

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



OUR MISSION

To nurture environmental leaders, reduce the ecological impact of schools, and build environmentally responsible school communities. To do this we:

- Certify K-12 schools in environmental learning and action
- Create a vibrant network of schools, school boards, and community partners
- Build strong EcoTeams with training sessions and tools
- Embed ecological literacy into the curriculum and daily practices

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.

Table of Contents

1 Letter from the Executive Director		2 Our Impact		4 Supporting Student Leadership
6 Supporting Schools		8 Supporting School Boards		10 Thank You 12 Financials

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EVERY DAY I TAKE MY 3 YEAR OLD OUTSIDE TO EXPLORE. WHETHER IN OUR BACKYARD OR IN NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS, HIS UNRESERVED ENTHUSIASM AND CURIOSITY FOR THE WORLD AROUND US - PUDDLES, BIRD SONGS, THE FALL LEAVES - REMINDS ME OF MY OWN CONNECTION TO MY ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEEPER PURPOSE IN THE WORK I DO.

I've been with Ontario EcoSchools for the past eight years, and have seen the program grow to include 1,720 certified schools from 55 boards across the province. During this time, I've seen change take place through concrete, concerted, accumulated efforts. I've also learned that sector-level change requires a community of dedicated individuals to share a vision.

With this in mind, Ontario EcoSchools aims to engage all stakeholders in the school system - students, teachers, school staff, community members and school board officials. By working together, a culture of conservation becomes established and is reflected in decision making.

We are a vibrant community that advocates for change in the school system and beyond; we walk the talk and lead by example; we are a community addressing the pressing, intersecting environmental issues of our times through daily actions. Our collective efforts resulted in Ontario EcoSchools being given the 2016 Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence.

Reflecting back on this year, I want to thank all the EcoTeams that led fun, engaging, and innovative initiatives. Thank you to the school boards that continue to support and celebrate certifying schools. Thanks to our funders, community partners, program steering committee, volunteers and staff who help us strive towards our vision of 'Every school an EcoSchool'.

Together we are building an education system where students have the opportunity to be environmental leaders. This is why I'm happy to come to work each day, and excited for my child to start school next year.

I look forward to learning and growing with you in 2017 and onwards.



Elanor Waslander

Elanor Waslander
Executive Director

what's the impact

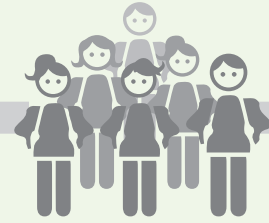
of **ONTARIO ECOSCHOOLS?**



49,000+
STUDENTS

join

ECOTEAMS



8,177+

ENVIRONMENTAL
lessons



422

SWEATER
DAYS



709

EARTH DAY
campaigns



& **ENGAGE** their
whole school
community in

**environmental
LEARNING
& ACTION**

With support from

✓ Educators

✓ Custodians

✓ Parents

✓ Principals

✓ Administration

✓ Community



EcoTeams apply for

**ONTARIO ECOSCHOOLS
CERTIFICATION**



which **RECOGNIZES** and **CELEBRATES** ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP in schools



1720
schools
CERTIFIED

from
55 school boards
across the province



That's
35%
of the schools in Ontario!

\$153,000
GRANTS TO
schools &
school boards

4 SCHOOL BOARDS
100%
of their
schools certified

9 out of 12
French-language
school boards
PARTICIPATING

TOGETHER, SMALL ACTS HAVE BIG IMPACTS

-  GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
-  ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES
-  POLICY CHANGE
-  HEALTH & WELLBEING
-  VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

SUPPORTING STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership is at the core of the Ontario EcoSchools program. In 2015-16, there were over 49,000 students participating in EcoTeams across Ontario.



FIRST ANNUAL YOUTH ECOSUMMIT

100 students from **19** different schools networked and were inspired by the keynote speaker, Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.





ECOACTION CHALLENGE 2016

73 EcoTeams across **32** boards took up the Challenge, with **8** prize winners! EcoActions included: wildflower fundraising for Attiwapiskat, forest maintenance, and creating apps to monitor native species.



ENERGY DASHBOARD PILOT

12 schools from **2** school boards piloted the dashboard. Students can now monitor their school's energy use to deepen learning and inform action.

ABOVE: Jack Miner Public School (Durham DSB) students were one of the winners of the 2016 EcoAction Challenge.

