climate Leaders Program (CCLP), a program to support member organizations in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate resiliency. The Division joined the CCLP in 2021 in response to a Board [motion](#) and, as required by the program, set emission reduction targets of five per cent by 2025 and 45 per cent by 2035.

In spring 2025, the City of Edmonton announced the discontinuation of the CCLP program due to the evolving needs of the business community, the existence of other City-led benchmarking and improvement programs, as well as existing Edmonton networks around energy performance and sustainability. A transition to these alternative networks with a wider reach are supporting CCLP members and their emissions reduction goals.

As a result, the EnviroMatters Office has been evaluating other program and networking opportunities to support the Division's existing strategy. In 2024, the Division joined the national [EcoSchools Canada Board Program](#) to support and supplement the certification efforts of our schools. This program is similar to the CCLP in that it encourages member organizations to lead by example and develop and maintain strategic plans for sustainability and emissions reductions. The EcoSchools Canada Board Program allows the Division to concentrate efforts into a well-established, national program that is geared towards school boards and has a wide reach for networking and learning opportunities. The Division also became a member of the [Green Economy Canada](#) (GEC) network to continue our work on a formal platform, with a local and national hub. Green Economy Canada had managed the CCLP program for the City of Edmonton since 2020 and several members of the CCLP have transitioned into the GEC program to continue leading these initiatives.

Despite these changes in programming and supports, the Division continued to work towards its emissions reduction target of five per cent by 2025 and will now focus collective efforts on the target of 45 per cent by 2035. The Division's Energy and Environment Strategy continues to serve as a roadmap and framework for the Division's sustainability efforts and is updated periodically to reflect new initiatives, technologies and investment opportunities.

## CURRENT SITUATION

### Initiatives

A number of initiatives further the Division's efforts to reduce emissions. Outlined below is a brief summary of some of the key initiatives from the Division's emissions reduction plan over the past two years:

- Capital investment in energy efficiency and sustainability
  - In spring 2023, the Board of Trustees [approved](#) an initial \$2 million allocation of capital reserve funding in support of the Division's Energy and Environment Strategy, with an additional \$6 million targeted for future years.
  - Work completed during the 2024–2025 school year included increasing the Division's solar energy generation capacity with 378 kilowatts of combined solar installations on W. P. Wagner and Londonderry schools. These sites are estimated to generate 367,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year, equivalent to the electrical consumption of 52 Alberta homes, saving an estimated \$76,000 per year.
  - Light emitting diode (LED) lighting upgrades were completed at Parkview, John D. Bracco, Hazeldean and Riverbend schools, with estimated savings of 171,000 kWh, or \$32,000, per year for all four sites. An additional project involving stairwell lighting retrofits at the Centre for Education is currently underway.
  - Re-commissioning and retro-commissioning of building systems in six schools was initiated to improve energy efficiency. This work aims to optimize integrated systems, resulting in reduced costs and emissions while extending building system lifespans.
  - Water cooler energy conservation measures installed at Hardisty school are informing the possible expansion of the initiative to other sites.

