

NEW BRUNSWICK  
ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK



RÉSEAU ENVIRONNEMENTAL  
DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

## SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY 2018

Each year, the New Brunswick Environmental Network (NBEN) distributes a [School Sustainability Survey](#) to all schools in the province. The survey helps provide relevant information to stakeholders concerning sustainability education and activities within the province's schools - allowing providers and resource-people to tailor educational resources to teachers and students' interests.

The NBEN provides the information collected to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and to other interested parties. The data collected from the School Sustainability Survey helps stakeholders provide valuable relevant resources to New Brunswick Schools.

This year there were 74 schools respond, an increase from 62 responses last year<sup>1</sup>.

### **General Findings**

More often than not, the schools surveyed provide environmental and civics education as a component of science programs (58%) and outdoor education (53%). At least once a year, the majority of schools surveyed invite guest speakers to educate students about issues in the following categories: environmental (84%), social/economic (70%), health (95%) and cultural (86%).

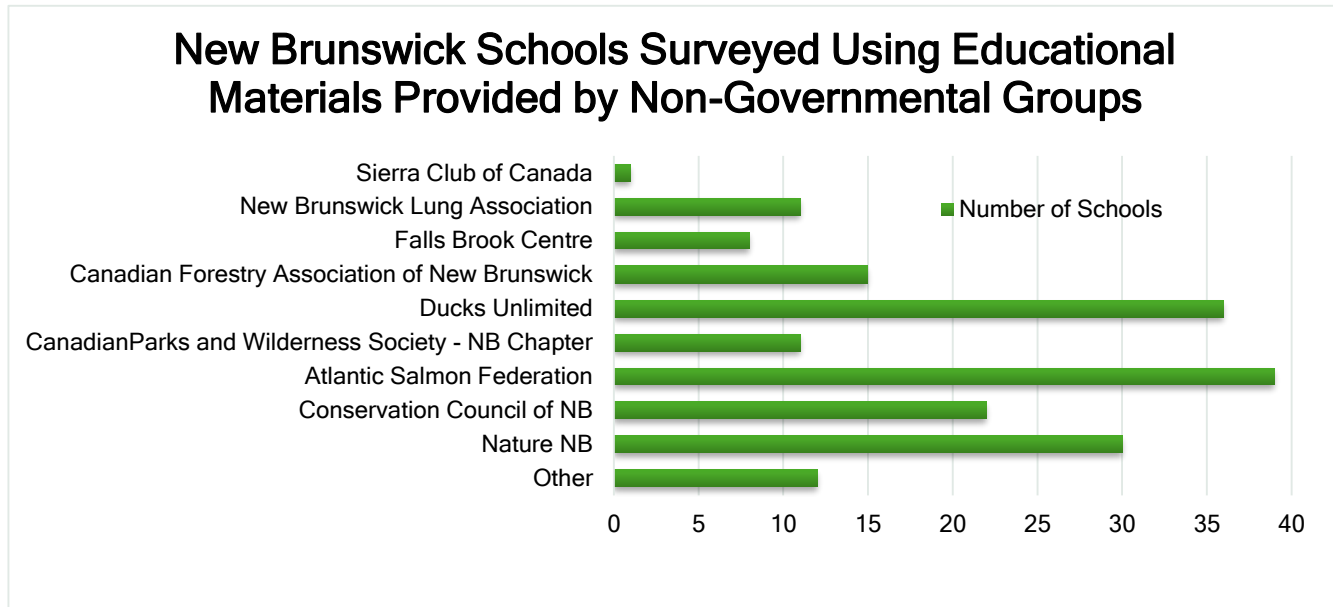
Overall it was revealed that schools surveyed are willing to adopt sustainable practices and provide environmental education when it is convenient to integrate into the school's schedule. When provided with educational materials from non-governmental groups, 84% of schools surveyed used the resources (Chart 1). Additionally, many schools surveyed (72%) are also interested in learning more about Great Minds Think Outside professional development training.

The results show a modest awareness of green practices available to schools surveyed (i.e., recycling, composting, conservation efforts, anti-bullying programs etc.), even if some sustainable practices have yet to be embraced by the majority. For example, only 28% of schools surveyed have an outdoor classroom - but only a third of those with an outdoor classroom use it as often as monthly.

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<sup>1</sup> The schools from the francophone North-West school district are not represented in this data as their superintendent asked for the surveys to not be distributed to them.

