

SUPERPOWER YOUR SCHOOL

2018 Contest Winners!

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 10 WINNING SCHOOLS!

Atlantic:

Petite Rivière Elementary School

Through the Green Schools Nova Scotia program, Petite Rivière Elementary School in Petite Rivière, Nova Scotia enhances its environmental sustainability with a number of initiatives, including minimizing waste, using water responsibly, supporting local farmers and living green. Petite Rivière Elementary has its own garden that provides food for its students and community members. The school has implemented recycling programs for markers to create water paint colours and currently acts as the community's battery recycling depot. It also participates in Lights Out Mondays and Power Down Fridays to conserve energy, an ongoing water challenge that uses reusable water bottles, participates in "clothing swaps" twice a year, and creates art projects using recycled materials.

Petite Rivière Elementary's newest project to enhance environmental sustainability is the introduction of its chicken coop on campus. Students, teachers, parents and community members constructed the coop and the chickens were raised at the school from incubation. The hens lay eggs for the school's breakfast and lunch program and provide manure for the school garden.

With its winnings, Petite Rivière Elementary plans to invest in iPads and laptops for students who do not have access to them at home. The school would like to add a webcam to the chicken coop with night vision capabilities to ensure 24/7 supervision of the chickens, to share the story throughout Canada and give the children monitoring and observation access throughout the day on their devices.

Atlantic: (continued)

Waterford Valley High School

Environmental initiatives have been an important part of Waterford Valley High School in St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador since its inception in 2015. Throughout the construction of the school, its guiding principles have been to focus on air quality, waste reduction, energy conservation, water consumption and the increase of natural daylight. Currently, the school has motion-sensitive lighting, six filtered water bottle refilling stations, uses environmentally friendly cleaning products, and an outdoor classroom. Reusing, recycling and repurposing is an integral part of Waterford Valley High and is evident in its composting and vegetable garden program, Canadian Space Agency partnership, clothing swap, winter accessory donations, and school supply and iPod donations for the music therapy program at the community senior home.

Soil to Table and Back to Soil sets the foundation for Waterford Valley High's most important environmental initiative. The recycling program is the backbone with funds from recycled paper and bottles being invested directly back into the vegetable garden. With these funds, the school purchases gardening supplies for students to clear the land, establish vegetable beds, maintain the garden throughout the summer and harvest the vegetables. These vegetables are donated to the local soup kitchen where students and teachers volunteer their time to prepare hearty soups and chili to be served to the homeless. Its composting initiative was implemented shortly after the garden was constructed. The compost is used in the garden in place of chemical fertilizers.

The students of Waterford Valley High School hope to use the winnings to purchase devices, such as Chromebooks and iPads, to be able to share what they have learned with the wider community, and to help document and build upon their programs year-after-year.

Ontario:

Vimy Ridge Public School

Vimy Ridge Public School in Ajax, Ontario has been highly involved in environmental stewardship projects that engage the school community and beyond as a Platinum Level Ontario EcoSchool. Vimy Ridge is proud to have an Earthkeepers Club that promotes litter-less lunches and proper bin sorting; a Garden Club that raises and releases butterflies and has installed a large pollinator garden; a Family Outers Club that encourages families to get outside; a Nature Buddies Program that pairs students to investigate nature on school property; a Potato Farming Program that is a partnership between Vimy Ridge and local farmers to plant and harvest potatoes; and an Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program that was featured in a documentary called, "Bring Back the Salmon."

Vimy Ridge's major project for this school year has been a Walking School Bus initiative that aims to reduce the number of cars coming through the school's parking lot. Instead, Grade 7 and 8 student volunteers cover five walking routes throughout the community and have seen over 400 students walk to school on one day.

With the winnings from the Superpower your School contest, Vimy Ridge plans to create a learning space in its library for students to gather, innovate, create and deepen their learning about environmental topics, and promote STEM learning. The school would also love to invest in a drone that can take video footage of its garden and salmon, so that it can share its projects around the community.

Ontario: (continued)

East Elgin Secondary School

East Elgin Secondary School in Aylmer, Ontario is a proud owner of an Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) that encourages students who are interested in sustainability to use their ideas to help the environment. Currently, students can participate by cleaning up local beaches, building boxes to help ducks through their migration seasons, and help with forest management. The ELP also organizes Marshquest, a wetland conservation program that teaches students the importance of wetland conservation.

The Carolinian Forest Festival is an event that is planned, organized and paid for through the fundraising efforts of the ELP. Each fall, 2,000 students from the community and environmental organizations attend this event, which raises awareness about various environmental issues regarding habitat conservation and pollution.

In 2018, the Carolinian Forest Festival will be in its 11th year and East Elgin Secondary School will use its winnings to benefit this initiative. iPads and GPS units will aid in the interaction aspect of the daily activities and allow the students to participate in many interactive apps such as Carbon Tracker, Green Charging and GoodGuide.

Western:

St. Joseph School

After the students at St. Joseph School in Calgary, Alberta calculated that each class would use 144 paper towels each day that would end up in a landfill, they decided to take a stand to protect the environment. With their friends, the polar bears, in mind, they began fundraising to be able to begin a successful composting program. Through garage sales, entering environment competitions, reaching out to local businesses and international organizations they successfully began their journey to become a more environmentally sustainable school.

The Eco Team at St. Joseph noticed how connected First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities are to the land. They consulted with these community members to help them choose healing plants like mint, chamomile and lavender for the school garden, which are used to create tea and healing products.