- Infrastructure formed a new joint EnviroMatters Office and Integrated Infrastructure Services (IIS) Environmental Project Committee to strategically allocate additional approved capital reserve funds toward impactful energy and environment initiatives.
  - The committee has been working to develop and prioritize initiatives to maximize savings and emissions reductions. Early initiatives include technical investigations to inform the expansion of solar installations in the Division, as well as a study on window film and window upgrade technologies. Additional work includes dedicated staff on building controls and scheduling to maximize savings, as well as investigating opportunities for power quality filtration.
- Target Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) and Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funds toward energy efficiency
  - Energy efficiency initiatives completed:
    - The 2024–2025 funding year saw the completion of \$2.4 million in CMR-funded projects with energy efficiency benefits. Key improvements included window replacements, lighting enhancements and roofing installations. Significant upgrades were also made to boiler systems to boost overall building performance.
    - Additionally, \$2 million in IMR funding supported projects that advanced energy efficiency. This investment covered roofing and window installations, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and lighting upgrades, and the modernization of mechanical controls to ensure more efficient facility operations.
  - Planned energy efficiency initiatives:
    - For the 2025–2026 period, \$11.7 million in CMR funding is earmarked for large-scale upgrades that will help to enhance energy efficiency. The plan focuses on comprehensive roofing projects, window and lighting upgrades, and the design and implementation of new boiler systems.
    - An additional \$5.4 million IMR investment is planned for critical site updates that will also enhance energy efficiency. These funds target roofing replacements, new window installations and HVAC improvements, alongside the integration of updated mechanical control systems for better energy management.
  - These investments directly address sustainability by modernizing the physical and mechanical infrastructure of our facilities. Such initiatives contribute to energy savings as follows:
    - Building envelope, roofing and windows: the building envelope acts as a barrier against the elements. Modern roofing provides higher thermal resistance (R-values), preventing winter heat loss and summer overheating. Similarly, new multi-pane windows with low-emissivity coatings reduce thermal transfer, lowering the load on heating and cooling systems.
    - Lighting enhancements: upgrading to LED lighting is a high-return investment that reduces energy consumption by 50 to 70 per cent. Beyond direct savings, LEDs emit very little heat compared to traditional bulbs. This decrease in ambient heat further reduces the energy required to cool the building during warmer months.
    - HVAC and boiler system upgrades: heating and cooling are a school's largest energy expenses. Modern condensing boilers operate at over 90 per cent efficiency, far surpassing older units. Additionally, HVAC modernizations using variable speed drives optimize motor performance, extending equipment life while achieving 30 to 40 per cent energy savings.
    - Mechanical controls and automation: Energy Management Systems prevent waste by ensuring equipment only runs when necessary. Centralized, networked systems automatically control

boilers and lighting. By optimizing equipment scheduling and enhancing occupant comfort, these automated controls can increase overall building energy efficiency by 15 to 30 per cent.

- School builds and solar energy
  - Until recently, Alberta Infrastructure mandated a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification for new school buildings. The Province is now requiring that new school infrastructure meets the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) Tier 1 standard, which is focused on energy performance. Recent new construction projects managed by Alberta Infrastructure will incorporate many of the learnings and best practices gained from previously certified LEED construction projects without the formal certification.
  - The Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack school project was designed and built to achieve LEED Silver certification, using sustainable practices and energy-efficient systems. The facility opened in fall 2025 and is currently awaiting certification.
    - Key features include a high-performance building envelope for energy efficiency, optimized daylighting, natural ventilation and the use of local materials with low-emission finishes.
  - There are presently 20 LEED Silver and 12 LEED Gold certified schools in the Division.
  - The Division prioritizes sustainable materials and design in all renovation and construction projects.
  - There are presently 26 schools with Division-led solar installations, which provide alternative energy to the schools and serve as teaching and learning tools for students.
  - The combined Division-led solar initiatives from 2018–2025 are expected to generate approximately 5,800 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity in 2026 and save an estimated \$730,000 per year.
  - These solar installations are expected to generate about seven per cent of the Division’s electricity consumption, or that of about 830 Alberta homes per year.
  - Administration continues to work with consulting engineers to identify additional candidate sites for future solar installations.
- Align the Division Capital Plan with emissions reductions
  - Infrastructure continued efforts to integrate sustainability metrics into planning systems.
  - Major modernization priorities are ranked using utility data (gas and electricity) from the EnviroMatters Office, deferred maintenance dollar values based on the condition of major systems, and investment in preventative and on-demand maintenance. These measures help ensure that the Division’s carbon footprint is a contributing factor in the ranking of major modernization priorities.
  - New construction priorities also serve to reduce the Division's carbon footprint by bringing families and students closer to home with new schools in new and rapidly-developing areas in the city. Bus ride times are shortened or eliminated and active transportation to these sites becomes more feasible. Placing students in newer buildings can allow the Division the flexibility to replace, consolidate, modernize or right-size existing facilities since utilization is reduced.
  - Under the provincial construction process, the Division continues to advocate for sustainable structures and aims to reduce emissions through energy efficiency measures and solar installations, where possible.
  - To further support sustainable construction efforts, the EnviroMatters Office is investigating utilizing EnergyStar Portfolio Manager scores, which would provide planning systems with additional sustainability metrics and calculations, such as weather-normalized energy consumption, and water usage.
- Building energy audits, deep energy retrofit and heat pump studies
  - In 2025, the Division successfully applied to the [Alberta Ecotrust Retrofit Accelerator](#) program for free coaching services to help building owners and managers make sustainable upgrades through deep energy retrofits. These retrofits go beyond individual upgrades and take a whole-building approach to reduce emissions, energy consumption and operating costs.