Chart 1:



## Programs and Operations

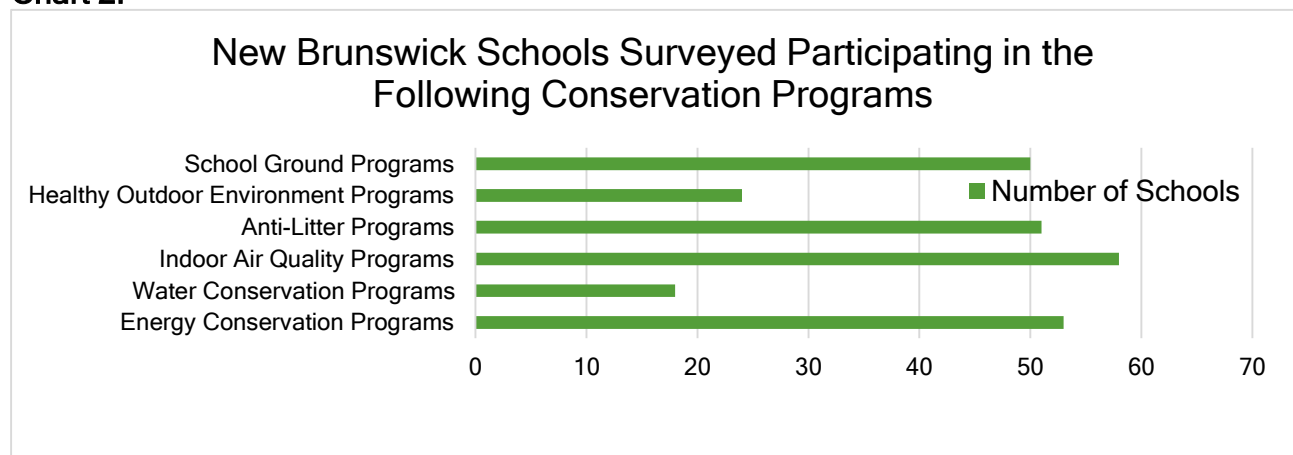
Among the schools surveyed, recycling programs are more prevalent (85%) than composting programs (24%). Health and social programs are also well represented - 84% of schools surveyed have them; these are primarily anti-bullying and healthy eating programs.

The main reasons some schools surveyed are not interested in various programs and operations is lack of employee time, knowledge and motivation.

Schools surveyed with student activity groups are in the minority - only 36% of schools surveyed have a student environmental group, and 16% have a student social justice group.

New Brunswick schools are making conservation efforts. As outlined below in chart 2, the most likely areas are indoor air quality, energy and anti-litter.

Chart 2:



## APPENDIX – COMPLETE SURVEY RESULTS

Number of schools surveyed: **74** of 321 schools in the province (all % are based off of 74)

### Quantitative Information

#### School Statistics

Grade levels of schools that responded:

K-5: **34**                      6-8: **8**                      9-12: **11**                      Combined levels: **19**

Districts of schools that responded:

Anglophone North: <b>6</b>	Francophone North-East: <b>10</b>
Anglophone South: <b>23</b>	Francophone Northwest: <b>0</b>
Anglophone East: <b>11</b>	Francophone South: <b>9</b>
Anglophone West: <b>15</b>	

#### Curriculum

**Schools surveyed that provide environmental and civics education:**

Environmental studies as a component in science programs: **43 (58%)**

K-5: **29**                      6-8: **26**                      9-12: **9**

Environmental studies as a component in social studies: **34 (46%)**

K-5: **18**                      6-8: **8**                      9-12: **4**

Civics education as a component of social studies programs: **21 (28%)**

K-5: **13**                      6-8: **11**                      9-12: **3**

Environmental science: **24 (32%)**

K-5: **11**                      6-8: **4**                      9-12: **14**

Outdoor Education / Pursuits: **39 (53%)**

K-5: **21**                      6-8: **15**                      9-12: **16**

**Schools surveyed that invite guest speakers to talk about:**

Environmental issues: **62 (84%)**

Never: **9**      Once a year: **21**                      A few times per year: **41**                      Monthly: **0**

Social/economic issues: **52 (70%)**

Never: **15**      Once a year: **25**                      A few times per year: **32**                      Monthly: **0**

Health issues: **70 (95%)**

Never: **2**      Once a year: **17**                      A few times per year: **51**                      Monthly: **2**

Culture/cultural issues: **64 (86%)**

Never: **8**      Once a year: **22**                      A few times per year: **40**                      Monthly: **2**

**Schools surveyed that conduct field trips with:**

An environmental focus: **71 (96%)**

Never: **1**      Once a year: **32**                      A few times per year: **38**                      Monthly: **1**

A social/economic focus: **40 (54%)**

Never: **31**      Once a year: **21**                      A few times per year: **19**                      Monthly: **0**

A health focus: **58 (78%)**

Never: **15**      Once a year: **36**                      A few times per year: **22**                      Monthly: **0**

A cultural focus: **60 (81%)**

Never: **13**      Once a year: **20**                      A few times per year: **40**                      Monthly: **0**

Schools surveyed with an outdoor classroom: **21 (28%)**

Schools surveyed that use their outdoor classroom: **20 (27%)**

Never: **1**      Once a year: **1**                      A few times per year: **11**                      Monthly: **7**

**Schools surveyed using environmental materials provided by Non-Governmental Groups: 62 (84%)**

Nature NB:	30
Conservation Council of NB:	22
Atlantic Salmon Federation:	39
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NB Chapter:	11
Ducks Unlimited:	36
Canadian Forestry Association of New Brunswick:	15
Falls Brook Centre:	8
New Brunswick Lung Association:	11
Sierra Club of Canada:	1
Other:	12

