

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BEST PRACTICES

FOR DAYCARES

MAKE RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES

- Adopt a responsible purchasing policy to buy local, sustainable products, for example, used toys or toys that are made in Quebec.
- Feed children using organic, local ingredients.
- Educate your suppliers about reducing packaging.
- Look into making group purchases with other companies in your sector.
- Look into partnering with a family farm.
- Look into Petits ambassadeurs certification, which is offered by the Tables de concertation bioalimentaire du Québec.

USE LESS ENERGY

- Hire an expert to assess your energy consumption, and learn more about alternative energy solutions.
- Install electronic thermostats and set them to drop the temperature after hours.
- Learn how to use new technology to optimize your water heater on the *Québec Energy Transition* website.
- Choose energy efficient appliances (e.g., *Energy Star*).
- Swap out your lightbulbs for more energy-efficient models, like LEDs.
- Limit the use of air conditioning by using alternative solutions such as sun shading devices, shades and open windows.

MANAGE YOUR WASTE EFFICIENTLY

- Hire an expert to produce a report on the waste generated by your organization and develop a waste action plan.
- Implement the 5 Rs (rethink your needs, reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim).
- Set up sorting areas with clear posters to promote proper materials management.
- Set up compost bins if your municipality doesn't offer composting services.
- Get *ICI on recycle* + certification.
- Replace disposable items with reusable alternatives, like washcloths and rechargeable batteries (if you can't use alternatives, look into solutions provided by private recycling businesses such as TerraCycle boxes).
- Buy bulk hand soap and dish soap.
- Use recycled materials for crafting, like toilet paper rolls, cardboard boxes, plastic containers, etc.*

SAVE WATER

- Install devices to reduce water flow during renovations (e.g., showers, toilets, faucets)
- Use environmentally friendly, phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Collect rainwater with a rain barrel and use it to water your plants and other landscaping elements.
- Educate employees and children about water as a finite resource that needs to be used responsibly.
- Prohibit single-use water bottles and encourage the use of reusable bottles.
- Install a water dispenser with washable glasses.



REDUCE YOUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

- Hire an expert to assess your carbon footprint and draw up a plan to cut and offset emissions.
- Install charging stations for electric vehicles.
- Encourage collective and active transportation by installing bike racks and incentivizing carpooling.
- Offset GHG emissions from outings and use public transit when possible.
- Offer a mainly vegetarian menu.
- Plant a learning garden.

IMPROVE WORKPLACE WELLNESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Make sure your facility is equipped with a high-quality airflow system and provide employees with personal protective equipment for their health.
- Keep a defibrillator and first aid kit accessible onsite.
- Have a first aider present at all times (as required by the CNESST).
- Review the ergonomics of different workstations and implement recommendations.
- Discuss your sustainable development practices with your employees or colleagues to raise awareness.
- Respect your employees' and coworkers' right to disconnect.

INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Share your sustainable development successes.
- Ensure that physical access and services are tailored to customers with reduced mobility.
- Plan and promote environmentally friendly events.
- Sponsor sports and cultural events.
- Get involved in causes.
- Set up partnerships with local businesses, artists and artisans (e.g., consignment products, local artists' works, etc.).
- Develop intergenerational activities.
- Plan environment-themed activities for Earth Day or Arbor Day.

NOTES

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For more information, reach out to your local's SADC or CAE

sadc-cae.ca