



# TRINITY

COLLEGE SCHOOL



## Environmental Sustainability Plan 2014 - 2020

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## HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AT TCS

Since the start of the environmental movement in the late 1960's and early 1970's, TCS teachers and students recognized the need for educating future generations on the state of the environment. Environmental science classes and a committed student club (TEAC – the Trinity Environmental Action Club) were formed by the mid 1970's and students began to have an understanding of the connections between environment, economy, health and community.

Jack Goering, math and science teacher from 1961 to 1985 hosted one of the first ever Canadian Earth Day events at TCS in 1970.

Molly Mulloy, science teacher from 1987 to 1999 took hundreds of students on her annual Watershed Tour down the Ganaraska River from its spring source to Lake Ontario.

Mike Bellamy '93 and others, re-invigorated TEAC in the early '90's to start recycling.

In the 2000's, student leaders such as Malcom Cecil-Cockwell '06, Julia Fishlock '08, Alaya Yassein '09, Olivia Bonham-Carter '11, and Zack Chauvin '13 embedded environmental actions into the culture of the school with numerous annual traditions.



In 2005, the Green Cup Challenge was created. Senior School houses compete by undertaking environmental actions as a house. A system of Green Reps was created.

The Junior School Outdoor Classroom was also created at this time. Each student receives 20 hours of focused outdoor learning and gardening per year.

With the introduction of the AP Environmental Science class, the building of the "green" Visual Arts Centre, the development of eco-service learning activities, and the academic focus on building skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, TCS environmental education continues to evolve. We support our students in becoming globally-minded, environmentally responsible individuals.

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

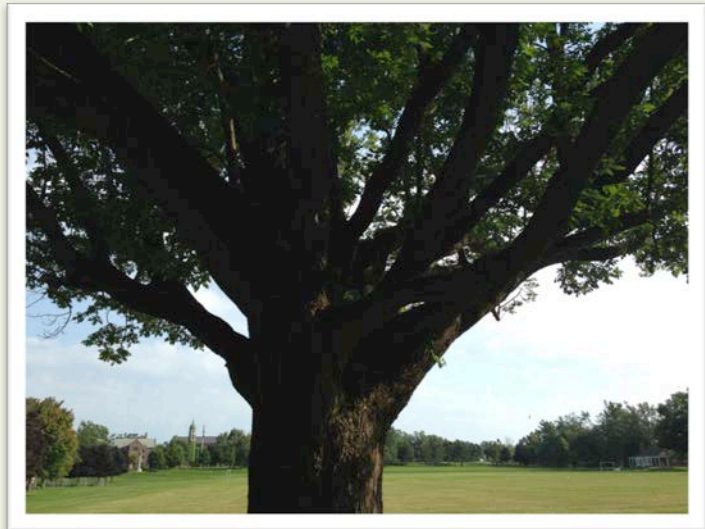
TCS **people, programmes, and place** play a role in local and global environmental, economic, and social **systems**. Many of our students, staff, parents, and alumni shop in Port Hope or Cobourg stores, go to a nearby doctor or hospital, and volunteer with local organizations, such as the nursing homes. Similarly, our people shop, use health services, and volunteer all over the world.

TCS **energy** comes from natural gas piped across Canada and electricity made at the Darlington nuclear station. TCS **water** comes from Lake Ontario and is returned there after use. TCS **food** is grown on campus, in local fields and orchards, and shipped in from around the world. Our people **travel** to us on foot and by bike, car, bus or plane. Our campus is a lush **habitat** of fields, meadows, and forest, home to dozens of tree, flower, insect, bird, and mammal species. When we are finished with **products and waste**, they are sent to the Seymour landfill, the Grafton recycling facility, hazardous waste depots or local charities.

The **weather** year-round on the TCS campus is influenced by air masses that move north, east, south, and west over North America bringing warm or cold, dry or moist, clean or polluted air. Locally, the **micro-climate** is affected by our proximity to Lake Ontario and its moderating effects and the Oak Ridges Moraine rising up to the north of us.

We are thus **inextricably linked to many local and global systems**, all of which we affect and are affected by.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability is rooted in the understanding that **fostering health in all of these systems** and using them wisely is necessary for a sustainable future.





## LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

### National Association of Independent Schools Principles of Good Practice:

Schools committed to environmental sustainability emphasize an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to fostering the **knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to build a sustainable world for present and future** generations. Such schools meet the following principles:

- 1 Demonstrate a commitment to sustainability through their mission, strategic planning, and administration.
- 2 Incorporate environmental sustainability into all aspects of their institutions, including curriculum; professional development; student and residential life; physical operations, procurement, construction, and renovations; and dining services.
- 3 Encourage and enlist parents to support sustainability policies and practices that uniquely reflect institutional and educational philosophies.
- 4 Collaborate with external communities to advance environmental sustainability efforts.
5. Institutionalize recognition and assessment of their sustainability efforts by regularly demonstrating achievements to stakeholders.



The overall goal of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) is to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. This **educational effort will encourage changes in behaviour that will create a more sustainable future** in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations.

## CONSULTATION

In 2012, the School hired sustainability consultant, Stephanie Foster, to conduct an **environmental audit** of the facilities and specific operational practices such as waste management. Using three years of billing data and interviews with many staff, a 40-page report was generated. It provided a clear picture of the School's energy, carbon, water, product use and waste, food, technology and transportation footprints, along with recommendations for improving in each of these areas.

