



# ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17



# OUR VISION

## EVERY SCHOOL AN ECOSCHOOL!

From individual behaviours to collective impact, all members of school communities are empowered with the knowledge, skills, perspectives, and desire to act as environmentally responsible citizens.

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# WHAT MAKES A SCHOOL AN ECOSCHOOL?

When I'm asked, "What makes a school an EcoSchool?", I share stories of students who have embraced environmental leadership, transformed their communities, and have fun taking action.

Every EcoSchool has a unique story rooted in the passion of individuals that choose to care. Like the student in the recycling club who went on to win national awards for their waste reduction app. The teacher who advocated to get trees planted in the school yard and retired with an entire forest to his name. The parents who tirelessly pack waste-free lunches after a long day of work, the principal who roller skates to work to inspire her students, and the custodian who gives out energy conservation awards to students.

This growing movement, this community of certified EcoSchools, surpassed expectations in 2016-17.

Last year, Ontario EcoSchools was fortunate to work alongside 1,800+ schools from 56 school boards to mark the highest number of certifying schools ever! As a community, we celebrated climate leadership, launched new resources, welcomed new school boards, and grew our network of EcoTeam leaders to 50,000 strong.

In addition to this growing network, Ontario EcoSchools is entering a whole new chapter in the story of our organization. Our three-year strategic plan outlines how we want to further support the excellent work taking place in schools across the province. We will shore up fiscal diversity, strengthen our network, and provide ongoing, exceptional

customer service to the diverse communities participating in the program.

One key quality that makes a school an EcoSchool is putting environmental practices into action and learning into motion. The strategic plan and our ongoing focus on certification follows suit: we take cutting-edge environmental education practices and ensure they work to change our school systems for a greener future.

We sincerely thank everyone who is a part of this growing momentum and welcome you to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of 2016-17.

Yours in environmental action,  
Elanor Waslander & the Ontario EcoSchools team



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elanor Waslander". The signature is fluid and cursive.

ELANOR WASLANDER, Executive Director

# A GROWING

RECORD  
NUMBERS  
IN 2016-17!

**1800+**  
SCHOOLS  
CERTIFIED

IN  
**56**  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS



**JOIN THE MOVEMENT!  
WATCH THE VIDEO:**

[ontarioecoschools.org/join-the-movement](http://ontarioecoschools.org/join-the-movement)



# MOVEMENT



**900,000+**  
STUDENTS  
ENGAGED



**50,000+**  
ECOTEAM  
LEADERS



**2**  
PROVINCIAL  
CONFERENCES  
(OVER 300 ATTENDEES!)



**\$147,000**  
IN GRANTS  
TO SCHOOLS  
& BOARDS



**300**  
ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION  
CAMPAIGNS\*



**1,150**  
G.O.O.S./  
REUSE-IT BINS  
IN SCHOOLS\*

\*Does not include schools in the Toronto District School Board, Experienced EcoSchools Certification Cycle, and outdoor and environmental education centres.





# ECOTEAMS ARE THE HEART OF ECOSCHOOLS

Students of all ages are on EcoTeams. They are joined by adults in their community and these multi-generational EcoTeams set annual goals to green their schools.

“I would encourage any principal to be supportive...if we believe in weaving real-world experience into our curriculum there is no better way than through an eco-initiative.”

PRINCIPAL LISA MCGUCKIN  
Francis Libermann CHS, Toronto Catholic DSB



“We decided to look at how ecosystem impacts may be affecting our own backyards.”

MATHIEU MORIN, TEACHER  
École Ronald Marion de Pickering, CS Viamonde



“Through participation... students model a culture of environmental stewardship in their school and the greater community.”

ANNA MARIE BITONTI  
Director of Education, Nipissing Catholic DSB

# SCHOOLS TAKE ACTION

EcoTeams engage their whole school in environmental learning and action. These eco-initiatives span grade levels and subjects to inspire student leadership.

