
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

23 SCHOOLS GET B.C. GREEN GAMES PRIZES FOR ECO-PROJECTS

VANCOUVER – A total of 23 B.C. schools are sharing \$50,000 to recognize their students' environmental projects as winners of the first B.C. Green Games, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

“Students were challenged to start projects that support sustainable development, greenhouse gas reduction or environmental stewardship,” said Bond. “The level of participation and the quality of entries confirms that our young people are leading the way to a greener future.”

B.C. Green Games was designed to encourage students to document and share projects that make positive changes in their school or community. A total of 140 entries were submitted from 34 school districts, with 24 prizes of \$2,000 awarded. Reynolds Secondary won \$4,000 for two winning entries, and 22 other schools are receiving \$2,000 each. Entries included schoolyard gardens, waste reduction, battery recycling and a variety of energy-reduction initiatives.

In addition, two \$1,000 viewer's choice awards were given out, with a total of 9,000 votes being cast online. Windermere Secondary school won for its presentation about the school's organic garden, and Chartwell Elementary school was chosen for its video that displays the school's Grade 5 students' passion for composting.

“We are proud to be part of the first B.C. Green Games,” said Bryan Tisdall, President and CEO, Science World. “Our young people ‘get it’ – and we are thrilled to have already seen evidence of schools inspiring and learning from other schools across communities.”

Three of the winning schools; Admiral Seymour Elementary, Reynolds Secondary and Dover Bay Secondary, were also awarded solar panel systems from SolarBC via a random draw. All participating schools received a celebration package to recognize their green efforts.

“SolarBC is delighted to be a part of this wonderful program, which champions creativity and encourages new ways of thinking about our world,” said Nitya Harris, SolarBC executive director. “Children of all ages are inspired by a solar future, and we are happy to help them move in that direction.”

B.C. Green Games is a partnership between the Province and Science World British Columbia. It was developed in collaboration with the North Vancouver and Richmond school districts and the Environmental Educator's Provincial Specialist Association.

Science World, a non-profit organization, hopes to inspire students to become science and technology innovators who will one day develop solutions to environmental issues. This important initiative is also supported by Living Water Smart, TELUS, and Solar BC.

By developing new curriculum and providing resources, such as eco kits for schools and an interdisciplinary Environmental Learning Guide for teachers, the Province is helping educators teach students about climate change and environmental sustainability. As part of government's commitment to reduce B.C.'s carbon footprint, all new and upgraded schools will be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards.

“With the type of projects these students have initiated, we will be able to save water, time and money, and reduce our fuel consumption,” said Environment Minister Barry Penner. “And through their efforts we can spread the message of environmental responsibility to parents and the Province as a whole.”

To view projects submitted in the B.C. Green Games competition, go to: www.bcreengames.ca. LiveSmart BC builds sustainable communities by rewarding smart choices to reduce energy consumption and by promoting investment in green business opportunities to help create new jobs in a low-carbon economy. To learn more, visit www.livesmartbc.ca

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUND

2009EDUC0055-000733
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B.C. GREEN GAMES WINNERS ANNOUNCED

TWENTY-FOUR \$2,000 PRIZES

Elementary School Winners:

- **T.M. Roberts Elementary School – School District # 5 – Cranbrook**
T.M. Roberts Elementary school has an impressive environmental resume. It composts, recycles, is a “no idling” and PowerSmart school, and it has maintained a nature garden since 2005.
- **Kersley Elementary School – School District # 28 – Quesnel**
Kersley Elementary school leads the community in green initiatives. It has an extensive recycling program that includes daily composting. The school has also created an “idle-free zone.” Kersley Elementary has reached out to its community and plans to continue with an anti-garbage bag proposal.
- **Dogwood Elementary School – School District # 36 – Surrey**
Dogwood Elementary is changing the hearts and minds of its surrounding community. The students passionately displayed their litter-less lunch program, composting and recycling in their video entry.
- **Erma Stephenson Elementary School – School District # 36 – Surrey**
Erma Stephenson Elementary students highlighted their litter-less lunch bag and composting programs at their school with an engaging video.
- **W.D. Ferris Elementary School – School District # 38 – Richmond**
WD Ferris Elementary students dug deep into their own garbage and realized they needed to make a significant change in how their students disposed of waste. The students created a presentation showcasing their composting and recycling initiatives.
- **Admiral Seymour Elementary School – School District # 39 – Vancouver**
Admiral Seymour Elementary students highlighted their carbon saving initiatives in their presentation. Students connected with UBC students and other local environmental groups. They recorded their energy consumption habits and then performed an educational play to inform their school.
- **Chartwell Elementary School – School District # 45 – West Vancouver**
Chartwell Elementary school’s grade 5 students displayed their passion for compost in their video submission. Chartwell’s composting program occurs daily and is student lead and run. Additionally, this school also won the Elementary School Viewer’s Choice \$1,000 prize.