During TCS's 2013 **CAIS review**, it was recommended that the **environmental coordinator** position be formalized. The 2013 – 2018 TCS **strategic plan** identifies environmental sustainability as part of its three goals. Multi-stakeholder workshops were held in 2013 and 2014 to form the mission, vision, and objectives for the sustainability plan. The environmental coordinator compiled this sustainability plan in 2014-2015.



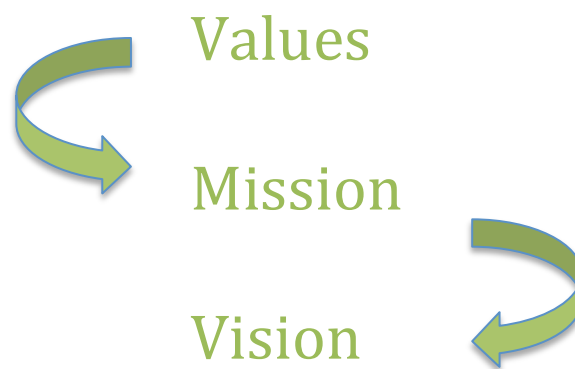
Stakeholders from all sectors of the school were involved in the **visioning workshops**:

Headmaster	Director of Information Technology
Head of Senior School	Director of Communications
Head of Junior School	Director of Food Services
Senior School teachers	Director of Service Learning
Junior School teachers	Students
Environmental Coordinator	Board of Governors
TEAC faculty advisor	Alumni
TEAC student leader	Parents
Director of Property	

## VALUES, MISSION, AND VISION

### Sustainability Values:

- our students will learn the **knowledge, skills, and values** necessary for a flourishing future
- our community takes **responsibility and leadership** towards a healthy, sustainable planet
- we will use our **habits of the heart and mind** to foster a sustainable future
- we must **nurture our natural habitat** so that it can be enjoyed by future generations of people, plants, and animals
- we must **shift from environmental awareness to action**



### **Mission:**

Reduce our footprint. Live in healthy, sustainable community.

### **Vision:**

Sustainability through learning, teaching, and doing.

## TARGET AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall Sustainability Plan is comprised of:

- 10 Target Areas
  - 40 key objectives
    - 140 actions / tactics

It is a living document that guides our actions and evolves.

### ENERGY & GREENHOUSE GASSES

- Reduce energy consumption by 30% by 2020
- Develop a comprehensive energy management plan
- Install renewable energy sources
- Reduce greenhouse gas production by 30% by 2020

### WATER

- Reduce water consumption by 20% by 2020
- Innovate with technologies that create water

### PRODUCT USE & WASTE

- Reduce total waste by 10% by 2015
- Reduce total waste by 20% by 2020
- Increase diversion rate by 10% by 2020
- Reduce contamination in the recycling system
- Implement a green purchasing / procurement policy
- Innovate with products to extend their longevity and re-use
- Increase the # of green, healthy, safe products used in daily life at TCS

Student-led audits will track resource use and form baselines for change.



## TARGET AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

### FACILITIES – OLD & NEW

- Retrofit existing facilities to improve environmental and financial performance
- Build new facilities to the highest environmental standard
- Demonstrate creativity and innovation in our facilities

### FOOD SERVICES

- Continue local food sourcing
- Reduce food and materials waste
- Grow food on campus

### HABITAT & GREEN SPACE

- Protect green space and continue sound environmental practices
- Foster habitat for a diversity of species: plant and animal

### TRANSPORTATION

- Reduce transportation carbon footprint
- Reduce transportation fuel consumption

Expand Junior School gardening program to the Senior School as a full-fledged, weekly service learning program.

## TARGET AREAS & OBJECTIVES

### EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Create a culture of sustainability that includes personal and professional responsibility in all stakeholders
- Use creativity and multi-media to educate and engage all stakeholders
- Create hope and a sense of empowerment for a flourishing future
- Embed in the curriculum and co-curricular programs, the knowledge, skills, and values that students will need for a flourishing future
- Create PD opportunities for all staff
- Teach systems thinking

### PROCEDURES, PLANNING & FUNDING

- Establish a green revolving account to re-invest in energy and water saving technologies
- Track and report on resource use annually. Revise tactics accordingly.
- Research best practices in green schools by engaging in certification programs

Continue Ontario Eco-Schools annual certification process.

Gold Level –  
2015, 2014  
Silver Level –  
2013, 2012

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Ensure our school indoor and outdoor environment is healthy and safe
- Promote balanced lifestyles at work and at home
- Promote the use of nature in reducing stress

## IMPLEMENTATION

The TCS Sustainability Plan will be enacted by the whole TCS community, led by the environmental coordinator, sustainability committee, TEAC, the green reps, and many other individuals in all sectors of the school.

Annual tracking and reporting will ensure that goals are met and that constant work is being done to lower our footprint and build a sustainable future. Pursuing certifications, such as the Ontario EcoSchools, will set the bar for success.

Integrating environmental best practices and values into our academics, co-curriculars, and operations will ensure that sustainability is normalized in our culture. TCS will be a green school.

