

## Executive Summary – Qualitative Survey

*Title: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability in SD47 Schools*

The report captures a comprehensive district-wide survey assessing sustainability efforts within individual schools across SD47. The focus lies on the integration of sustainability into school goals, physical demonstrations of sustainability initiatives, educational approaches, facility-based actions, existing barriers, and suggestions for improvement. The gathered data underscores both achievements and opportunities for growth in fostering sustainable practices within school communities.



### Findings and Observations:

#### *Leadership & Vision:*

- Little integration of sustainability within school goals and leadership structures.
- Presence of individual and student champions, albeit inconsistent support on a systems / administrative level.

#### *Learning Environments:*

- Some schools have visible sustainability initiatives such as waste stations, green spaces, renewable energy sources, and outdoor learning spaces.
- Challenges exist to effectively utilize existing infrastructure and engage stakeholders.

#### *Learning Opportunities:*

- Inconsistent integration of sustainability into curriculum, primarily driven by individual teachers.
- Some engagement in environmental clubs and events, but a lack of system-wide approaches.

#### *Facilities:*

- Varied waste reduction programs in place, including recycling and composting efforts, but with notable gaps in effectiveness and education.
- Limited energy conservation programs across schools, with opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure for educational purposes.

#### *Bridges & Barriers:*

- Identified opportunities include broad stakeholder engagement, increased educational initiatives, and better utilization of existing resources.
- Challenges revolve around time, financial constraints, lack of system prioritization, and inadequate support structures.



### Actionable Items:

1. **Establishing System Norms:** Introduce sustainability as a systemic norm rather than relying solely on individual champions.
2. **Enhanced Education and Engagement:** Develop comprehensive educational programs and engage all stakeholders for broader participation.
3. **Infrastructure Optimization:** Utilize existing facilities, like solar panels, for educational purposes, and streamline waste management systems.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Facilitate broader stakeholder involvement through district-wide events, assemblies, and themed initiatives.
5. **Resource Allocation:** Allocate resources, time, and support to integrate sustainability seamlessly into school operations.

### Recommendations and Conclusion:

The report underscores the need for a holistic and systematic approach to embed sustainability within SD47 schools. Recommendations include formulating comprehensive sustainability guidelines, fostering collaborations among stakeholders, and leveraging existing resources for educational purposes. Prioritizing sustainability through inclusive and collaborative efforts is key to achieving long-term success in fostering environmentally conscious school communities.

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The executive summary encapsulates key findings, actionable insights, and recommendations derived from the detailed survey, providing a roadmap for advancing sustainability initiatives within qSD47 schools.