



Action Projects

Any Topic

Spread the News

Set up and maintain a notice board, e-newsletter, or blog that lists upcoming local environmental events and action projects in the local community, city, and/or region. Organize class or school participation in some of these events or projects.

Earth Day Celebration

As a special Earth Day Celebration, students at Beach Grove Elementary in Delta, BC developed and hosted a special Embracing Our Environment conference. In preparation for the event, students created art work, poster displays and information packages. Students invited Simon Jackson as their keynote speaker, a young activist who has been instrumental in raising awareness about the future of the Kermode "Spirit Bear". Each class attended two workshops on such subjects as ecoactivism, ecological footprints, wetland 'critters' and creative recycling. Guests from municipal, provincial and federal governments helped host workshops and participated in the conference. Nine community businesses and the municipality were involved in donating trees, gifts, prizes and organizational support.

Plants, Animals and Habitats

Get Out the Trowels

Elementary school students from General Gordon Elementary in Vancouver, with the help of Eco Education BC staff created an outdoor classroom with butterfly and bird habitats, a grassy meadow and a place for kids to play in the shade of trees. An information board in the schoolyard provides information about the project, tips on how to green urban backyards, and facts about the plants and animals that share the space with the students.

Get Squirmin'

High school students in Fort St James learned about worms, composting and reduced their garbage at the same time by composting. The students adopted a red wiggler worm compost bin and learned how to maintain, harvest and use the compost. Worm composting is a method for recycling food waste into compost - a rich, dark, earthy smelling soil conditioner. The great advantage of worm composting is that it can be done indoors and outdoors, thus allowing year round composting. Check out www.cityfarmer.org/wormcomp61.html for how to get started.

Get Growing!

Establish a vegetable and fruit garden and learn about gardening and growing your own food. Celebrate the fruits of your labour on regular Garden Delight Lunch days, sharing the food grown with the school community.

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Community Wildflower Garden

Partnering with businesses, community members, and service clubs, several schools worked to change a grassy field into a beautiful wildflower and butterfly garden that everyone can enjoy. Nurseries donated trees and shrubs, students grew many plants from seed, and service clubs funded benches and walking/wheelchair paths for seniors who lived in a nearby residence. Some of the seniors became key consultants, lending their gardening and landscaping expertise to the project.

Make a Stand for Tailed Frogs!

When a group of kids in West Vancouver discovered that a prime piece of Tailed Frog habitat was about to be turned into a housing development, they got active! Tailed frogs are on the Blue List of threatened species, and these kids found that McDonald Creek, a fast-flowing mountain stream, had a dense tailed frog population. After doing research into the frogs' habitat needs, students contacted the Ministry of Environment and made presentations at West Vancouver City Council meetings. They met with people from the development company and got on the radio and TV. The result of their work: the creek and trees around it were made into a protected park and the development company is doing a 5-year monitoring study on the tailed frogs.

Energy, Atmosphere and Climate

Eat Local, Eat Organic

Students at a Vancouver school worked to analyze where the food they ate in the school cafeteria originated. They then drew up a plan to find some local and/or organic sources of some foods, including fruit, vegetables, bread and milk. Students approached the school administration and cafeteria staff with their findings. By switching to some local suppliers, the school was able to reduce their energy use and GHG emissions while supporting local farmers without paying more for their lunches.

Anti-Idling Zone

Students at a middle school in Prince George worked to monitor the number of seconds cars idled outside their school pick-up and drop-off zone. Many people think idling is good for car engines, but it isn't: according to car makers, 10 seconds of idling time is all most vehicles need to warm up (30 seconds on a cold winter day). If one person reduced car idling by 10 minutes per day, they save 125kg per person of GHG emissions per year. After advertising idling facts in the school newsletter and posting "Please No Idling" signs, students noted a significant reduction in car idling, and better air quality around the school.

Juice Box Power

Students at Westridge Elementary started up a recycling program for juice box/pop can/plastic bottles at their school. A system was established where every Friday afternoon the grade 6 class would collect and sort containers for recycling. The school has expanded their waste reduction efforts to include a weekly litter-less lunch program, and the money raised through the recycling program goes into a student field trip fund. Recycling keeps valuable resources out of the landfill and saves energy. For example, using recycled aluminum scrap to make new cans uses 95 percent less energy than making them from bauxite ore, the raw material.

Way to Go! Bike Path Partners

Middle school students developed a petition to lobby their municipal government for a bike path on a busy road near their school. Assisted by the Way to Go! Program run by ICBC, they partnered with an elementary and secondary school located close by, and organized students from all three schools to circulate the petition. City council asked the students to make a presentation and have considered budgeting for the bike path in the next planning year.

Over-Packaging Attack!

Grade Four students near Kelowna went on a field trip to their local grocery store. They were recycling in their classroom, and noticed that a lot of the food sold at the store was over-packaged, especially fruits, vegetables and cookies. The class decided to write to the store with their concerns, and collected samples of the excess packaging material to send along with their letters. The store manager personally visited the class and discussed ways that the packaging could be reduced, which the store eventually put into practice.

Make it Solar

Organize and run a school wide competition that has participants redesigning a common, item that currently uses disposable? batteries so that it operates using solar power (e.g., a small fan, clock, radio). display the entries and celebrate solar power!

Solar Champions

Determine if any local individuals, businesses or organizations have incorporated solar energy as part of their daily operations (e.g., use of solar power or solar thermal technologies) or if they manufacture and/or supply solar powered items (e.g., solar calculators, cell phones & chargers, etc.). Create a solar directory of these businesses or organizations to profile what they do as a Solar Champion

Water, Wetlands and Watershed

Take Back the Wetlands!

Black Mountain Elementary School in Kelowna sits on the hills overlooking Okanagan Lake and right next to the Gopher Creek wetland. Students participated in a wetland restoration project, planting about one hundred native riparian shrubs and trees including willow, alder, Saskatoon berry and birch. Funding was provided for the project by the City of Kelowna and the Canadian Wildlife Fund. Now public awareness about the importance of wetlands has increased and the area is used as an outdoor classroom. Trees and shrubs provide shelter and shade and capture carbon dioxide, helping reduce GHG's.

BC River and Shoreline Clean up

Every year thousands of individuals and classes participate in shoreline and river clean up activities in partnership with local environmental organizations. Many of these events such as River's Day, Adopt a Stream and Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up are planned for specific days and have resources and tools available for anyone who wants to participate. Use the internet to research and list what river and shoreline clean-up or protection activities happen in your area:

- <http://www.shorelinecleanup.ca>
- http://orcbc.ca/pro_bcridersday.htm
- www.streamkeeper.org