Establish Middle River School as the first Green-powered elementary school in Nova Scotia, and continue to develop its sustainability focus.

Consideration

Middle River School, a 5348 square foot facility was constructed in 1960. As is the case with most schools of the vintage capital refurbish is a consideration when the matter arises of sustaining a school in a community.

In its 2011 Identification Report, as part of the school review process, the Board estimated an eventual boiler replacement costing some $40,000 for Middle River School. The SAC would prefer to see those funds invested in a more sustainable technology, such as solar power.

Although the operational costs associated with Middle River School are already minimal, the SAC has investigated using solar power as a means of keeping the school sustainable in the face of rising energy costs. Through its association with Green Schools Nova Scotia, the SAC engaged Appleseed Energy to assess the school's suitability for alternative energy retrofits. According to Appleseed, the building would be an ideal candidate for a grid-tied solar retrofit that would enable the school to meet all of its heating and electrical needs. The estimated cost for the retrofit would be $60,000, which would include solar panels, replacement of the furnace with a solar heater, and all associated carpentry and electrical work.

Middle River would welcome the opportunity to help the Board showcase innovative cost-saving and environmentally responsible options for rural schools.