



# Leading The Way

## Edmonton Public Schools

Edmonton Public Schools is proud to participate in the City of Edmonton's Corporate Climate Leaders Program. We are excited to collaborate and are committed to strategic emissions reductions for the betterment of our school communities and city.

**Julie Kusiek**

**Board Chair,  
Edmonton Public Schools**



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Background

Edmonton Public Schools is the second largest school district in Alberta. We serve students, families and communities throughout Edmonton with a range of programs and great learning spaces. As elected officials, the Board of Trustees are responsible for the education of more than 115,000 students in Edmonton. They create Board policies and make important decisions that shape the Edmonton School Division's work.

Our commitment to high-quality public education serves the community and empowers each student to live a life of dignity, fulfilment, empathy and possibility.

## CLIMATE ACTION HIGHLIGHTS



### Target Setting

In May 2021, the Board of Trustees approved a motion supporting the Edmonton Public School's membership in the Corporate Climate Leaders Program and in April 2023 unanimously approved the Division's recommended emissions reduction targets of 5 per cent by 2025 and 45 per cent by 2035. The Division worked with expert consultants to develop recommended targets and a plan to achieve them.



### Other Projects

Some additional initiatives the Edmonton School Division has undertaken are energy-efficient upgrades, installing electric vehicle charging stations, and building renewable energy infrastructure.



**Corporate Climate Leader since  
2021**



**2021 Emissions  
115,300.65 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**



**Target  
45% reduction of GHG emissions from  
2021 baseline by 2035**



# Solar Strategy

## Edmonton Public Schools



### The “Sunshine Series”: Solar Strategy



In 2019, the Edmonton Public Schools Infrastructure department conducted a feasibility study that informed the development of a comprehensive solar strategy to expand solar installations on existing schools across the Division. As a result, there are presently 24 schools with Division-led solar installations, which provide alternative energy to the school and serve as teaching and learning tools for students.



Edmonton Public Schools also developed teaching and learning resources to support students in learning about solar energy and solar panels. The resources are called the *Sunshine Series: Solar Energy Lessons* and are designed to engage teachers in all Division schools, from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

The combined Division-led solar initiatives from 2018-2022 are expected to generate approximately 5,500 megawatt-hours of electricity and save an estimated \$650,000 per year. These solar installations are expected to offset about 7.5 per cent of the Division’s electricity consumption, or the equivalent of powering 800 Alberta homes per year.

Edmonton Public Schools now has the largest solar array installed on a secondary school in western Canada, at Lillian Osborne High School.



**7.5%**

**Expected offset of annual electricity consumption**

*Equal to about 800 Alberta homes per year.*



**\$650,000 per year**

**Expected cost savings**



**11 years**

**Approximate simple payback period for all 24 Division-led solar sites.**

