

## Climate Action Report to the Community

### Seven Oaks School Division



**Figure: Climate Action Leadership Forum, October 2025**

This Climate Action Report highlights the shared learning and achievements across our division during the 2024 to 2025 school year. It reflects our commitment to **growing the good** through climate justice and equity, student-led climate leadership, and environmental education grounded in Truth and Reconciliation and Active Hope through collaborative community efforts.

In December 2019, the Seven Oaks School Board declared a climate emergency in response to a compelling call for action from our students. Their advocacy catalyzed a division-wide movement and inspired the creation of **Manitoba's first school division Climate Action Plan**. We are proud to be the first school board in Manitoba to draft a Seven Oaks School Division Climate Action Plan and to lead the way in education-based responses to the climate emergency. Since then, this work has only deepened in urgency, as seen in the more than 21,000 climate evacuees displaced by the devastating wildfires across Manitoba this year.

The Climate Action Collaborative Learning Team is a dedicated group of superintendents, trustees, divisional principals, administrators, educators, and students who have been working together to shape a meaningful path forward. Our Climate Action Plan is a response to both local and global climate realities. It supports quality climate change education and outlines strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A draft of the Climate Action Plan is now available on the [Seven Oaks School Division website](#).

Guided by three North Stars; **Mino Pimatisiwin** (wellbeing for all), **Planetary Regeneration**, and **Lasting Peace**, the Climate Action Plan honours the interconnectedness of humans with the more-than-human world and the Earth while guiding our actions in alignment with the Paris Agreement.

### **Whole-School Climate Commitments**

Over the past two years, Seven Oaks has seen significant growth in schools formally engaging in climate-focused networks. We have expanded from 2 to 6 UNESCO schools or candidate schools, and from 1 to 4 Sustainable Future Schools (SFS). This growing network reflects our shared commitment to embedding climate justice, sustainability, global citizenship, and Truth and Reconciliation in everyday school life in lasting ways. These whole-school commitments promote student leadership and global citizenship through action learning that explores climate justice, Truth and Reconciliation, human rights, intercultural learning, and the role of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Schools Leading Whole-School Initiatives**

- UNESCO Schools include Garden City Collegiate and West St. Paul School
- UNESCO Candidate Schools include Maples Collegiate, Leila North, Amber Trails, and A.E. Wright
- Sustainable Future Schools include Collicutt, Leila North, A.E. Wright, and James Nisbet
- Schools engaged in both programs include Leila North and A.E. Wright

You can view published student-action projects of these schools on the [Our Canada Project](#) website.

### **Wii kongay win Agamik (The Spot): Indigenous Student-led Climate Action**

Wii kongay win Agamik, also known as "The Spot," is a new four-season outdoor learning space at Garden City Collegiate, dedicated to **Climate Justice** and **Truth and Reconciliation**. This student-led initiative reflects a strong commitment to community leadership, Indigenous teachings, and land and water stewardship. Opened in May 2025 with a Naming and Opening Ceremony led by Elder Derek Courchene and Elder Ellen Cook, The Spot offers students and educators opportunities to engage in action-based learning rooted in Indigenous knowledge. As Niigaan Sinclair has emphasized the importance of moving toward permanence, this project stands as a meaningful example of that vision. The initiative was made possible through a partnership with the Canadian Red Cross.

### **Looking Ahead: School-Based Climate Professional Development in 2025 to 2026**

To support continued momentum, each school in Seven Oaks will receive \$3,000 for professional development that deepens Climate Change Education. Schools are encouraged to tailor this critical work to their communities, exploring land-based, place-based, and outdoor learning through action-oriented pedagogies that reconnect students with the Earth through ethics of care, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and empower them to take action in line with their North Star.

## Thank You

To all climate action leaders across SOSD, the students, educators, administrators, and partners across our division, thank you! Your collective efforts are **growing the good** and shaping a more beautiful, just, and equitable future. Together, we are leading the change that will protect the Earth for generations to come.



Figure 2: Wii kongay win agamik, The Spot dedicated to Climate Justice and Truth and Reconciliation (May, 2025).

With gratitude,  
Heather Eckton  
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