With their contest winnings, the students at St. Joseph would love to invest in iPads so they will have access to programs like iNaturalist for BioBlitzs, Geocaching and Litterati to collect data to reduce their environmental impact. Having access to cameras and webcams will also allow the students to document and share their initiatives and be able to meet with conservation experts to remind them to think beyond the walls of their classrooms.

Central Memorial and the Career and Technology Centre

Central Memorial and the Career Technology Centre in Calgary, Alberta is a national hub for environmental education and projects. The school has been recognized with a number of awards, and inspired the Alberta government to invest \$9 million to give solar panels to 36 schools in its community. Students focus on farm-to-table food production, where they grow greens both indoors and out. The vegetables they grow are given to the culinary program, local restaurants and senior homes in the community. Students focus on learning about climate change, wildlife corridors, bison reintroduction and water security with various organizations.

Western: (continued)

Central Memorial and the Career and Technology Centre (continued)

Energy and Environmental Innovation is a new program where students immerse themselves in environmental issues and develop plans to tackle these problems to create a more sustainable future. Each issue chosen by the students involves a coloration with an outside organization or expert. Students in this program have built a community garden, pollination garden, courtyard revitalization and an outdoor classroom.

This program will benefit from new computers to replace their outdated technology. Having the latest technology will help a great deal in sending emails, videoconferencing, creating forums, and creating surveys, maps, plans and budgets online to involve their community members.

British Columbia and Territories:

École Margaret Jenkins School

École Margaret Jenkins School in Victoria, British Columbia is in its third year participating in WildBC's Wild School Program, which aims to increase students' ecological literacy, outdoor field experiences and build conservation connections in the community. Their student-lead Green Team has helped the school cut back on garbage output by 87.5% in four years, and particularly enjoys advocating for recycling and waste reduction including litter-less lunches and a waste-free weekly hot lunch program.

One of its biggest achievements to date was spearheading the restoration of Trafalgar Park, 1.4 hectares of coastal ecosystems, which is highly degraded and overrun with invasive plants. Last year, 11 classes visited the park 37 times, were trained on species identifications and removal techniques, and cleared 95% of the invasive plants in the park.

École Margaret Jenkins School plans to use its winnings to purchase newer technology for the classroom, which will help students understand the broader context of their work through research and community connection. iPads will be a great help in allowing students to numerically and visually report on ecosystem restoration by being able to document and share their findings in the field.

Walnut Grove Secondary School

Walnut Grove Secondary School in Langley, British Columbia has various student-led environmental initiatives, including the Green Team's Bottle Drive to raise funds for a water bottle refilling station and the installation of solar panels for the lights in the Astronomy classroom. Students on the Green Team, in collaboration with the science students, are working together on a year-long research project by setting up four saltwater tanks to emulate ocean acidification and global warming.

Walnut Grove's largest environmental project is the plastics initiative that is expanding throughout the school and community. Each classroom has a bin installed for single-use plastic recycling, and the engineering students have created a machine where they press melted plastic bags into products that are used every day.

The students hope to use their contest winnings to invest in technology that will aid them in learning proper research skills that they will use to enhance their level of education. Classroom technology, such as Wi-Fi-compatible projectors and wireless speakers, lights and microphones, will allow students to move freely around the school to present in classes about their environmental efforts. Having professional multimedia equipment will allow students to teach their classmates by playing documentaries, displaying case videos, presenting student productions, presenting their research, and much more.

Quebec:

École Alternative des Cheminots

The students at École Alternative des Cheminots in Delson, Quebec currently have three green committees because of the overwhelming number of students interested in learning about the environment. These committees all work on different projects focused on sustainability, including maintaining the indoor plants, outdoor garden and compost to ensure the use of eco-friendly cleaning products, communication of green messages to their community and more. In recent years, the students have created a tradition where a tree is planted on the school grounds to commemorate each 6th grade graduating class.

One of the largest environmental initiatives at École Alternative des Cheminots is Zero Waste Week. Communications are sent to parents and students and are also posted around the school in preparation for this week during which the goal is to generate zero waste. The students reach out to green businesses for prizes and coupons to award to green ambassadors who go above and beyond. These green ambassadors are responsible for monitoring the indoor plants and outdoor garden, recovering compost, promoting eco-friendly cleaning products and waste reduction.

The goal of students at École Alternative des Cheminots is to reduce the use of paper in the school and promote the idea of litter-less lunches. With their winnings, the school will be able to reach its goals by using new laptops and tablets to store work without having to print documents or use unnecessary paper. The goal of litter-less lunches will be achieved by using video equipment to share ideas with students on how to prepare litter-less lunches, and to share with their community members the success of the outdoor garden.

Louis-Philippe-Paré

Louis-Philippe-Paré in Châteauguay Québec is very proud of its Green Committee, composed of two teachers and 12 students. Together, they plan, organize and coordinate various projects to promote environmental sustainability within the school and community. These projects include raising awareness about over-consumption, properly sorting waste, tree-planting activities, suggestions for a greener Christmas, and much more. The students at Louis-Philippe-Paré participate in the city recycling program and have opened three socio-environmental shops on campus, including a school store, thrift shop and clothing store.

The school store, thrift shop and clothing store have been operational for two years and represent the school's largest green initiative. They encourage staff and students to donate products that would have otherwise ended up in the garbage to these three stores. They collect most of their items from student donations and locker clean-out days. These three stores require the participation of adolescents in the community who have intellectual disabilities and/or are on the autism spectrum, allowing them to build their autonomy and learn about environmental causes.

With their winnings, Louis-Philippe-Paré hopes to purchase new technology, including laptops and tablets, so they can properly manage the campus stores by being able to electronically track sales, rentals and inventory instead of performing these procedures manually.