**Other non-governmental organizations that schools surveyed use materials from:**

- Sun Sense Program
- Credit Counselling Service
- Heart and stroke foundation
- DARE
- Gaia
- EOS Eco-Energy
- Ménage ton ravage
- Collège de foresterie (Bathurst)

**Schools surveyed using environmental materials provided by industry sector organizations: 46 (62%)**

J. D. Irving:	21
NB Power:	24
Canadian Nuclear Association:	3
Forest Products Association:	20
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited:	0
Other	2

Schools surveyed that participated in Great Minds Think Outside PD training: **10 (14%)**

Schools surveyed interested in learning more: **53 (72%)**

Schools surveyed not interested: **10 (14%)**

**Reasons for not interested in participating in Great Minds Think Outside:**

- Time constraints
- « Cela dépend de ce que signifie perfectionnement professionnel »
- « Les enseignants sont beaucoup sollicités. »
- Subvention gouvernemental

*Programs and Operations***Recycling****Schools surveyed implementing a recycling program: 63 (85%)**

*Schools surveyed which are recycling:*

Paper:	49	Office items:	36
Beverage Containers:	20	Other:	8

**Schools surveyed recycle these other materials:**

- Aluminum can tabs
- Eye glasses
- Clothing
- Everything we can
- Cardboard
- Compost
- Piles
- Sac de lait
- Languettes
- Nourriture
- Bouchons

Schools surveyed interested in starting a recycling program: **7**

Schools surveyed not interested in starting a recycling program: **3**

Reasons Schools surveyed are not interested in recycling:

Concerns about hygiene:	1	Lack of motivation:	1
Employee time:	3	Lack of physical space/infrastructure:	3
Lack of knowledge:	1	Poor access to recycling depots:	2
Other:	1		

**Other reasons schools surveyed are not interested in recycling:**

- « On a participé au projet de l'école secondaire Népisquit, mais cela demande beaucoup de temps et de ressources humaines que nous n'avons pas. »

Schools surveyed that have and use reusable dishes: **44 (59%)**

Never:	15	Sometimes:	10	Often:	11	Always:	23
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### Composting

**Schools surveyed implementing a composting program: 18 (24%)**

Schools surveyed with this type of composting program:

On-site composting of food waste:	12		
On-site composting of yard waste:	8		
Participation in municipal composting programs:	4		
Schools surveyed interested in starting a composting program:			18
Schools surveyed not interested in starting a composting program:			31

Reasons Schools surveyed are not interested in composting:

Concerns About Hygiene:	14	Vandalism:	2
Employee Time:	24	Few Compostables in the Waste Stream:	2
Lack of Knowledge:	7	Lack of Access to Recycling Depots:	5
Lack of Motivation:	2	Other:	5
Lack of Physical Space:	10		

**Other reasons not interested in composting:**

- Animals in the area
- Mice/Rodents
- Had trouble with fruit flies
- Students lost interest

### School environmental operations/programs

**Schools surveyed with the following energy conservation programs: 53 (72%)**

Close Doors:	31	Draw Shades:	23
Turn Off Lights:	49	Heat Computer Controlled:	25
Turn Off Computers:	24	Energy Conservation Awareness:	13
Other:	1		

**Schools surveyed with the following water conservation programs: 18 (24%)**

Low Flush Toilets:	8	Other:	1
Timed Flushes:	6	<b>Other water conservation efforts:</b>	
Water Saving Devices in Taps:	8	No water urinals	

**Schools surveyed with the following indoor air quality programs: 58 (78%)**

No Smoking on School Property:	56	Using Unscented/Non-Toxic	
Scent-Free School:	52	Cleaning Products:	43
Ventilation:	36	Other:	0

**Schools surveyed with the following anti-litter programs: 51 (69%)**

Adopt a Highway:	0	PR (signs/fancy cans):	8
Biodegradable Products:	3	Yard Clean-up:	48
Eating Only in Cafeteria:	12	Other:	3



### Wrap-Up

Schools surveyed that are involved in additional environmental activities not mentioned above: **39 (53%)**

Schools surveyed that would partner with non-profit groups:

For programs:	<b>32</b>	For increasing student activity:	<b>45</b>
For improving environmental operations:	<b>33</b>	Other:	<b>1</b>

**Other reasons to partner with a non-profit organization:**

- Créer un réseautage communautaire

**Additional environmental and community activities not mentioned before:**

- Environmental science greenhouse
- Hydroponics and aquaponics
- Growing food to help local food banks
- Earth Day and community cleanup
- Community garden
- Shore clean up
- Garden used to grow food
- Yearly work with the Nashwaak Watershed Association
- Involvement with ACAP Saint John (class and environmental group)
- UDL grant looking at the effects of outdoor learning on writing
- Teachers support individual initiatives within their classroom practices and instruction.
- Community playground renewal committee focused on the building of a sustainable play area constructed of environmentally friendly materials
- Our cafeteria we buy local program.
- We have a tree nursery through ACAP.
- Salmon program, raise and release
- Vermis composte
- Cours de cuisine
- Ménage ton rivage
- Importance de protéger cours d'eau
- WE DAY