

## **Energy Efficiency at St. Richard Elementary School**

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- **St. Richard's Solar PV system** is an integral part of energy management and community strengthening initiatives that engage students as leaders and experts.
- Students are playing a key role in entrenching energy management into our school culture and being models in our school district.
- **Grade 5 Science** is taught through cross-curricular, project based initiatives focusing on solar energy. Students design and build working solar PV circuit systems to power a shoebox house, look at maximizing efficiency by designing tracking systems, build and race solar cars and cook food using the sun.
- **As solar PV experts** students hosted 50 of their peers from other schools at a Green Energy Fair. They shared their expertise on: where energy comes from in our province, solar PV systems, how to cook and bake using the sun and behavioural changes that can be made to reduce our carbon footprint at home and at school.
- **Partnerships in the community:** At the event, St. Richard PV experts teamed up with our partners from the Alternative Energy Program at NAIT, the Solar Energy Society of Alberta and Great Canadian Solar. Bringing together the solar community provided a rich, hands-on, learning experience for student guests and made our students feel proud and valuable as contributors.
- **St. Richard is exploring the indelible link between a healthy environment and a healthy community.** Our PV system offsets energy used to grow food and flowers in each classroom. We are exploring the question: *"How can we improve our school, local and greater communities by growing things?"* Grades 1,2 students grow bee-friendly flowers; Grade 4 students grow and harvest lettuce to supply to a student-led program that serves 250 lunches to their peers in need at schools across the city. Grade 6 students harvest seeds from pine cones and grow seedlings.
- **Students are excited to be engaged as experts and leaders** in meaningful community enhancement and energy management initiatives.
- **The school is reducing GHG emissions and operational expenditures.**
- **The Government of Alberta must provide incentives for school boards** to review their operational policies and make necessary changes to support climate change initiatives such as installing PV systems, light sensors, and circuit meters in schools and district buildings.
- **Professional Development opportunities** must be made available that will show teachers how to infuse the physical additions and changes on the building into energy management initiatives in classrooms and schools so that these technologies become meaningful learning tools.
- **The Government must continue to listen to our youth.**