- Energy benchmarking and Level 1 energy audits were completed for all Division sites to inform areas of focus for future efficiency measures. Work is underway with Alberta Ecotrust to explore detailed Level 2 energy audits for high energy consuming sites.
- To explore the possible decarbonization of schools in the future, the Division initiated a heat pump study with a portion of the Division approved funds identified for energy efficiency. Administration is currently working with consultants on the study to dive deeper into core aspects of deep energy retrofit pilot projects.
- Electrification and fuel reduction efforts
  - In summer 2025, the EnviroMatters Office worked with IIS grounds crews on a cordless electric tool pilot, which includes batteries and chargers for mowers, blowers, trimmers and chainsaws. Learnings from the pilot will be used to potentially expand the program to other tools and areas.
  - The Division is currently working with expert consultants on a maintenance vehicle fleet fuel review for possible efficiencies, including investigating routing efficiencies, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and scheduling as well as electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The goal is to investigate strategies for fuel consumption reductions, expand learnings to other areas and explore an electric vehicle roadmap.
- Targeted energy reduction and behaviour change strategy
  - Infrastructure continued to work on consultant-recommended pathways for behaviour change through awareness initiatives and best practices, including:
    - Developing annual multimedia communications campaigns to raise awareness about new Division resources for staff and students, including energy conservation posters and checklists as well as guides to support sustainability conversations in schools.
    - Investigating energy behaviour audits to develop a baseline and overarching picture of the range of energy efficiency behaviours currently in place so that future use patterns in Division buildings can be informed and influenced.
    - Gamification (adding game-like elements, contests and competitions) of existing initiatives, like the annual Earth Day Lights Out Challenge, to motivate energy efficiency behaviour.
  - Work has begun to expand on targeted energy reduction through building optimization efforts, upgrades and retrofits. The goal is to set energy savings targets through the year and over holiday periods by utilizing the Division Environmental Dashboard data and results from Level 1 audits to identify high-consuming sites, investigate causes and develop solutions.
  - Additional efforts include evaluating HVAC controls and scheduling to maximize efficiency, through the EnviroMatters Office and IIS Environmental Project Committee.
- Technology
  - Technology and Information Management (TIM) is currently piloting an enterprise management solution to manage Smartboards and other interactive displays remotely across the Division in an effort to conserve energy and reduce power consumption costs. The phased approach involves trialing and scaling the solution progressively across schools and different types of devices.
  - TIM continues to support the rollout of ChromeOS devices across the Division. The approximately 1,200 ChromeOS devices deployed thus far provide an estimated annual savings of 20,000 kWh as compared to the desktop units they replaced.
- Expansion of the EcoSchools program
  - The 2024–2025 school year was another successful year in the program, with 10 schools being certified and an additional 12 schools participating. The Division achieved its goal to have 60 schools registered in the program.