## Building #ClimateLeadership

- » **450+** action campaigns
- » **330+** climate-related lessons
- » **15** #ClimateAction workshops
- » **450** educators trained



## Transforming School Communities

- » **90%** of schools regularly reduce electricity\*
- » **74%** students led school ground greening projects\*
- » **57%** less waste produced by elementary Platinum EcoSchools compared to non-EcoSchools





# THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to the following groups for their generous support of the Ontario EcoSchools program.

## Supporters

Government of Ontario:  
Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change  
Centre de Leadership et d'Évaluation  
Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.  
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation  
Cascades Inc  
Edge Imaging  
Enerlife Consulting  
Toronto Region and Conservation Authority

## Partners

EcoSuperior  
Halton Environmental Network  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
York University

## In-Kind Contributors

Bullfrog Power  
Green Teacher  
KIND Snacks  
Lush  
Staples  
The Bee Shop  
Toronto District School Board  
World Wildlife Fund of Canada

## Collaborators

Back to Nature Network  
Camp Kawartha and the Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre  
Centre for Social Innovation  
Climate Reality Project Canada  
Earth Day Canada  
ECO Canada  
Ecoloodi  
EcoSource  
EcoSuperior  
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario  
Evergreen  
Faith and the Common Good  
KARCASS  
Halton Environmental Network  
Humane Society International  
Learning for a Sustainable Future  
Let's Talk Science  
Natural Curiosity  
Project Neutral  
Sustainability Co-Lab  
TD Bank Group  
The p.i.n.e. project  
University of Toronto Mississauga, Department of Geography  
University of Waterloo, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development  
World Wildlife Fund of Canada  
York Region  
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Our Horizon

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Eleanor Dudar, *Alumni*, ONTARIO ECOSCHOOLS STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER



# OUR TEAM

A huge thanks to the dedicated Ontario EcoSchools team who put so much heart and hard work into 2016-17.



## Staff

TOP: LEFT TO RIGHT  
Monika Kilic  
Kelly DeFogain  
Sierra Frank  
Elanor Waslander  
Lindsay Bunce  
Josh Padolsky

BOTTOM: LEFT TO RIGHT  
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Michelle Shahoud  
Tania Cheng  
Theresa Ramirez

## Assessors

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Lisa English	Nadine Leone	Anita Smith
Concetta Famiglietti	Alexe Lodin	Carol Stott
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Ariel Estulin  
Hayley Goodchild  
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Monika Kilic  
Kirushanth Sriranjjan

## Volunteers

Richmond Green EcoTeam

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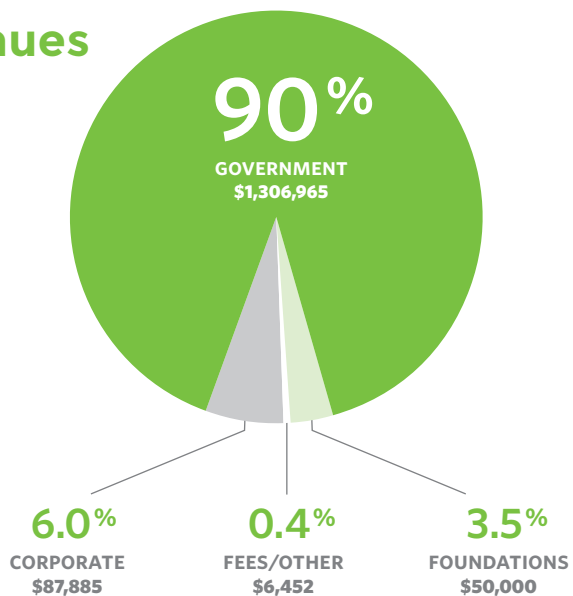
## YORK DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Erin Keyzers






# FINANCIALS

## Revenues



## Our Reach 2016-17:

-  1,245,100 impressions
-  32 media mentions
-  33% newsletter avg. open rate



**“I became a better student, citizen, and environmentalist because of my EcoTeam. The knowledge and inspiration gained carries over into every aspect of my life.”**

SARAH FLISIKOWSKI

EcoTeam member from k-12, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Algonquin Lakeshore CDSB