- **Tuc-El-Nuit Elementary School – School District #53 – Oliver**
On Earth Day 2008, students from Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary school discovered that diesel fuel was being used on their sports fields for lining. Recognizing the potential harm this could have on themselves and the environment, the students researched the resulting effects, presented alternatives, and succeeded in changing the field marking practices.
- **Telkwa Elementary School – School District # 54 – Telkwa**
Students from Telkwa Elementary school exemplify dedication to the environment. A video diary outlined how they collected compost from five local businesses and subsequently educated others on how to reduce their carbon footprint.
- **Westwood Elementary School – School District # 57 – Prince George**
Westwood Elementary school showcased its extensive nature garden. Westwood's gardens include a prairie section, stream of dreams fish and an Aboriginal garden. The garden projects involved the entire school as well as community members.
- **Kelset Elementary School – School District # 63 – Saanich**
Kelset Elementary school students are making a difference for the region's landfill by involving themselves in extreme recycling. For one week last November, the entire school produced only one bag of garbage. The school plans to complete one-thousand green acts and achieve Earth School Status through the SEEDS program.
- **Bench Elementary School – School District # 79 – Cowichan Bay**
Students at Bench Elementary have reached out to their community as well as the less fortunate in other countries. Through a student-lead awareness campaign and fundraisers, they are working to save Somenos Marsh.

Secondary School Winners

- **Nakusp Secondary School – School District # 10 – Nakusp**
The sustainability club at Nakusp Secondary school succeeded in engaging the media, local government officials and citizens in their efforts to turn Nakusp into a fair trade town. The students intend to build a bike rack and a garden at their school.
- **Fraser Heights Secondary School – School District # 36 – Surrey**
The Be the Change Challenge program was created by students at Fraser Heights Secondary and has resulted in extraordinary district-wide environmental action, as they work with local elementary schools to raise awareness of sustainability issues. The students have also sold reusable water bottles and built a bio-sand water filter to address water issues locally and globally.
- **Robert Alexander McMath Secondary School – School District # 38 – Richmond**
Robert Alexander McMath Secondary students decided to use the excitement of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to engage the entire school in an Eco-Olympic project. The school's naturalist club measured energy consumption and the volume of discarded recyclables. This awareness has significantly reduced the amount of waste leaving the school. The club plans to implement the Bokashi Composting System.

- **Killarney Secondary School – School District # 39 – Vancouver**
Students at Killarney Secondary have focused on composting initiatives, and participated in field trips to learn about rooftop gardens and the impact of turning down school thermostats.
- **Windermere Secondary School – School District # 39 – Vancouver**
Windermere Secondary presented a thorough eco-action plan involving the whole school and community experts. Windermere has developed an organic garden and future plans include the development of a greenhouse and expansion of the garden. Windermere Secondary was also awarded the Secondary School Viewer’s Choice \$1,000 prize for its organic garden.
- **New Westminster Secondary School – School District # 40 – New Westminster**
New Westminster Secondary school’s environment club is committed to addressing global environmental issues on a local level. The club prepared a presentation on efforts to create awareness of bee colony collapse disorder. Students are encouraged to “adopt-a-bee” and buy a beeswax candle, which supports their own apiary as well as the construction of apiaries in third-world countries.
- **Burnaby Mountain Secondary – School District # 41 – Burnaby**
Burnaby Mountain Secondary’s presentation on organic gardening and worm composting demonstrated the involvement of the school and community towards environmental stewardship. The school plans to conduct a garbage audit as part of their continued efforts to create a sustainable community.
- **Rockridge Secondary School – School District # 45 – West Vancouver**
Rockridge Secondary school’s environment club has worked to accomplish the goal of “zero waste.” Beginning with the sale of reusable water bottles, they subsequently conducted a garbage audit at their school and educated members of their community.
- **Reynolds Secondary School – School District # 61 – Victoria**
Reynolds Secondary won two BC Green Games prizes worth a total of \$4,000 to support their environmental initiatives. Reynolds students have engaged Victoria community in several recycling and gardening projects, and their video entry demonstrated their monthly recycling depot. The school’s presentation highlighted the entire Reynolds School community coming together to create a space for connecting to nature and learning about the environment.
- **Royal Oak Middle School – School District # 63 – Saanich**
Royal Oak Middle school showcased its recycling and composting program in a fun and inspiring video. Royal Oak students recycle or compost two-thirds of the waste that leaves their school.
- **Dover Bay Secondary School – School District # 68 – Nanaimo**
Students from Dover Bay Secondary are showing their concern for global and local biodiversity. The students researched and built houses to help the threatened mason bees. Dover students constructed and sold bee houses to help soft shelled turtles in Cambodia. Students also created an educational video on the proper disposal of batteries and set up battery disposal bins at the school.

Viewer's Choice Winners (\$1,000 prizes)

- **Windermere Secondary School – School District # 39 – Vancouver**
Windermere Secondary was awarded the Secondary School Viewer's Choice \$1,000 prize for its presentation about the school's organic garden. Windermere's future plans include the development of a greenhouse and expansion of the organic garden.
- **Chartwell Elementary School – School District # 45 – West Vancouver**
Chartwell Elementary was awarded the Elementary School Viewer's Choice \$1,000 prize. The school's grade 5 students displayed a passion for composting in their video submission. Chartwell's composting program occurs daily and is student lead and run.

Solar BC Winners (winning schools receive 2.5 solar photo-voltaic systems designed to provide supplemental clean energy) randomly drawn from the list of winning schools

- **Admiral Seymour Elementary School – School District #39**
- **Reynolds Secondary School – School District #61.**
- **Dover Bay Secondary – School District #68**

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