

Appendix C – Single-use plastic bans in other school districts

Many school districts, both within Canada and internationally, have taken steps to reduce the presence of single-use plastics:

Canada

Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB)

ALCDSB has adopted a policy to reduce and where possible, eliminate commercially produced single-use plastic water bottles and provide viable alternatives for board sites and school communities.¹

District School Board of Niagara (DSBN)

DSBN has initiated a ban of single-use plastics in their Education Centre and have informed the cafeteria of this new direction. Staff are also working with their vendors to remove single-use plastics from their online catalogues.

Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB)

At it's September 17, 2019 Board meeting, the GECDSB recommended that the Board establish a single-use reduction committee to: develop a phased in strategy over a 1-3 year period that targets the most problematic single-use plastics as identified in its baseline procurement assessment; develop a school and community awareness programme; and report on the reduction strategy to the Board.²

Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB)

In November 2016, HWCDSB approved a policy that promotes the use of municipal water sources at all Board meetings, professional development sessions, and special events. This policy also eliminates the sale of single-use

¹ Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. (2019, April). Commercially bottled water policy statement. Retrieved from: <http://www.alcddb.on.ca/Board/Policies/Documents/Administration/Commercially%20Bottled%20Water%20A-2019-04-4/01.%20Policy%20Statement%20-%20Commercially%20Bottled%20Water.pdf#search=water%20bottles>

² Greater Essex County District School Board. 2019, September 17). Board Meeting Agenda. Retrieved from: <https://www.publicboard.ca/Board/Meetings/Documents/19-20%20Agenda%20Packages/19%2009%2017%20-%20Agenda%20-%20Public%20Board%20Meeting.pdf>

plastic water bottles by contracted services (e.g., cafeteria service providers, vending machines).³

Peel District School Board (PDSB)

In September 2019, the Board of Trustees at PDSB approved a motion to work towards eliminating single-use plastics (e.g., plastic bottles, disposable cutlery and other serveware) in all schools and workplaces by December 2020.⁴

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS)

GSCS approved a policy in 2015 to eliminate commercially bottled water from school cafeterias and vending machines, its division office and school events.⁵

Toronto Catholic District School board (TCDSB)

As a result of student leadership and activism, in 2011 the Board of Trustees at the TCDSB passed a motion to promote the elimination of bottled water, including the sale and distribution of bottled water, in its offices and schools.⁶

Waterloo Regional District School Board (WRDSB)

In 2016, the WRDSB introduced a ban on water bottles that applied to all board sites, and individuals and companies that operate contracts within schools (e.g., cafeteria, vending). The policy calls for all sites to make water available, and to encourage all personnel to use reusable water containers. Some exceptions are made for field trips to sites where water may be unavailable or unreliable or the safety of a student or staff is at risk.⁷

Vancouver School Board (VSB)

In June 2018, the City of Vancouver approved restrictions on several single-use plastic items and this in turn has influenced the VSB's consumption of single-use

³ HWCDsb. (2016, November 22). Single-use Water Bottles Policy Statement. Retrieved from: <https://www.hwcdsb.ca/board/policies/?fileID=288286>

⁴ Peel District School Board. (2019, September 9). Briefing. Retrieved from: <http://www.peelschools.org/trustees/boardhighlights/Pages/Article.aspx?art-id=2616>

⁵ Saskatoon StarPhoenix. (2015, June 24). Catholic schools to eliminate bottled water. Retrieved from: <https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/catholic-schools-to-eliminate-bottled-water>

⁶ TCDSB. Water: Our gift, our responsibility, our opportunity. Retrieved from: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/environment/water/Pages/default.aspx>

⁷ WRDSB. (2019, September). Single-use commercially bottled water. Retrieved from: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/4980-Single-Use-Commercially-Bottled-Water.pdf>

plastics. VSB cafeterias have eliminated Styrofoam products, plastic straws, and bottled water sales, and have switched to biodegradable food containers.

International Examples

Maldives

In April 2018 the Maldives banned all single-use plastics in schools, including plastic bags and water bottles that children bring from home. Students are encouraged to use re-usable lunch boxes and bottles instead.⁸.

France

In September 2018 the French National Assembly voted unanimously to adopt a law amendment that bans plastic containers used for cooking, heating, and serving food in child care, school, and university catering services. This ban will take effect in January 2025⁹.

England

In December 2018, the British Education Secretary urged all schools across the country to eliminate their use of single-use plastics by 2022, including items such as plastic bags, straws, bottles and food packaging in favour of sustainable alternatives. This announcement is in-line with the UK's strategy to eliminate avoidable plastic by 2042.¹⁰

⁸ Maldives Times. (2018, April 4). Maldives to ban single-use plastics in schools. Retrieved from: <https://maldivestimes.com/maldives-to-ban-single-use-plastics-in-schools/>

⁹ Food Packaging Forum. (2018, September 19). France bans plastics in school canteens. Retrieved from: <https://www.foodpackagingforum.org/news/france-bans-plastic-fcms-in-school-canteens>

¹⁰ Government of the United Kingdom. (2018, December 27). Retrieved from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-challenged-to-go-single-use-plastic-free-by-2022>