



# GREEN Schools Canada

## Fall 2015 Newsletter

Fall is once again upon us. As the leaves begin to change and the air begins to cool, we enter the school year with new classes full of opportunities for new challenges and ripe for change. Let GREEN Schools help you and your class be change makers in your school and your community.

We too are changing. This year GREEN Schools has a new Program Coordinator, a soon-to-be updated project tracking system, and a new program for motivating schools to create lasting positive environmental impacts. Read on to find out more.

### New to GREEN Schools Canada

SEEDS Connections would like to welcome Natalie Gallant as the new Program Coordinator for GREEN Schools Canada. Natalie comes to GREEN Schools Canada from the Calgary Board of Education, where she has taught high school for the past seven years. Check out her complete bio [here](#). Please contact her with your questions and feedback about GREEN Schools Canada.

We would also like to welcome the following new GREEN Schools:

- Departure Bay Elementary Eco-School of Nanaimo, British Columbia
- Dr. David Suzuki Public School of Windsor, Ontario
- Don Bosco School of Calgary, Alberta
- Kerrisdale Elementary of Vancouver, British Columbia
- Phoenix Education Foundation of Calgary, Alberta
- Teulon Elementary School of Teulon, Manitoba



### Update on GREEN Schools Canada Program

Over the past two decades, teaching and learning have changed tremendously. Across the country there has been a shift from subject specific rote learning to cross-curricular, experiential and inquiry-based learning. Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, GREEN Schools will be working to revise our current project evaluation model to reflect this changing reality.

Whereas in the past each project was worth one point and schools achieved status and recognition for the number of projects that they completed, GREEN Schools will soon be shifting to a points system that encourages teaching and learning with a greater emphasis put on hands-on experiential learning, active engagement and "change making". Projects will be rewarded with higher points when they are inquiry-based across multiple subjects and include the whole school. Classes will also be encouraged and rewarded for providing evidence of student learning.

Look for a detailed launch of the new project scoring system in the Winter Newsletter. For inquiries about what it will look like, contact [Natalie](#) or check back to our website later in the fall. All projects completed before January will be scored under the current system.

### Spring and Summer Project Highlights

Spring and summer were busy for many GREEN Schools. Here are a few of the great projects that were happening:

- Archbishop O'Leary High School revamped the waste and recycling system in their school and completed both a school yard and community park cleanup
- The Phoenix Education Foundation constructed raised garden beds over the summer
- The Shawnigan High School Green Team made a YouTube video with instructions on how to build a worm composter. Check it out [here](#)

## Fall Challenge

Start the school year off with the GREEN Schools Change makers Challenge. Here at GREEN Schools, we are looking for **transformative environmental projects** in schools across Canada. Document your project on the GREEN Schools Canada website to be considered for the Change Maker of the Year for SEEDS Connections. Just like the upcoming new points system, projects that are hands-on or experiential and that create deep and lasting change are encouraged. Awards to be announced soon!

## Opportunities and Reminders

### Share your Progress

Have a great project that your class has completed? Don't forget to login to post your project by going to the [Share your GREEN Schools Project](#) and update your school's information by going to [Update your GREEN Schools data](#) so that you can get GREEN Schools recognition for your hard work!

### Funding Opportunity

Looking for funding for your GREEN Schools Energy Efficiency Project? Apply for the Conoco Phillips School Environmental Quest. This program funds \$1000 toward a student-led environmental or energy reduction program. If your school is or would like to run an environmental initiative in the 15/16 year please apply for funding now. Funds are limited with the final deadline of October 9th.



click [here](#) for the on-line application.

### Teacher Professional Development

There is still time to register for the **Earth Matters Conference**, organized by the Alberta Council for Environmental Education is being held this year from **October 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>** in Canmore, Alberta.



### Keynote Speakers

- Wade Davis, *Explorer in Residence at National Geographic*
- David Orr, *Author of 'Hope is an Imperative' and 'Ecological Literacy'*
- Suzanne West, *CEO of Imaginea Energy*

Find out more at <http://abcee.org/conference/>

### Resources

Here are a few sites that might be helpful in planning your GREEN Schools Canada activities.

- [GREEN Schools Canada Resource Page](#)
- [Alberta Council for Environmental Education](#)
- [B.C. Green Games](#)
- [Eco Kids](#)
- [Facing the Future](#)
- [Green Schools Nova Scotia](#)
- [Green Teacher](#)
- [Ontario Eco Schools](#)
- [Teacher Vision](#)
- [Wilderness](#)
- [50 Ways to Help the Planet](#)

### Dates to consider

*World Habitat Day-October 5th*

*World Food Day-October 16th*

*Human Rights Day-December 10<sup>th</sup>*

### Questions and Feedback

Email GREEN Schools Canada at

[greenschools@seedsconnections.org](mailto:greenschools@seedsconnections.org)