

Wildsight Education
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4 February 2020

To Regional District of the East Kootenay

Please accept this letter as our request to appear as a delegation and a request for funding.

Delegation Topic:	Beyond Recycling - Student Environmental Education Program
Designated Speaker:	Janelle Park
Board Request:	General Admin Grant of \$10,000 to fund Beyond Recycling in RDEK schools.
AV Equipment Use:	Yes - PowerPoint presentation

Executive Summary:

We are currently in a major global shift in where and how recycled materials are being processed. Recycling costs are rising and recycling is no longer identified as a viable solution. Supporting the community in shifting towards waste reduction is an essential step.

Youth are the future of every community. The Beyond Recycling program offers an weekly, action-oriented, solutions-focused, environmental education program in RDEK schools that allows students to understand how their lifestyle choices impact the planet and provides opportunity for hands-on individual action.

Financial support from the RDEK is required to ensure this program can continue to be offered in our region. The program was originally developed in the East Kootenay and has grown to be delivered in 25 schools throughout the Columbia Basin annually for over a decade. Beyond Recycling currently works with other Regional District partners to support key messaging and initiatives around energy conservation, product stewardship, recycling and waste reduction.

Teachers repeatedly state that Beyond Recycling is "CRITICAL to today's youth," that "there is no way we would have the time or expertise to present what you do," and that they "believe that this program should be required in all intermediate grades."

Sincerely,

Dawn Deydey
Beyond Recycling Coordinator
Wildsight Education
beyondrecycling.ca

Janelle Park
Beyond Recycling Educator
Certified BC Teacher



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Beyond Recycling (BR) is an action-oriented, solutions-focused, hands-on environmental education program that supports students to understand the natural environment that supports them, appreciate how their lifestyle choices impact the planet and highlights the importance of individual action.

Created in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia, this 24-lesson program inspires Grade 5/6 students to think critically about global challenges. Throughout the school year, local professional Beyond Recycling Educators utilize slideshows, games, movies, worksheets, costumes, science experiments and more to deliver engaging interactive lessons.

Facilitated weekly, BR engages students to think critically about the global challenges we are facing, develop solutions and take action. Unlike the many one-touch programs that are offered to schools, the BR Educator develops a relationship with the students and explores more complex topics as they progress throughout the school year. Students are challenged to look critically at the environmental impact of their schools, homes and lifestyles and think 'beyond' simply recycling for effective and positive environmental action.

OBJECTIVES

The Beyond Recycling program will:

- Facilitate BR to over 200 students in 7 East Kootenay classrooms
- Support 7 participating teachers to facilitate seven Teacher Taught BR Lessons by receiving lesson plans, online resources, props, instruction and support
- Provide over 24 password-protected BR environmental education lessons via beyondrecycling.ca
- Support 7 BR Educators in facilitating year-long BR programs in schools and supporting students in taking action and measuring change through hands-on projects
- Manage and maintain BR Prop Kits utilized by Educators to facilitate the BR Program and engage students
- Increase awareness of environmental concepts including climate, energy conservation, product lifecycle, resource extraction, waste reduction, water conservation, sustainability and ecological footprint

RELEVANCE

Youth are the future of every community, and a sustainable community can only be developed if the natural environment is understood. Science is best learned by applying knowledge to a relevant situation, and the Beyond Recycling program is a unique program that provides the opportunity for students to understand the local context of science-based concepts, such as resource extraction and energy consumption.

The scientific knowledge gained by students in Beyond Recycling will have a positive impact on our youth and our communities through reducing waste, increasing recycling (including knowledge and activities to promote clean, proper usage of recycling and diverting organic waste from the landfill).

FUNDING

The success of the BR program is deeply interwoven with the many multi-year funding relationships that have supported this program including the Columbia Basin Trust, EcoAction, BC Hydro, Shell, Terasen, Fortis, TD Bank, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, and the National Science and Energy Research Council.

Up to this point, the RDEK has received the benefits of a decade of programming for no cost. As costs rise and funders change this is no longer possible. RDEK schools are now at risk of losing access to the program due to reduced allocations for the 2020/21 school year.

Financial support from the RDEK of \$10,000 would ensure RDEK schools would continue to receive Beyond Recycling program. RDEK funds will be leveraged and matched with other funders. This would allow the RDEK to they receive more programs than directly paying for providing an excellent use of this expenditure.

PARTNERSHIP

A collaboration between Beyond Recycling and the RDEK could provide an addition and expansion to the quality public education and outreach currently done by the RDEK. The topics addressed in the Beyond Recycling program support the RDEK's Regional Sustainability Strategy, and to the objectives of the current Solid Waste Management Plan.

BR currently collaborates with four other Regional District partners to support key messaging and initiatives around energy conservation, product stewardship and waste reduction. Beyond Recycling, Fortis and the RDCK are currently partnering on See the Heat program that allows parents of Beyond Recycling students in 3 schools to borrow a heat imaging camera and energy saving kit to identify and address heat loss in their homes.