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

Teachers and school staff provide essential EcoTeam support. In the 1,720 EcoSchools certified in 2015-16, we supported teachers through annual training opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING RESOURCES

700 Local Food and Water Awareness kits downloaded;
1 student-featured School Ground Greening video produced.

“*At La Mosaique we created a rich learning environment, where students study ecosystems, connect with nature, and learn about different types of native species. All the students in the school are members of our EcoTeam.*”

Mr. Stefan Dixon, Principle, La Mosaique ES,
CS Viamonde, from School Ground Greening 101



ABOVE: As part of the “Energize: EcoSchools Success Stories” series, Louise Arbour Secondary School (Peel DSB) students show off their gardening skills.



ECOTEAM TRAINING

622 teachers and school staff were trained in Ontario EcoSchools professional development sessions. We delivered **16** workshops, reached **3** new northern communities, established **3** community hubs, shared **7** inspiring new webinars.

ENERGIZE: ECOSCHOOL SUCCESS STORIES

5 EcoSchool success stories shared; **2** school celebrations with local MPPs.

“I am so proud of my students. They are only seven and eight years old and are already recognized as leaders in our school and our community.”

Lynne Dubeau, EcoTeam lead teacher at Foyer-Jeunesse, CS public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario



SUPPORTING SCHOOL BOARDS

School boards encourage system-level change. We work with 55 school boards (76% of all school boards in Ontario) that lead change through progressive policies and funding.

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

100 attendees participated in **4** networking sessions and **6** interactive workshops at our annual board conference. Topics ranged from watershed stewardship to outdoor art in all seasons.



KICKSTART PROGRAM

187 teachers trained, **1,030** students supported, **170** school staff celebrated through 'KickStart' - a program for school boards that are building their capacity for environmental action.

“Participating in the KickStart program provided me with much needed support...I was able to offer additional professional development to both NEW and re-certifying EcoSchools. I was also able to use the funding to improve the Environmental Youth Symposium.”

Katie Hashimoto, Grand Erie DSB



SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

66 board-level staff work with Ontario EcoSchools to provide local expertise, after-school sessions, and to liaise with community partners. Ontario EcoSchools in turn, supports board representatives through consistent communications, resources, and annual training opportunities.

THANK YOU

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

Funders and Sponsors



Government of Ontario - Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Cascades
ECO Canada
Laidlaw Foundation
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
York University

In-Kind Contributors

Edge Imaging
Green Living
Green Teacher
KIND Snacks
Park Bus
Scholastic Education
Toronto District School Board
World Wildlife Federation

Partners

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
York University

Collaborators

Back to Nature Network
Centre for Social Innovation
EcoSource
EcoSuperior
Environmental Defence
Evergreen
Learning for a Sustainable Future
Natural Curiosity
Project Neutral
World Wildlife Federation
York University

Program Steering Committee

Lewis Molot, *Chair*, YORK UNIVERSITY
Suzanne Burwell, HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Judy Gould, DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Erin Keyzers, YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Erin Mutch, THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Siobhan Shonk, WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Rachel Stewart, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Shari Typer, HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Jenn Vetter, TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Advisory Committee

Tovah Barocas, EARTH RANGERS

Staff

Full-time staff

Carly Bardikoff
Melissa Benner
Sarah Bradley
Lindsay Bunce
Tania Cheng
Kelly De Fogain
Sierra Frank
Theresa Ramirez
Elanor Waslander

Part-time staff

Louis Courteau
Ariel Estulin
Cristina Guido
Chris Hummell

Assessors

Nadia Alick
Kim Baxter
Meagan Dargavel
Annie Dearden
Nancy Drynan
Jana Dumas

Morgan Elias
Ayelet Freedman
Melaina Gasbarrino
Hayley Goodchild
Kelly Laforet
Wendy Mansfield
Rebecca McQuaid
Jody Mitchell
Jonathan Newman
Alexa Pompilio
Emma Prendergast
Sarah Prior
Denis Raymond

Alexandra Scarlett
Anita Smith
Anelia Tichkova
Jordan Vanwiechen
Kristan Verhaeghe
Clare Weissflog
Alison Williams
Jenna Zardo

