



Laval Junior Academy

2323 Daniel Johnson Blvd.

Laval (Québec) H7T 1H8

T 450 680-3044

F 450 686-1577

www.lja.schoolqc.ca

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EDUCATION,
A BILINGUAL
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COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

www.swlauriersb.qc.ca



Dear LJA Community,

We'd like to share with you some news about our **Sustainability Initiative at Laval Junior Academy**. Early in the school year, LJA's Governing Board renewed its Subcommittee on Sustainability, made up of members of teaching and professional staff, parents, and administration, and they have been working together since the fall to discuss ways to improve environmental sustainability at LJA. A [detailed Resolution](#) presented in January was passed unanimously and confirmed the governing board's support for this **Sustainability Initiative**.



A **Vision** and a **Mission** for the Initiative were created:

Vision:

We recognize that environmental sustainability is critical to support the ability of future generations to meet their own needs with the resources available. As the home of our youth, the leaders of tomorrow, we wish for Laval Junior Academy to take its place as an essential role model for eco-citizenship within our community.

Mission:

We wish to integrate positive environmental strategies and practices at our school. We wish to inform and educate our students, staff, and the LJA community about these initiatives, and encourage their active participation and enthusiasm.

Sustainability Initiatives at LJA

Elimination of Plastic Water Bottles at LJA

This year the Sustainability Committee successfully lobbied with LJA's cafeteria provider to **end sales of single-use plastic water bottles** as of the new school year in September 2022.

Why is this important?



The **environmental footprint** of single-use plastics is serious. According to the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#), almost 86% of Canada's plastic waste is not recycled. It makes its way to landfills and into our waterways, and even gives us the infamous [plastic vortex in the Pacific Ocean](#). Wildlife is killed by eating plastic products such as bags, and poisoned by microplastic particles derived from the breakdown of plastic objects. **Laval** is no exception; its recycling facilities are not recycling much of these disposable plastics. Often it is sent elsewhere, only to be dumped as garbage halfway around the world.

[Environment Canada's 5 R's of Waste Management](#)



Refuse, Reduce, Reuse/Repair, Recycle, Recovery

By choosing to **REFUSE** to sell plastic water bottles (and by consumers refusing to buy them), we are **REDUCING** their consumption and preventing their entry into the recycling stream. This achieves the two most important steps in reversing these negative impacts on our environment. At LJA, we aim to do our part by seeking more environmentally sustainable options!

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How can the LJA Community help?



To fulfill their daily water needs, we are asking LJA students and staff **to bring in their reusable bottles or cups** which they can fill or refill at the water fountains and bottle-filling stations located in the school. As well, we ask that any **disposable plastic bottles or containers** brought into the school in the morning, be **brought home for recycling at the end of the day**, rather than discarding these into the garbage or recycling bins at LJA.



Did you know that the City of Laval was awarded [first prize in 2019 for best water quality in Quebec, from among more than 350 municipalities](#)? Knowing this, it makes even more sense to use this free, high-quality local resource instead of purchasing it in a bottle.

Additional Sustainability Actions at LJA

The GB Subcommittee on Sustainability was first launched in 2018 with the interest of staff members and parents on the Governing Board. Several meaningful environmental actions and changes have already been instituted over the last few years:

- Cafeteria supplier Aramark now provides only biodegradable cutlery, dishes, and containers
- Planting of over 160 trees on the LJA school grounds (project with the Ville de Laval)
- 100% of fluorescent tube lights are sent for proper recycling
- Student agendas for 2022-23 have been ordered and will contain much less plastic. Pockets have been removed and next year, the spiral binding will be eliminated. The entire agenda will be bound using biodegradable glue and will be completely recyclable.



Examples of Possible Future Initiatives

LJA's Committee on Sustainability hopes to pursue projects such as:

- sourcing environmentally friendly products for use/consumption within the school or for fundraising activities
- recycling and composting all leftover food and packaging
- reducing and eventually eliminating all single use plastics (in addition to water bottles)
- joining a nationally recognized eco-certification program for schools, to provide us with guidelines and practical ways to track progress toward environmental goals
- bringing the school toward carbon neutrality
- encourage our school board to adopt a global environmental sustainability policy

Going Forward

As we go forward, new initiatives will be announced and shared with the community.

Thank you for your support!

The LJA GB Subcommittee on Sustainability Practices