

As you leave here today, what final key message do you wish to leave with the Energy Efficiency Panel?

School Session September 16, 2016

- Promote the importance and significance of behaviour change (conservation = most cost effective approach) along with retrofits to school districts, teachers, students so their projects are integrated strategic and sustainable (as well as viable)
- Involve students (advising committee) in each step of the process along with all the stakeholder engagement to design a strategy
- When working with facilities at school districts, ensure that data is collected, shared, accessible to students, especially students “leading” projects in their school, AND ensure that school districts SHARE a portion of the savings to all schools participating. (Make the shared savings equal and not scaled according to actual savings because some schools have buildings that limit the savings vs others)
- When designing a strategy, develop mechanisms and systems (support and equipment) to ensure rural schools can participate virtually and/or offer financial support to ensure level playing field for access to same expertise and programs
- Multi-year participation
- School district commitment and on the ground involvement
- Have a school district point person to rally, promote and support schools
- Build on existing programs and expertise (don’t reinvent the wheel – make it better).

- The Alberta Climate Change Office and Energy Efficiency Alberta should consider:
 - o Establishing a “one-stop-shop” source of funding to which schools and school boards can submit requests for grants
 - o Developing professional development opportunities for teachers – partner with the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (www.arpdc.ab.ca) develop materials and workshop facilitation/facilitators and provide a grant to ARPDC to organize and offer the sessions.
 - o Participating in AB education’s development of New curriculum
 - o Establishing an energy efficiency expert group to assist with building capacity in school districts. Re: adopting and incorporating energy and efficient technologies and practices.

Please support our schools and colleges so that they can do exciting and ground breaking sustainable energy projects with their students.

The rate limiting steps in transitioning to a low carbon society is education. It is in institutions like Queen Elizabeth where entrepreneurs, innovators and environmental stewards are inspired. Competitive, but continuously open fund (based on Carbon Tax Revenue) where schools can have access to resources for energy efficiency cap ex. — investments in a sustainable future which also function as a learning opportunity.

Non-profit organizations already working to bring energy literacy and efficiency into school classrooms should be a primary resource in the programs the agency might recommend or support. These organizations have expertise and community connections already established alongside excellent programming.

- Communication is key *Knowledge is power
- Parent advisory panel (they make decisions about education and they pay taxes)
- Local decision making

I think funding will be a huge barrier and you should create a grant so students will be motivated to lead their projects. To advertise, you should talk to the leadership teachers to get students involved. Also

high schools can partner with elementaries as they both can be big problems.
Get kids outside, hiking, playing, swimming
I think hydroelectricity would be very beneficial for a power source and having more classrooms cause classes can be very full form time to time.
Alberta is the leader in energy education in Canada. Supporting organizations and individuals already working in this space is crucial. New and Shiny is great, but there is already a lot of work that is ready to scale up.
I hope that with the ideas shared by people, we can get inspired and maybe find a new way to make a difference. Hopefully we can get more people aware of the cause and have them give their thought on this, students and adults.
Please support schools by incentivizing climate change fighting technologies being used in schools and providing support for teachers (and funding) to incorporate this meaningful into classrooms.
Give teachers time and training to help students make connections to energy conservation. Fund a .3 position for each school. Change science curriculum to include Environment Conservation in every grade. Promote Genius Hour and PBL in every school.
Consider the whole system – you have your mandate, but we don't act/exist in a bubble Be cognizant of our educators time, resources and passion for the topic Consider how to create connection to the issues to create action.
Help teachers to feel confident in leading a sustainability course or club There are many possible ways to do this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding/grants - Resources - Direction towards existing resources - Professional Development - Flexible hours/schedules - Work load recognition
This work is important. Short term costs are of minimal consequence to the long term integrity of humanity's legacy. Education is the way to create a social movement of environmental responsibility!
Support teachers and students in getting involved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding initiatives, not just school board down but student up – student voice in school boards - Teacher professional learning – energy efficiency coordinator in school divisions and bunch them together to connect with each other and experts - Recommend in curriculum development across all grades and subjects and cross curricular
I would love to express to the panel the importance of exemplary pilot projects, and funds on student learning opportunities. These allow students to have a full understanding of climate change and energy education, as the youth are the climate leaders of tomorrow and have a lasting impact on the lines of other students and the larger world around them.
Present best practices to school boards across the province. Get admin and trustees on board.
Make a commitment to ensuring sustainability, especially in schools which should be models for sustainability.
Make a firm, unconditional commitment to environmental sustainability and be prepared to support good ideas and enthusiasm brought to the issues by regular people.
Leverage existing resources (teachers, NGOs, etc.) Make sure that this is an economically sustainable

endeavour.
Move away from climate change (too controversial) and your angle should be environmental sustainability through a direct connection, link, and love of nature and our environment. Students, young and old, need to relearn how to live off of and with the land. (i.e. canning, gardening, growing and maintaining ecosystems, and maintaining our clean air)
Within schools enabling a designated time towards education plans so youth are aware of environmental issues. Not treating the environmental science section as an extra or optional part.
K-12 Education is the way to transform our future into a sustainable one and teachers will need support through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum redesign - PD opportunities for all teachers not just science teachers - Sustainability of funding that is ongoing not annual - Resources to keep abreast of new technology and information as well as community involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work closely with AB education to consider innovations and to stay abreast of what is happening at the ministry to enable changes to occur where they fit best and support the integration of the work of our two ministries.
Thank you for taking the time to listen. These open communications with students need to be sustained. Kids will tell you what they want; teachers can help make it happen. Let's find a way.
Provide support – financial, resources, expertise— to enable the exceptional on-the-ground work being done by schools and school districts to move toward a sustainable future.
Being involved in curriculum redesign. Important voice to tell what students should know when they “enter” adult society. Support teachers with energy efficiency now. Support via trading resources, expertise, and information.
We must model energy efficiency in our schools both in retrofits and new construction. Program should be highly visible and interactive with students.
Need to find a way to inspire/encourage people to care about environmental education. Kids especially in small communities lack funding/inspiration to find ways to promote a positive change in their communities.
The student voice matters
Keep it at the forefront, rally the school boards and bring it up as a key initiative moving forward. Emphasize the importance of environmental education at all levels, beginning in kindergarten.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of equal funding opportunities for all schools around energy efficiency - If possible, to influence curriculum to support energy literacy in all grades and subjects.