

Oct 4 2021

Mark Pearmain
2121 Lonsdale Avenue
North Vancouver, BC
V7M 2K6

Dear Mr Pearmain

I'm writing to you as a District 44 student at Seycove Secondary. I am concerned about ongoing effort towards sustainability within the school district.

While I was in elementary school, we had new recycling bins installed and were frequently reminded to use them appropriately. Now that I'm at Seycove I've found that while there are recycling bins, they aren't placed well, signed well, or easy to find. I wonder if this is true in other schools?

In researching sustainability programs on the SD44 website, I noticed that the district was proactive about reducing our impact on the environment for several years, with major initiatives announced in 2015 and 2017. However, I couldn't find a single update from the district since 2019. I was expecting to find some new initiatives or at least an update for 2021 as we are now well into the school year. For example, the 2019 update mentioned new schools being designed with sustainability in mind and some older schools being retrofitted. Have there been more projects like this? Also at that point you had added one electric vehicle to the maintenance fleet. Have you added any more? Or conversely have more gas-powered vehicles been purchased?

Since the pandemic began, our habits have changed for the worse. With people using takeout containers more often and ordering more items online (eg from Amazon which I'm pretty sure has stock in the cardboard box industry) the waste situation is worse than ever. We need to redouble our efforts to reduce, re-use and recycle.

I think it would be a good idea to have a district wide competition to design a new poster or sign to promote recycling. Another suggestion: adding soft plastics collection would take a lot more plastic out of landfill. I would also like to see more regular reports from the sustainability committee - at least every year if not more often.

I look forward to hearing back from you,

Sincerely,



Julian Nobles