

ECO-SCHOOL POLICY

Policy Category	Corporate Services
Policy Search Name	C – Eco-School Policy (2020)
*Anishinabek Standard	
<i>Place of Learning</i>	<i>F. Fosters extensive on-going participation, communication and interaction between Kenjgewin Teg and community personnel.</i>
<i>Educators</i>	<i>C. Educators participate in community events and activities in an appropriate and supportive way.</i>
<i>Students</i>	<i>E. Students demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the relationships and processes of interaction of all elements in the world around them.</i>
<i>Curriculum</i>	<i>E. Curriculum situates local knowledge and actions in a global context.</i>
Approval Date & Board Motion Number	7/22/2020 Motion #042-2020
Effective Date	7/22/2020
Previous Versions	Date initially approved: 7/22/2020 Date of last revision: N/A

*These are organizationally adapted standards from the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) and the Alaska Comprehensive Centre/Alaska Native Education approved by the Kenjgewin Teg Board of Directors, 2015.

1.0 Purpose and Background

1.1 Anishinabek people are caretakers of Mother Earth who realize and respect her gifts of fire, water, earth and wind. Anishinabek and in general, most Indigenous people, have a special relationship with Mother Earth and all living things.

1.2 Environmental degradation affects the health and well-being of all living things: plants, fish, animals, and people. Creating a school environment that promotes normalization of positive and proactive environmental habits will support Earth’s sustainability for future generations.

2.0 Definitions

“eco-school”	refers to internally developed and designated practices documenting a school’s efforts supporting environmental sustainability
“feast bag”	refers to an individual’s own customized eating cutlery and utensils;
“ekinoomaagasid”	is the Mnidoo Mnising dialect/Anishinabemowin word that refers to all students or learners (Indigenous or non-Indigenous) of Kenjgewin Teg
“ekinoomaagasijig”	is the plural form of <i>ekinoomaagasid</i>
“ezhinoomaaget”	is the Mnidoo Mnising dialect/Anishinabemowin word that refers to all instructors or faculty members (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) that are teaching/instructing at Kenjgewin Teg
“ezhinoomaagejik”	is the plural form of <i>ezhinoomaaget</i>

3.0 Application

3.1 This policy applies to all **ekinoomaagasijig**, **ezhinoomaagejik** and staff of Kenjgewin Teg. Specific provisions of this policy also apply to external food service providers of Kenjgewin Teg.

4.0 Policy

Policy Objective

4.1 The objective of this policy is to create and implement best practices within Kenjgewin Teg’s place of learning to promote connected and meaningful environmental awareness and stewardship for the Land.

Environmental Relationships, Learning and Action

4.2 As part of immediate organizational practice, Kenjgewin Teg will promote the use of sustainable materials and resources by eliminating use of one-time use plastics; this includes plastic water bottles, plastic straws, plastic bags, and plastic eating utensils within the school environment.

4.3 Procurement of catering services with external food service providers will include notification in advance of this policy; external food service providers will be asked to voluntarily comply with this policy to become preferred service providers.

4.4 Indigenous /Anishinabek Traditional Knowledge Holders and Elders will be invited to assist and guide teaching and learning opportunities about traditional and spiritual relationships, connections to the land, and the role of Anishinabek as caretakers of the environment.

4.5 Feast bags will be mandatory for use by employees, **ekinoomaagasijig**, and **ezhinoomaagejik** at organizational led events where meal or food service is being provided. Employees are encouraged to have additional feast bags for use by their guests attending Kenjgewin Teg.

Meals/food service events at Kenjgewin Teg will use eco-friendly supplies and utensils for extra guests where members of public are invited.

4.6 Recycling practices for e-waste, paper, and other recyclable products as supported by individual community locations and practices is also required (i.e. recycling services, pick up locations are readily available in a community for Kenjgewin Teg participation).

4.7 Purchasing and procurement decisions will consider environmentally friendly products and suppliers, but recognizes that 100% of organizational purchasing decisions may not always be eco-friendly; reasons for this may include availability, cost inefficiencies to implement, and other reasons; it is expected that purchasing and procurement exceptions may occur.

4.8 As a collective body and place of learning, **ekinoomaagasijig** and employees together will choose on two-year cycles whether to participate in formal programs recognizing eco school practices and any related certifications to help monitor and audit land stewardship initiatives and practices; such participation in formal programs will further provide focus on where improvement can be made toward increased consciousness of environmental sustainability. Alternatively, **ekinoomaagasijig** and staff may choose to internally develop their own locally developed eco-codes of practice for self-monitoring.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 The President is responsible for overall management and operation of Kenjgewin Teg. The Vice President of Corporate Services is responsible for implementation of this policy and will report annually on its progress, activities and initiatives.

5.2 If a position referred to in this policy is vacant, the policy will not be invalidated. Instead, the President shall designate the roles and responsibilities of that role to another team member(s) and will ensure that the Kenjgewin Teg staff and community is informed of the designation(s) as appropriate.

6.0 Evaluation Date - 10/31/2022

6.1 This policy will be reviewed every two years as designated in the Board of Director’s policy review cycle and schedule. The evaluation date above represents the first date upon which this policy becomes eligible for review.

Related Legislation, Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Documents	None
Policies Superseded by this Policy	None

The official version of this policy is housed in the Office of the President. In case of discrepancy between an online version and the official version held, the official version shall prevail.