We are interested in pursuing a similar partnership with RDEK as a way of supporting, enriching and increasing the reach of your current education programs. After presenting to Loree Duczek

and Kevin Paterson in October 2019, it was recommended to us that we appear before the Board and make a request for a General Admission Grant..

In the 2019/20 school year, Beyond Recycling will be delivered in 13 RDEK classrooms. Our classes have attended the exemplary RDEK waste field trips facilitated by Loree Dueck and the great work of the Environmental Services team at RDEK. We applaud this valuable RDEK educational outreach program.

PROGRAM HISTORY

Wildsight has committed over a decade to the development of the Beyond Recycling program. Since its inception in 2006, the program has expanded from delivery in one Fernie school to 25 Columbia Basin classrooms annually. The Beyond Recycling program was inspired in Canmore, Alberta, by the success of the Rocky Mountain Flatbread company. In 2006, the program was expanded to the Wildsight Elk Valley Branch where Dawn Deydey and Megan Lohmann adapted a booklet of ideas to create a 120-page online Beyond Recycling Program Manual. In 2009, the program was incorporated as a Wildsight regional education program, hosted resources online and expanded to reach students throughout the Columbia Basin.

WORKPLAN

Activity	Overseen by	Start Date
Secure 2020/21 Educators, Schools & Teachers	Admin Team	July 2020
Teacher Meetings to Finalize 2020/21 Schedules	Educator Team	September 2020
Secure Educator/Teacher Contracts & Ship Prop Kits to Educators	Admin Team	September 2020
Educators/Teachers Utilize Props & Online Materials	Management Team	September 2020
BR Program Classroom Lessons Facilitation	Educator Team	October 2020
Manage Website, Social Media & Outreach	Management Team	June 2020
Support Educators to Utilize Online Resources	Management Team	September 2020
Media Press Releases & Program Promotion	Admin Team	October 2020
Facilitate EcoChallenge Projects, Field Trips Earth Day & Hands-On Activities	Educator Team	October 2020
Budgeting & Bookkeeping	Admin Team	June 2020
Teachers & Educators Program Feedback	Educator Team	September 2020
Compile Final Report	Management Team	June 2021

EXPENSES

Cash Budget Item	Total Amount Required
Operational Support	\$12,300
Program Manager	\$12,000
Program Coordinator	\$12,000
Program Educators	\$65,000
Prop kit Maintenance	\$1,000
Promotion and Outreach	\$12,300
Mileage to Schools	\$3,400
Field Trip Bussing	\$5,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$123,000

REVENUE

Source Name	Confirmed	Amount
Columbia Basin Trust	Y	\$60,000
BC Gaming	Y	\$12,500
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District	Y	\$12,200
Regional District of Central Kootenay	Y	\$21,500
Regional District of East Kootenay	N	\$10,000
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George	Y	\$6,800
TOTAL CASH REVENUE		\$123,000

TEACHERS COMMENTS

"It not only teaches about what and why we need to recycle, but also how we can recycle items more successfully and safely. My students now pick through our daily garbage and recycle items that would ordinarily be thrown out. It has truly made us aware of our responsibility to our world."
- Anne Bock, Jaffray Elementary

"They are learning so much and I can see real changes in their behaviour (such as using the compost bin and reminding me to turn off lights and equipment when leaving the classroom)."
- Maggie Webster, TM Roberts Elementary

"This program makes everything so hands on and interesting. I could never teach this material with this level of impact and it has a lot to do with all the props."
- Carmen Murphy, Erickson Elementary

"Throughout this experience, students gained a strong sense of empowerment to make a difference. Although they are young, they want to make positive contributions to not only their immediate community, but the world as a whole." - Kyle Cullins, Frank J Mitchel Elementary

EDUCATOR COMMENTS

"Beyond Recycling takes a deeper look at how students' personal actions affect others and the environment on a local to global scale. Students develop critical thinking skills around major 21st century issues and then design solutions for themselves, their class and their Community."

"The Beyond Recycling program is important because it provides an opportunity for students to look at environmental issues through an educational lens. It gives them the opportunity to create their own understanding about the kinds of decisions they would like to make for the environment and what they want their future to look like."

STUDENT COMMENTS

"I think it has definitely helped me at home so that I can remind myself to conserve energy, recycle more and use less fossil fuels." - Aylan

"I have become much more conscious about my consumption of single-use plastics, I now know that plastic doesn't just "disappear" when I throw things away" - Paxal

"It taught me to think critically when buying food or choosing a school lunch to consider all options and how my choice affects the environment. It really grew my knowledge!" - Alec

"I have changed what I recycle. Since learning about recycling I have watched many things about our planet and how to be zero waste." - Jade

"I've grown to know how I have affected the earth and I have been more aware of what I do. I also learned that instead of buying new things I can re-use my old things". - Jen