



**In this Issue**

- Ministry Update
- School District Spotlight
- BC Green Games Year 4
- Teacher Resources
- Upcoming Events

### Ministry Update: BC's Education Plan

Education systems across Canada are changing the way K-12 students experience education. The British Columbia Ministry of Education launched a new website detailing its [Education Plan](#).

The Plan is based on a simple principle: every learner will realize their full potential and contribute to the well-being of our province.

To modernize our education system so that it reflects the challenges and requirements of the 21st century, and to move our education system from good to great, the Plan has five key elements:

- 1) Personalized learning for every student
- 2) Quality teaching and learning
- 3) Flexibility and choice
- 4) High standards
- 5) Learning empowered by technology

To learn more about the Plan and to share your thoughts and ideas with us on the direction you would like to see education go in the future, please visit <http://bcedplan.ca>. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/#!/bcedplan>. We will be posting regular updates here including highlights of what we are hearing from the conversations in the discussion forum.



### School District Spotlight: South Vancouver Island

As 2011 comes to a close, we can look back on all the changes school districts have made to reduce their carbon emissions. From retrofits to anti-idling campaigns, the education community is learning and demonstrating firsthand what it means to be carbon neutral.

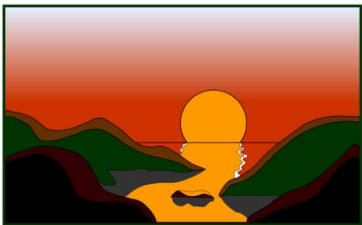
The school districts on South Vancouver Island have reported a number of innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Greater Victoria (61), Sooke (62), Saanich (63), Gulf Islands (64) and Cowichan Valley (79) have all reported unique approaches to carbon emission reduction, and have had tremendous success engaging their students in the process.

[Greater Victoria](#) introduced a waste management program that supports both provincial and local governments' mandate by implementing best practice methods of recycling, composting, and paper use reduction. [Reynold's Secondary School](#), multi-year and multi-project winner in the BC green games, is a leader in recycling and has shared their program with other schools in their district. This year, [Reynold's LUNCH program](#) was a winning project, focusing on local and sustainable food production. Students from [St. Michael's University School and South Park Family School](#) in this district also participated in the BC Green Games.

Schools in [Sooke](#) that participated in a conservation program that reduced energy consumption received 50% of the avoided electricity cost.



Gulf Island School District



## ...School District Spotlight

A total of seven schools in Sooke participated in the BC Green Games, sharing projects focusing on waste reduction. In addition to changing behaviour, Sooke has a school that integrates sustainable infrastructure. Ecole John Stubbs Middle School in Colwood is certified LEED silver featuring a timber design, ground source heat pumps, and a 50% increase in energy efficiency.

Sooke School District is also partnering with the University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, and Camosun College to create Canada's first forest/nature kindergarten.

Saanich School District created an energy and sustainability management position. This district has reduced their facility heating by 20%. They also designed a solar photo-voltaic demonstration project at one school that is tied to the grid, and wind & solar hot water projects at another. With four schools participating in the BC Green Games, Royal Oak Middle School submitted a winning project with their Waste Free Canteen. North Saanich Middle School is set to open in 2012 and is being built to LEED gold standard. It includes a space for a Neighbourhood Learning Centre. Kelset Elementary is also built to LEED standard, and worked with the community including First Nations partners, to be a leader in energy efficiency, environmental consciousness, and cultural awareness.

Saanich is also participating in a multi-partner project linking students to their city's climate action goals. Teachers in Saanich District are also working with WildBC and Greenlearning to take action on climate change by participating in projects that contribute to the Municipality of Saanich's Climate Action Plan. Projects on solar energy and sustainability help increase awareness of issues as well as reduce the schools' greenhouse gas emissions.

## Vancouver Island

The Gulf Islands performed building, mechanical and electrical upgrades in their secondary school and district office. With a total of six schools participating in the BC Green Games, Salt Spring Island Elementary won special recognition with the Guardians of Ganges Creek Project.

Cowichan Valley reduced district bus travel by 170,000 kilometers by changing bus routes. Eight schools in the district submitted projects to the BC Green Games. Awards were given to Mill Bay Elementary, whose Roots & Shoots club directed sustainability initiatives in the school, and Brentwood College who made their campus more sustainable.

## BC Green Games

Science World's BC Green Games motivates action, facilitates sharing and rewards the green efforts of schools throughout BC. They are thrilled to announce two special energy prizes of \$1,000 for teams that enter projects related to energy conservation. Check out these previously entered projects:

St. Michael's University School – Solar pop can heater  
Edgehill Elementary – Lights Out campaign  
Glenfir School – Recommendations for efficient lighting  
Port Guichon Elementary – Monitoring energy using Real Time Meters  
Delta Secondary – Electric drag racer

Start a project for the holiday season! Last year, the BC Green Games received these inspiring projects:

Chartwell Elementary – A garbageless Christmas  
Gulf Islands Secondary – Eco secret Santa  
Willow Point Elementary – Stuffie exchange



Ranch Park Elementary School in Coquitlam: Green Thumb Project.

## Climate Insights 101



*To send comments and ideas for future issues or to add your name to our mailing list, email:*

[educ.greenschools@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.greenschools@gov.bc.ca)

*or visit us online at*  
[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools)

## ...BC Green Games

To find links to local mentors who can assist with project start-up, idea generation, and implementation, check out the extensive list of [mentor links](#) on the BC Green Games website.

BC Green Games registration has been extended until the end of the submission period. Download a [checklist](#) (also available in [French](#)) for details.

Science World's BC Green Games gallery permanently showcases all entries to promote further positive changes in school and community behaviour. Over \$20,000 in prizes will be awarded. [Register your team now.](#)

Project Submission Period: February 1–March 1, 2012  
For more information or assistance, please contact Kate and Marina at [info@bcgreengames.ca](mailto:info@bcgreengames.ca).

Science World manages BC Green Games with input from youth, government, school district, university, science and environmental education community partners.

## Resources: Climate Insight 101

A resource for science teachers, students and anyone who wants to know more about how, and why, climate change is happening, is now freely available on the Internet.

[Climate Insights 101](#) series of short courses created by British Columbia's [Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions](#) (PICS) uses a combination of animation, interviews and interactive links to engage people on the basic concepts and findings of climate science research.

The first module in the series is called [Climate Science Basics](#). It consists of an introduction and four 30-minute lessons on:

## ...Climate Insight 101

- CO2 and the Greenhouse Effect;
- Climate Change and Mother Nature's Influence;
- Observable Changes; and
- An Introduction to Climate Modelling

Given the importance of social media especially to young audiences, PICS also created YouTube-hosted [Clear the Air](#) animated segments that explore and correct common misconceptions about climate change.

Climate Science Basics will be followed successively by three other PICS online modules, on regional climate impacts, adaptation to climate change, and climate-change mitigation.

## Events

February 2-4. [The Early Years Conference 2012](#) . Vancouver, BC.

Register your school's environmental project with [GREEN High Schools](#) and earn national recognition for your students' work. Join 49 participants across Canada as they share their environmental learning experiences and become Canada's first GREEN High Schools. [www.eco.ca/public/teach-enviro-careers/green-high-schools-about/72/](http://www.eco.ca/public/teach-enviro-careers/green-high-schools-about/72/)