- Certifications received:
  - Brander Gardens, Elmwood, Greenfield, Hillcrest, Patricia Heights and W.P. Wagner schools each received Platinum.
  - Dovercourt and Shauna May Seneca schools each received Gold.
  - Academy at King Edward School received Silver.
  - Sweet Grass School received Bronze.
- The Division continued to pilot the new [EcoSchools Canada Board Program](#), which offers a suite of supports and resources for school boards across Canada, and joined the EcoSchools Program Advisory Committee, which is a team of school board representatives who offer insight and expertise to enhance the EcoSchools program, ensuring effective support for schools and school boards across the country.
- The goal is to grow annual EcoSchools registrations to over 70 schools through 2026 and continue to build awareness through Division channels like Division News, storytelling series and internal messaging. Future plans include exploring partnerships with other school Divisions in Alberta for cross-promotion and storytelling to increase engagement.
- Electricity procurement strategy and renewable energy
  - Work was completed to shift the Division's electricity procurement strategy to better control costs by unbundling retail billing services from long-term electricity prices. The Division realized savings of \$1.26 million in fiscal year 2024–2025 from this strategy.
  - In 2025 the Division began the process to procure renewable electricity to further reduce the Division's emissions for the 2025 target year.
  - 4,375 MWh of wind energy was procured from British Columbia's Bear Mountain Wind Park, offsetting the Division's emissions by nearly 2,000 tonnes.
  - In 2026, Administration will begin investigating future purchases of renewable energy in alignment with our new electricity procurement strategy.
- Reduced impact and green procurement practices
  - Increasingly, the Division is addressing sustainability in procurement processes by adding sustainability criteria to Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in numerous areas, including student bus transportation, technology equipment, waste disposal and cleaning products, to ensure that vendors align with the Division's sustainability goals. Embedding these criteria helps the Division evaluate vendor commitments, reduce emissions and achieve more sustainable long-term outcomes.
  - In spring 2026 the EnviroMatters Office coordinated sustainable procurement professional development training for staff in several key departments to help integrate sustainability into procurement processes and decision-making.
  - Future plans for this initiative include prioritizing work with environmentally responsible vendors and products, reducing emissions in the supply chain, investigating circular practices and developing a sustainable procurement strategy for the Division.
- Building capacity and the sustainability team
  - The EnviroMatters Office is continuing efforts to enhance sustainable education and training in the Division, including courses for staff through the Division professional development portal.
  - A two-day solar training course was provided for Division staff in spring 2026 and included inspection, troubleshooting and proactive solar maintenance. Hard copy training manuals were developed to support the staff and additional digital resources will be explored to support ongoing learning.
  - Other potential professional development courses being considered for staff include core concepts in energy management, as well as building optimization and commissioning essentials.

- Staff and student engagement
  - Infrastructure worked to engage with principals through the Infrastructure and Energy and Environment Principal Advisory Committees to better understand what initiatives and resources could be enacted to change behaviours towards sustainability.
  - The EnviroMatters Office staff attended several Climate Change and School Gardening Summits organised by the Bennett Centre to directly engage with teachers and students and support schools in their sustainable projects.
  - The EnviroMatters Office held an information and engagement session at the annual IIS professional development day in spring 2025. The goal was to connect with IIS staff in a meaningful way to share information and collect feedback on how to inspire sustainable action among maintenance staff groups.
- Water conservation
  - Water conservation is an important sustainability measure and the Division has investigated initiatives including automated water conservation devices for urinal flushing, low flow faucets and sensor faucets as well as other conservation measures under previous LEED school builds and energy performance contracts.
  - Water conserving cooling towers and high efficiency domestic hot water heaters have also been installed in select schools, with regular maintenance and inspection of flush valves to reduce wasted water.
  - Leak and flood detection systems have been installed at over 20 schools, with additional schools being added each year. These systems provide early detection of major water leaks and also minor toilet and tap leaks.
  - Water conservation is also addressed at the school level through behaviour change initiatives like rain barrels and rainwater harvesting for school gardens as well as various actions in the EcoSchools program.
  - Between 2018–2019 and 2024–2025, the Division’s total consumption of water has been on a mild downward trend. When factoring in the significant student enrolment growth across the Division over this period, water consumption on a per-student basis has been reduced by 26 per cent.
- Waste diversion and organics collection program expansion
  - In spring 2025, the next stage in expanding the organics collection program was initiated at nine high schools and sites began collecting organics in fall 2025. Only a few months into the program, most schools at least doubled their average waste diversion rates and some schools saw even greater results:
    - McNally School diversion rates increased from four per cent to 31 per cent.
    - Queen Elizabeth School diversion rates increased from five per cent to 20 per cent.
    - Ross Sheppard School diversion rates increased from 14 per cent to 42 per cent.
  - All organics collection pilot sites that started the program in spring 2024 have continued to see annual improvements in waste diversion rates.
  - Expanding the organics collection program in 2026, focused on Division sites that have existing sorting stations and that produce high levels of organic waste (sites with cafeterias, commercial kitchens and Career and Technology Studies foods programs) to maximize diversion rates.
  - In spring 2026, nine additional schools joined the program. To date there are 33 sites participating in organics collection, with plans to add all remaining high schools by the end of 2026. Future work includes consulting with internal stakeholders and service providers to develop a Division-wide strategy to onboard all remaining Division schools, in a phased approach.

