ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN SCHOOLS

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Pursuant to Republic Act 9512, also called “Act to Promote Environmental Awareness through Environmental Education and for Other Purposes”, the SDO Bataan recognizes the importance of Environmental Education and Sustainability Practices of the school to further encourage the promotion of a clean and green learning environment and an integration of environmental literacy programs to create a healthy, ecological, economic and socially responsible living and learning environment.

Environmental education and sustainability practices aims to assess the specific plans, programs and procedures that take into account the school environment management emphasizing the necessity of integrating environmental sustainability and stewardship and environmental management programs to meet, lead, and exceed in sustainability through energy efficiency, conservation of natural resources, and source reduction and waste minimization emanate from the school.

The School Environmental Programs, Project and Activities (PPA) focused on using the following criteria: effectiveness, the efficiency of implementation, sustainability and impact of the following:

Waste Management. This includes collection, transport, treatment and disposal of school waste together with monitoring and regulation. It also refers to the activities and specific actions that required to manage different wastes in the school from the beginning up to the end process.

Water Conservation. This includes all the policies, strategies and activities to sustainably manage school local source of water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage.

Electricity Conservation. This focuses on the effort made by the school to reduce the consumption of energy to increase environmental quality, school security, financial security and higher savings.
of the school by reducing energy surplus, improving productivity and effectiveness through technological upgrades and improved governance and operation.

Pollution Prevention. This refers to the use of materials, processes, or practices in the school that eliminates or reduces the quantity and toxicity of wastes at the source of generation. It includes practices that eliminate the discharge of hazardous or toxic chemicals to the school environment and that protects natural resources through conservation and improved efficiency.

Clean and Green Program. This refers to clean and green programs employ on the school processes that promote health, safety and social consciousness which include the use of environment-friendly programs and projects resulted to a healthy school environment, behaviors, attitudes of students and increase participation of parents, and other stakeholders.

Structured Learning Environment. This refers to well-designed classrooms and school facilities that can boost students’ performance as well as promote and improve learning.

Through this platform, the SDO Bataan has taken a number of steps towards improving the school environmental management system to protect the environment and the health of the people especially the school community. The Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Practices of the School is a program evaluating the schools’ environmental programs within the division regarding conservation projects, water utilization system garbage disposal policies and others.

Consistent with the Division Memorandum NO. 333 s. 2018 reiterating the implementation of 5S, waste segregation and green procurement program. This requires all units to segregate garbage and prohibit the use of Styrofoam, plastic cups, spoons and forks and other non-biodegradable food keepers.

Likewise, the SDO Bataan supports the Republic Act (RA) 9003, known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which assigns the primary task of implementation and enforcement to the government agencies including Department of Education. It emphases the importance of minimizing waste by using a technique such as recycling, resource recovery, reuse and composting.
The result of the assessment encourages the schools to investigate varying sides of issues to understand the full picture of the environmental. By incorporating Environmental Education programs practices into the curriculum, teachers can integrate science, math, language arts, history, and more into one rich lesson or activity, and still satisfy numerous learning centers the academic standards in all subject areas.

By exposing students to environment-friendly schools allowing them to learn and play outside, it fosters sensitivity, appreciation, and respect for the environment. It combats “nature deficit disorder” by increasing the time spent in nature. Likewise, it improves their environment and understands environmental issues impacting their schools.

The Environment Assessment and Sustainability Program helps schools understand how their decisions and actions affect the environment, builds knowledge and skills necessary to address complex environmental issues, as well as ways we can take action to keep our Mother Earth healthy and sustainable for the future.

References:

RA 9512 An Act to Promote Environmental Awareness Through Environmental Education and for other Purposes
Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000