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SAANICH SD WARMS TO SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY

SAANICH - Environment Minister Murray Coell has announced capital funding for two elementary schools in the Saanich School District to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and energy costs.

Keating Elementary in Saanichton has been awarded \$781,300 and Sidney Elementary has been awarded \$686,000 to switch to more efficient systems to reduce energy costs reduce greenhouse gas emission. Together, the projects are expected to save the schools approximately \$30,000 a year and shrink GHG emissions by more than 100 tonnes.

"These schools will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but will save money that can better benefit the students and the schools," said Coell. "Collaborative projects like those involving school districts, utilities and government are important to the well-being of local residents and our environment."

The schools will replace aging natural gas furnaces with central plant high-efficiency air to water heat pump systems and upgrade standard heating, ventilation and air conditioning electric controls to smarter direct digital controls.

This announcement is part of \$6.6 million in capital funding for 35 school district energy conservation projects across B.C. The combined annual energy savings from the 35 projects are estimated at nearly \$720,000 and annual GHG reductions of 2,765 tonnes.

The Public Sector Energy Conservation Agreement is a provincial partnership with Terasen Gas, BC Hydro, SolarBC, and Natural Resources Canada. Partners provide capital funding and/or technical support for public sector energy proposals. Another \$12 million in capital funding will be distributed later this year.

In past years, the fund has helped achieve annual energy cost savings of more than \$7.4 million and GHG reductions of over 18,700 tonnes, equivalent to taking 3,000 to 4,000 cars off the road.

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