



Solar Sign Options for Schools

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 13 January, 2021

Report No.: 01-21-4007

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Transform Student Learning

Recommendation

It is recommended that the report on solar sign options for schools be received.

Context

At its October 6, 2020 meeting, the Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC) made a recommendation to the Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) that signage be developed and posted at all schools with solar panels to draw attention to the presence of solar panels on school rooftops.

On November 11, 2020, the Board decided that the following be referred to staff for options on the cost of implementation of Part (a) below, to be presented at the next meeting of the Program and School Services Committee:

- a. That signage be developed and posted at all schools with solar panels to draw attention to the presence of solar panels on school rooftops;
- b. That the amount of electricity generated by the solar panels be reported annually;
- c. That the Director present a report in the spring of 2021, as part of the annual sustainability report.

The following report provides a cost estimate to implement signs regarding solar arrays at TDSB sites.

Solar Array Display Options

Currently, 352 TDSB facilities are equipped with rooftop solar arrays. Of these facilities, two are administration sites, one is an outdoor education school and the remaining 349 are elementary and secondary schools.

Through its Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the TDSB has committed to transforming student learning by dealing with issues such as environmental sustainability. Given their location on rooftops, solar arrays are typically inconspicuous from the street or within a facility, and the addition of signage would assist in drawing attention to the presence of these community assets, providing students with an opportunity to make real-world connections to their learning.

The table below captures display options and estimated costs for communicating the presence of solar arrays at TDSB facilities.

Display Option	Medium	Cost			
		Per unit	352 units	Estimated Installation Cost	Total
Building exterior	Existing outdoor electronic message board* * An estimated 29 schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Aluminum sign 12" x 60"	\$68	\$24,000	\$140,000	\$164,000
	Aluminum sign 24" x 60"	\$119	\$42,000	\$140,000	\$182,000
Building interior	Poster 24" x 36"	\$3.95	\$1,390	n/a	\$1,390
Online	School websites	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Central webpage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

When determining potential display options, consideration was given to the environmental impact of materials. Plastic-based displays, including vinyl, were eliminated from consideration for this reason. The exterior sign option presented above is comprised of aluminum, a recyclable material, and includes UV Eco-solvent-free ink.

A visual display of either 12" x 60" or 24" x 60" in size were selected as the best balance between visibility and overall cost for an aluminum sign.

Websites and posters for the interior of buildings are both relatively inexpensive options to communicate the presence of solar arrays and could be deployed relatively quickly. The same is true of outdoor electronic message boards, however only an estimated 29 of the 349 schools with solar arrays currently have this infrastructure in place.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Not applicable.

Resource Implications

Resource Implications will be dependant on the solar sign options selected:

Display Option	Medium	Total Cost
Building exterior	Aluminum sign 12" x 60"	\$164,000
	Aluminum sign 24" x 60"	\$182,000
Building interior	Poster 24" x 36"	\$1,390

Communications Considerations

Not applicable.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Policy P028 – The Environment

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Content for Solar Signs

From

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