

Over the next two weeks, TRCA will announce the Top Ten Energy Performing Boards in Ontario, a result of analysis of publicly available school board energy use data for the 2012-2013 school year. We invite you to follow the Sustainable Schools Twitter account (@SusSchoolCan) and the #TopONSchBdsEnergy hashtag as the top ten boards are revealed, one by one, starting on June 1st. We're happy to announce that #5 Energy Performing Board in Ontario is York Region District School Board, with an estimated total energy savings potential of 17.3%.

#5 - York Region District School Board

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www.yrdsb.ca

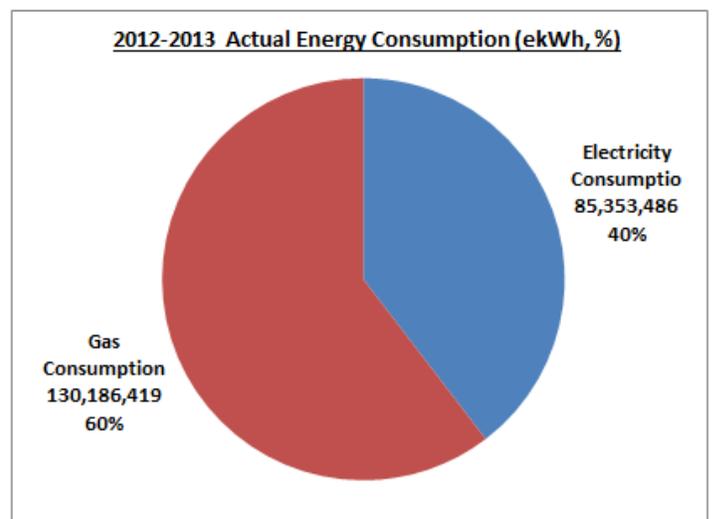
Profile	
Secondary Schools	31
Elementary Schools	180
Administration Buildings	9
Total Building Area	15,100,811 SqFt

Actual Energy Intensity, 2012-2013 School Year	
Electricity	5.5 ekWh/SqFt
Gas	9.3 ekWh/SqFt
Total Energy Intensity	14.8 ekWh/SqFt

Weather-normalized to Toronto Pearson Int-I Airport



Conservation Potential	
Electricity	3.9%
Gas	25.7%
Total	17.3%



Some of the board's top energy performing schools include:



Coledale Public School

Actual Energy Intensity, 2012-2013 School Year	
Electricity	6.2 ekWh/SqFt
Gas	4.6 ekWh/SqFt
Total Energy Intensity	10.8 ekWh/SqFt

Weather-normalized to Toronto Pearson Int-I Airport



Bur Oak Secondary School

Actual Energy Intensity, 2012-2013 School Year	
Electricity	5.5 ekWh/SqFt
Gas	6.4 ekWh/SqFt
Total Energy Intensity	11.9 ekWh/SqFt

The above information is based on 2012-2013 school year data provided by the board to the Ministry of Energy as per Ontario Regulation 397/11. For more information on methodology, please see [Ontario's Top Energy Performing Boards: Methodology White Paper](#) presentation.

The Sustainable Schools program assists school boards in evaluating their energy performance, monitoring progress, and providing the tools required to make substantial and lasting improvements. Since 2007, Sustainable Schools has been reporting on the top performing schools across Canada, establishing the magnitude of energy savings potential and directing them to where these savings can be found.



Q and A with York Region District School Board

Q What has been the biggest factor impacting your energy performance?

A All York Region District School Board stakeholders — students, staff, parents, community — have a role in making responsible choices leading to energy conservation and contributing to a more sustainable future. We believe conservation is a three-sided, interdependent approach encompassing an efficient facility design, optimal building operations, and the mindful behaviours and actions of facility occupants, also known as the “Triangle of Conservation.”

When all sides of the Triangle work together, buildings can achieve greater conservation efforts.

Q How would you grade your board, senior, and staff level support in this effort?

A The Board adopted an Environment Policy in 1997, in which “Environmental education is a whole system responsibility and the Board will promote changes in organizational practices as an organization that will result in reducing our ecological footprint.” The ‘Environment’ continues to be a focus area captured in the Director’s Annual Plan and Trustees Annual Plan which is supported by Senior Team and implemented through school and department plans for continuous improvement.

Q Do you benchmark your schools against each other?

A All York Region District School Board facilities (schools and administrative sites) have ‘real-time’ metering systems. Students and staff can access energy consumption data through an in-house developed website (EcoWatch) designed to support the *Ontario EcoSchool’s* program. Due to the extensive list of variables that can differ from site to site (i.e. design, portables, community use, age of facility, equipment, changing technology), we encourage our schools to compete against themselves and compare their own usage and consumption data from year to year.

Q Do you have an Energy Management Plan?

A Yes, as per the Green Energy Act. This plan is posted on the York Region District School Board’s website – www.yrdsb.ca

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saving our energy for education

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Q Is energy conservation training provided to your staff/operators?

A Yes. Plant Services provides building automation systems (BAS), energy management and energy conservation training for our Plant Caretakers (building operators) on a yearly basis, and also attends staff and student workshops when invited.

Q Do you feel most of your energy saving has been achieved operationally or through retrofit?

A Both. Properly maintained and controlled buildings outfitted with efficient equipment can provide continual payback throughout the lifespan of the equipment. When students and staff also participate in conservation (i.e. "Lights Out/Monitors Off" campaign), significant savings is achieved.

Q Do you engage staff and students on energy conservation?

A Our Board is actively involved in the *Ontario EcoSchools* certification program and has system targets for EcoSchools participation.

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