



Green Bricks Education Society Annual Report 2016-2017





A Message from Co-Executive Directors

Diana Klein and Fiona Zawadzki

THANK YOU to our board, membership, clients and funders for supporting Green Bricks Education Society for the past 2016-17 school year. With your support we were able to engage over 8,000 elementary and secondary school students throughout BC in understanding the importance and benefits of environmental sustainability through the lens of our built environment in their lives, schools communities, and globally.





Green B10cks for Grade 10

This school year **2016/17** we delivered to 84 classes reaching over 2,500 grade 10 students with our live in-class program.

Since 2007, Green B10cks has been engaging students to understand the importance and benefits of sustainable building issues in their schools and communities. This workshop leads students, through a series of interactive activities, in investigations around sustainable building design (transportation, energy, water, materials, site and waste). Students discuss policy change and civic action and learn ways in which they can help make our built environment green. Green building continues to be a fast changing, leading edge industry and as understanding and awareness of issues facing our future increase we continue to ensure our program is challenging the students on relevant and current issues such as energy and waste reduction challenges.

Schools were reached in Richmond, Abbotsford, Mission, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Delta, Port Moody, and New Westminster.

Testimonials ...from the teachers

"The activities. Students were engaged and their feedback the next day was about how engaging the activities were for them"

"Excellent presentation. Covered so much in such a short time!"

...and the students

"The most important thing I learned is how we can use less energy and water in our lives at home."

"The solar cars were so much fun! Solar panels really work, my car went so fast!"





Green Bricks H₂O for Grade 4

We had a very great year delivering 115 of the Green Bricks H₂O programs (our grade 4 classroom workshop on appreciating, conserving and understanding of water). We reached over 3,200 students this school year.

Since 2011, Green Bricks H₂O has been offered to grade 4 classrooms. This curriculum-connected workshop engages students to understand the importance of water in our lives and how we can manage water sustainably into the future. The H₂O workshop explores the role water plays in our lives; nature's job of recycling water; how climate change is affecting global access to water; and explores solutions for sustaining future access to water. Activities include "Sink or Swim?" (water trivia game), "Dirty Water" (explore access to clean water), and "Tap Dance" (exploring BC's pristine tap water).

Last year we launched an **online water audit competition** for grade 4 students to encourage action and assess the impact of our program. The students are challenged to track their water use in the bathroom demonstrating that they are implementing conservation strategies learned from the Green Bricks presentation and subsequently share these success and strategies with their families. To encourage participation, we have a challenge that for every student who completes this audit, his or her class gets an entry into our "SAVE WATER, EAT PIZZA" competition. To see the audit (and take it yourselves), visit www.greenbricks.ca/water



Testimonials:



"100 % of my students were engaged and interested".

"My students found the information presented very useful info to share with their families: take shorter showers even though at first this might be challenging, use an aerator, proud that we use less water than other parts of GVRD, don't flush chemical cleaners down the toilet, use less water in toilet tank by using a rock, etc, can drink tap water, save rain water".

"They enjoyed it, could understand it and were able to tell other students a lot of the information they had adsorbed. 1 student didn't know she could drink tap water here".



Zero Wa5te Program Grade 5

This interactive and curriculum-connected workshop was developed in the Fall 2014 to engage grade 5 students to understand the issues around garbage in our region. It was designed to raise student awareness on issues such as Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge and how we can re-frame garbage to become a future resource. Our workshop topics include the 3Rs, in particular how important it is to reduce and re-use our resources, including the 'how to' for recycling and composting, and solutions for sustainable waste management in our built environment. We focused on helping the young residents (and in turn helping their parents) learn what can and cannot go in the municipal organics program, changes to recycling that affect BC, and to explore waste issues in our built environment.



This year we reached 94 grade 5 classrooms in Vancouver and Delta.

Testimonials

- *The students really learned a lot and were able to help their parents reduce the amount of waste they sent to the landfills. Many made very meaningful connections to the topic*
- *Sorting the "garbage" into the proper places. Finding out what items were made of that surprised them - i.e. pen that was made out of corn!*
- *Great workshop - I'd encourage every gr 5 teacher to offer this workshop in their school...practical, relevant and very engaging workshop!*

100% of teachers surveyed said they would book again next year.



Green Collar Futures

What do YOU want to BE when you finish school?

Our 4th Annual Green Collar Career Conference called Futures was held at the Hilton Metrotown on Saturday February 18, 2017. This was offered free of charge to students in grades 10-12 and students from all across the Lower Mainland attended.

The "green economy" is changing the face of the workplace in BC and around the world. This day is dedicated to students in grades 10 to 12 to learn about exciting and endless career opportunities. **Futures** allows youth to interact with career mentors from various sustainability related careers who have excelled in and are passionate about their green careers.



This interactive career workshop was offered free of charge to young people in grade 10-12. Over 150 students had the opportunity to:

- Meet and interact with amazing and successful people who shared their sustainability career paths in 5 breakout, roundtable sessions. 30 career mentors shared their career journeys, detailing education requirements, job prospects and salary expectations.
- Learn about emerging sustainability career opportunities in BC and Internationally;
- Find out what it takes to reach their goals; and,
- Practice networking skills.





Other Programs and Events

Talking Water for Adult ESL schools

In its 4th year and offered in Abbotsford/Mission is the program called Talking Water for Adult ESL students. This program has a focus on helping our new residents learn how the Abbotsford/Mission Water and Sewer Services manages our water supply and what we can do as residents to appreciate and conserve this valuable resource. We have reached 7 classes this year through the Abbotsford Community Services. Again the program has been really well received and we have had positive feedback from both students and teachers.

Water Week Day Event in Abbotsford



On May 10, 2017 Green Bricks delivered, in partnership with Abbotsford and Mission Water and Sewer Services, a water week day “Water Heater” for grade 4 students. We recruited student volunteers from Abbotsford Senior Secondary School and Abbotsford Traditional who worked with us leading the grade 4 students in stations to learn about water in the regions. The students rotated through 7 stations that included crafts, trivia, life size board game, water filter demonstration, walk for water game, Watershed game, and a tour of the Abbotsford Centre where rain water is collected for the ice surface in the rink.



THANK YOU

With your support we were able to reach over 8,000 students...



metrovancouver



BC Community Gaming "We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia"

D.Kelly Environmental Consulting Ltd

Kane Consulting Partnership

Retread Solutions Ltd

ORR Development

All of our Green Bricks Members who donated to the Futures Conference 2017