

Policy

GREEN INITIATIVES POLICY

Introduction

The Franklin Lakes Board of Education recognizes that responsible environmental stewardship is an integral part of its mission in ensuring that schools are well run. Promoting a more sustainable way of living through the adoption of green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations also promotes the Board's goals of serving the students, parents and community. Accordingly, the board adopts this policy as its proactive response to supporting a healthier, cleaner, and more sustainable way of life, and ensuring responsible environmental stewardship for the benefit of the entire community.

Key elements of this policy include, but are not limited to, environmental leadership, communication/ education/training, environmental assessments, energy efficient practices, sustainable programs and practices and green construction promotion and development. Through the adoption of this green initiatives policy, the board is optimistic that long-term environmental benefits and improvements in the overall quality of life will result for the benefit of the community at large.

Target Areas/Goals

A sustainable environmental future means that the Board will assess, devise and implement initiatives focused on achieving the following goals:

- Managing and minimizing waste by, among other things, reducing the amount of waste generated and maximizing district recycling efforts;
- Promoting energy management to include reduction of energy consumption and costs, exploration of the expansion of the scope of energy audits (e.g., Energy Savings Improvement Program—ESIP to include such areas as window, lighting, and roof replacements and solar energy), and maximization of the use of renewable energy resources;
- Promoting EPP (environmentally preferred purchasing) of products and products and services that create less waste and are more efficient;
- Requiring that new construction use more sustainable and recycled options, requiring green building materials and practices in all construction, and reducing the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and replacing them with healthier options;
- Promoting water resource management and conservation initiative; and
- Exploring school participation in urban agriculture initiatives and green infrastructure, indoors and outdoors.

School District Green Team

This policy also includes creation of a District Green Team charged with devising and proposing the implementation of green initiatives for assisting the District in adopting greener day-to-day operations and practices, and promoting a more sustainable way of living and minimizing the District's carbon footprint. The Green Team's responsibilities will also include, among other things, conducting an assessment of current District practices and operations and its impact on the environment, focusing on employee and community engagement, promoting the District's green initiatives, and developing additional goals.

Student Participation and Education

The Board also seeks to include its students in the District's green initiatives by providing students with opportunities for learning and participation in District projects involving areas such as energy audits, conservation measures, and recycling. The Board also seeks to provide students with education opportunities that support all of the above.

Continuing Updates

In order to continue making strides toward increased environmental sustainability, the Board will regularly review and update this Green Initiatives Policy to include new goals, information, technologies and best practices.

Date Adopted: April 16, 2013
Revised: June 2016