Volunteers

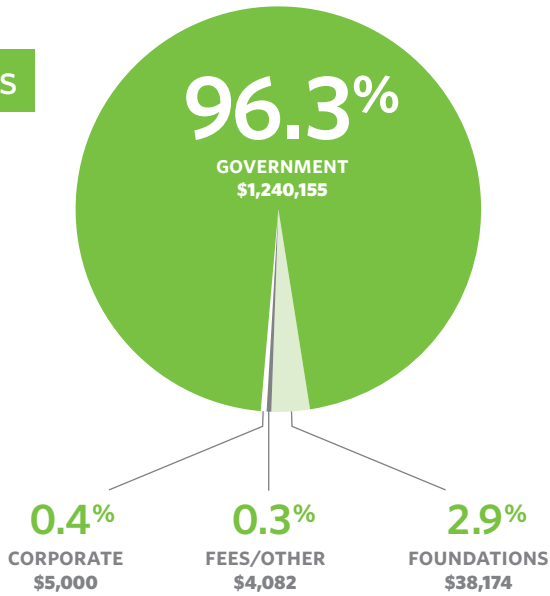
Janice Hardacre
Tiffany Ho
Jennie McDougall
Thansha Sadacharam

School Board Partners

Ontario EcoSchools Board Representatives


ALGONQUIN LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Michael Bibby
AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Crystal Gascho, Daniel Keys
BLUEWATER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Deborah Diebel
BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Joe Ernst
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF ONTARIO	Tanya Sesbreno
CONSEIL DES ÉCOLES CATHOLIQUES DU CENTRE-EST	Roxanne Coupal, Natalie Lavigne
CONSEIL DES ÉCOLES PUBLIQUES DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO	Julie McLean
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CATHOLIQUE DE DISTRICT DES GRANDES RIVIÈRES	Natalie Joncas-Raymond
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CATHOLIQUE DU NOUVEL-ONTARIO	Lyse Anne Papineau
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CATHOLIQUE FRANCO-NORD	Jean-Luc Proulx
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE DISTRICT CATHOLIQUE CENTRE-SUD	Christine Lachapelle
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE DISTRICT CATHOLIQUE DE L'EST ONTARIEN	Christine Lepan
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE DISTRICT CATHOLIQUE DES AUBURES BORÉALES	Thérèse Dechêne
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE CATHOLIQUE PROVIDENCE	Monique Castonguay
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE PUBLIC DU GRAND NORD DE L'ONTARIO	Gilbert Lacroix
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE PUBLIC DU NORD-EST DE L'ONTARIO	Mathieu Perron
CONSEIL SCOLAIRE VIAMONDE	Angèle Ruder
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA	Corey Beliveau, Marni MacDonald
DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Vicky An, Rachel Stewart
DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Carol Stott, Scott Grieve
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Judy Gould
GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Katie Hashimoto
GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Al Cook, Vince Perta
HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Shari Typer, Paul Deoni
HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Suzanne Burwell
HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Aaron Puley
HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Paul Beaudette
HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Lori Lynn Stapleton
LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD	Colleen Kappel, Jason Pilot
LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Heather Curl
LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Joe Hendry
LONDON DISTRICT CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Joe Bezzina
NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Elizabeth Davies
OTTAWA CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Tom Thistle
OTTAWA CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD	Kristen Charles
PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Tracy Appleton
PETERBOROUGH VICTORIA NORTHUMBERLAND CLARINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Sarah Taylor
PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS	Kathy Lewis
RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	David Wiwchar
SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Jessica Kukac, Kayla Kalalian
SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Kathy Van Dewark
SUPERIOR GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Dave Tamblyn
THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Erin Mutch
THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Alma Provenzano
TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Jenn Vetter, Pam Miller, Erin Wood
TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Stefan Martens, Bruno Pileggi
TRILLIUM LAKELAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Heather Truscott
UPPER CANADA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Kim Machan
UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Megan Haessler, Karen Acton, Ian Macpherson
WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Siobhan Shonk
WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	John Shewchuk, Elena Kraljevska
WELLINGTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Karen Thwaites
WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Mike St. Pierre, Julie Di Domenico
YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Larry Tadman
YORK DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Erin Keyzers

Revenues



Our Reach 2015-16:

 **60%** increase in **twitter** reach & **1,401,500** impressions

 **61%** increase in **facebook** likes

 **26** media mentions

 **28%** newsletter open rate



The Ontario EcoSchools program is administered by York University.
For audited financial statements please contact us.



“

I WOULD ENCOURAGE EVERY SCHOOL TO CERTIFY AS AN ECOSCHOOL. THE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES AND THE PLANET ARE IMMEASURABLE.”

LISA JEFFREY, TEACHER AT LEAMINGTON DISTRICT SS, GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DSB

ONTARIO
eco**s**chools
é**co**écoles 
de l'ONTARIO



720 Bathurst St. #206, Toronto, ON M5S 2R4 | 416-642-5774 | www.ontarioecoschools.org