

Announcements

Secondary School Green Ideas



Thanks to all the students who submitted Green Ideas during the February Campaign. It was a great success and helped the North Vancouver School District to better understand student sustainability priorities. The campaign generated more than 40 ideas. Students from five of the seven secondary schools submitted at least one idea. The Argyle Environment Club ran their own school-based campaign, generating more than 20 ideas. We are currently reviewing the submissions and look forward to developing and implementing the ideas!

NVSD Electric Vehicle



We are pleased to announce a new arrival in the North Vancouver School District maintenance fleet – our first electric vehicle! The new Kia Soul EV came into our lives at 1:24 p.m. on January 24, weighing a very healthy 3,289 lbs.

The new vehicle will be used by one of our HVAC controls technicians and will be charged at the maintenance yard overnight. While most maintenance activities typically require heavy duty vehicles, our controls technicians do not need to transport bulky tools or equipment, so this passenger EV was a perfect fit. To reduce the up-front costs, we were able to access \$11,000 in financial incentives through the BC SCRAP-IT and Clean BC electric vehicle programs. In addition, the electric vehicle will save more than \$1,500 in fuel per year and reduce annual CO2 emissions by more than 2.5 tonnes. Keep an eye out for the catchy white, blue, and green electric vehicle around the school district.

Pen Recycling



After a successful pilot in four elementary schools, we are now rolling out the pen and marker recycling program across the school district. If your school has not already received your special pen bucket, expect to see it in the next week or two.

Soft Plastic Recycling

Ideally we aim to reduce and reuse, but for the (currently) unavoidable plastics, we have stepped-up our environmental game at the Education Services Centre by adding soft plastic recycling bins to our waste stations. Staff at the Education Services Centre will take the plastic bags and overwrap we collect to the recycling depot so they can be turned into new grocery bags, plastic pallets, containers, crates, pipes, decking and park benches. So far we have diverted approximately 1.5 cubic meters of plastic from landfill. If you are interested in doing something similar, you can recycle your soft plastics at the North Shore Recycling Depot or at any London Drugs.

Success Stories

Energy is Awesome

Students at Boundary Elementary School recently participated in an “Energy is Awesome” session run by Fortis BC. The Energy is Awesome presentation is suitable for kindergarten to grade 7 students. FortisBC employees deliver the presentation at schools and talk about natural gas and electricity safety and conservation. There’s no cost, and activity books and other educational material are included. [HERE](#) are some of the reflections from Lindsay Grinberg's grade 3/4 students.

Opportunities

City of North Vancouver – Living City Awards and Living City Grants

Living City Awards: Each year, the City of North Vancouver recognizes local businesses, community groups, school groups, or individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership in environmental sustainability in our community. Nominations for the awards are currently being accepted with a deadline for nominations of 5 p.m. on April 26, 2019. Information is available [HERE](#).

Living City Grants: Each year, the City of North Vancouver gives out grants to non-profit groups that have an idea for a community-based parks or environmental project. Details can be found [HERE](#).

Greenest Schools

The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) and the Canada Coalition for Green Schools are looking for schools that are weaving sustainability education into their curriculum and bringing programs and activities to students that encourage awareness about the environment. Schools that offer any grade from kindergarten to grade 12 in Canada are eligible to participate in the Greenest School in Canada competition, and will be judged on criteria including: efficient use of resources and reduced environmental impact; enhanced health and learning among students, teachers and staff; and emphasis on sustainability and resource-conservation education. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Bike to School Week May 27-31

Encourage students to bike, walk and wheel to school during Bike to School Week, May 27 - 31. The event is a fun, free, week-long celebration put on by HUB Cycling to get students excited about active

travel. More than 120 schools across Metro Vancouver take part every year. Benefits of participating include students arriving energized and ready to learn, reduced congestion around schools, and an increased sense of school community. Students also benefit from engaging in a tangible green initiative that can be connected to sustainability curriculum. Registration is open now [HERE](#).

Ocean Literacy Leadership Camp

This summer, the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre, Ocean Wise and Navigate NIDES (Comox Valley Schools – School District 71) will be running the second year of the Ocean Literacy Leadership Camp for young women ages 15-18. New this year, the 4-credit grade 12 course will have a mandatory pre-camp online component. The onsite portion of the camp will run July 14-19 on the beautiful Hornby Island. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Canada Line Tours

The Canada Line and PROTRANS BC / SNC Lavalin are offering tours of the Canada Line to elementary school groups, community groups such as brownies/cubs, or summer day camps. Through the Community Liaison Awareness project, the staff at PROTRANS BC is hoping to educate young transit riders about safety in and around the Canada Line. The groups will be greeted by a Canada Line Attendant and taken on a tour that addresses key topics including: how to recognize a Canada Line Attendant and Transit Police Officer; the Canada Line's responsibility to the public; safety features of stations and trains; and staying alert and safe while riding and boarding the trains. Anyone who is interested in this program is asked to contact Donna Fontaine at donna.fontaine@snclavalin.com.

Metro Vancouver Sustainability Toolbox 2019

Metro Vancouver Sustainability Toolbox is a unique and experiential youth leadership program for grade 10-12 students who are passionate about influencing sustainability, leadership and collaboration in their schools and community. The program is a unique and experienced based program that brings together diverse students from across Metro Vancouver who share a passion for influencing sustainability in their school community through inquiry, collaboration and leadership. It is an action-packed course where students can explore the challenges, tough choices and opportunities facing our region while developing the knowledge and competencies necessary to take action and influence a sustainable and livable region. For more info and to register, click [HERE](#).