- Since the program began in 2024, over 330 tonnes of organic waste have been diverted from the landfill, and Division-wide waste diversion rates increased from 24 per cent in 2023 (prior to the organics and sorting station pilot) to over 30 per cent in 2025.
- In fall 2025, the Division expanded the City of Edmonton [Reuse Centre](#) pilot to collect and divert reusable items from schools and further support waste reduction and diversion initiatives. In the future, this initiative will consider expanding the collection to administrative sites. The EnviroMatters Office also continues to participate in the City of Edmonton [Waste Reduction](#) network to explore opportunities to expand waste diversion and reduction initiatives.
- Electronics recycling and resale
  - Over the 2024–2025 school year, the Division's electronic recycling and reuse program recovered over 117,000 pounds of resources through recycling and reused over 2,800 assets.
  - The Division also benefited from a \$43,000 rebate from electronics resales, which was reinvested in classroom technology.
- Upgraded Environmental Dashboard
  - Following the initial release of the Division’s internal Environmental Dashboard, version 3.1 was developed based on feedback received from the Infrastructure Principal Committee members and other internal stakeholders. New features include:
    - Refreshed user interface: updated colors to match standardized sorting station colours.
    - Solar charts: the size of solar installations is now shown, along with links to a map of solar array locations across the Division and energy production portals.
    - Organics charts: organic waste volumes are shown for participating sites.
    - Chart downloads: historic utility chart data can be downloaded for teaching and learning.
    - Build year: the year of building construction is now displayed.
    - Building address: site addresses link to Google Map aerial views.

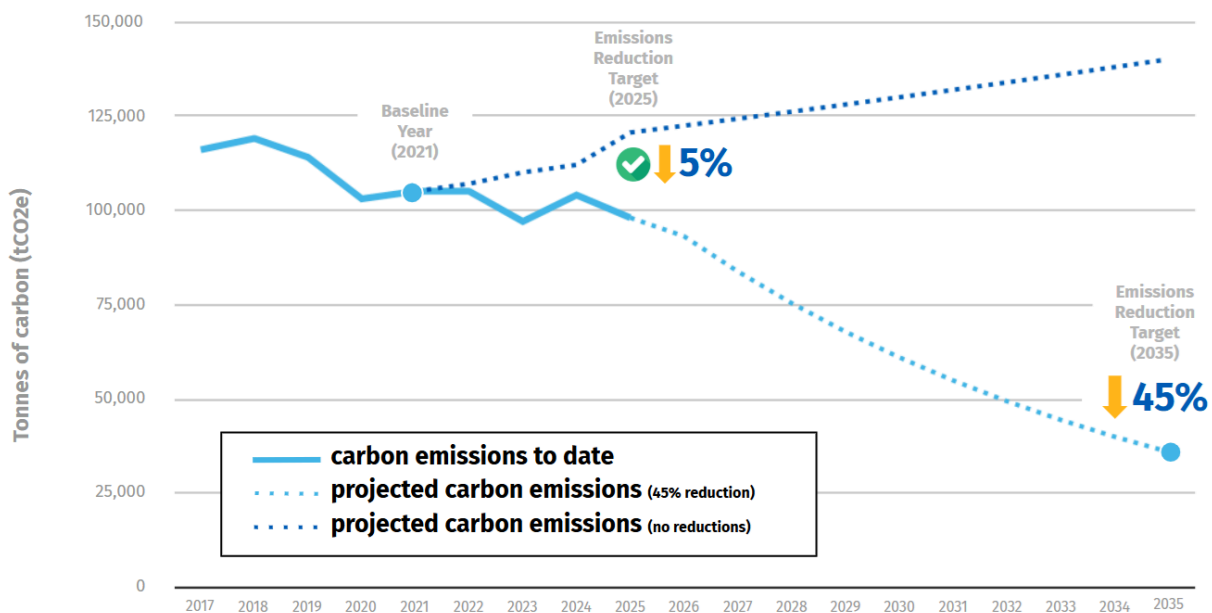


Emissions Totals and Target Results

Edmonton Public Schools’ 2025 carbon footprint represents a continuing improvement against both 2024 and the year the Division started annual reporting in 2017, with total emissions decreasing by approximately 16 per cent from 2017. Factoring in enrolment growth over the same period, emissions on a per-student basis have been reduced by approximately 20 per cent from 2017 to 2025.

For target setting, the baseline year selected was 2021 and total emissions have decreased by approximately seven per cent from the baseline year to 2025. The Division has successfully achieved and surpassed the first emissions reduction target of five per cent by 2025 and will continue to build momentum leading up to the next target year in 2035.

The graph below highlights the Division emissions footprint from 2017 to 2025. Totals are rounded to the nearest whole number and are subject to annual recalculations, which can impact previous years (including baseline years) due to improvements in data collection, changed emission factors or calculation methodologies and identification of additional emissions sources.



In general, emissions reductions in 2025 can be attributed partially to a decrease in equipment fuel (natural gas) combustion due to a mild winter as well as ongoing upgrades to high efficiency boilers. Contributing factors also include increased solar generation and the purchase of renewable electricity, as well as ongoing energy efficiency, fuel reduction and waste diversion measures. It is important to note that there may be annual fluctuations in Division emissions from year to year due to weather or necessary recalculations; however, the goal is to see a long-term overall trend downwards in emissions regardless of fluctuations from year to year.

Results for the 2025 target year are noteworthy, especially regarding consumed electricity (which decreased by 10 per cent from the previous year) and natural gas use (which decreased by seven per cent from the

previous year). Student transportation emissions have, however, increased by approximately 14 per cent from the previous year, due to enrolment growth.

Of particular note is that Division emissions continue to trend downward despite increased student numbers, the addition of new school facilities into the Division's inventory, and increased area utilized within schools. Since the baseline year of 2021, student enrolment has increased from approximately 106,000 to over 122,000, Division-wide instructional space utilization has increased from 80 per cent to 90 per cent, and four new schools have been opened (Dr. Anne Anderson, Garth Worthington, Joey Moss and Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack).

Renewable energy continues to be an important source of grid emissions reductions. Compared with the previous year, the Division's solar generation increased by 7.4 per cent (about 70 per cent was self-consumed and the remainder exported to the grid). Total Division renewables in 2025 include:

- Generated solar energy: 5,145 MWh
- Purchased wind energy offsets: 4,375 MWh

Edmonton Public Schools is a member of the [Instep](#) (Carbon and Sustainability Programme) in order to support efforts to track emissions reductions accurately. The Division has received an Instep Gold certification status for emissions reductions achieved in 2025. Instep offers certification at Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum levels based on performance. Gold Certification is a high-level recognition awarded to organizations demonstrating achievement in measuring, managing, and reducing carbon emissions. It signifies a commitment to sustainability and reporting, involving verified reductions in emissions, positioning the Division as a leader in environmental sustainability.

### Communications Strategy

Many of the strategies around emissions reductions require sustaining awareness around behaviours and actions that help to reduce the Division's environmental impact. Over the 2024–2025 school year, the Communications department worked with the EnviroMatters Office on educating and building momentum and excitement among staff about sustainable practices. Some key campaigns that were part of the communications strategy include:

- Supporting the annual push to increase EcoSchools program participation.
- Updating the Environmental Dashboard as well as the Environmental Sustainability internal Connect page and hub for the Division's energy and environment work.
- Creating regular storytelling features to shine the light on staff and students who are doing interesting work or inspiring others to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Supporting work to promote the Environmental Dashboard.
- Developing resource materials and communications to support the sorting station and organics collection program, awareness about unexpected energy usage, and the Annual Earth Day Lights Out Challenge.
- Coordinating social media campaigns and media pitches to showcase sustainable initiatives in the Division, both centrally and in schools.

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