

Youth Forum on Sustainability – Day 1 Workshop Descriptions

Feb 25, 2004 – Royal Saskatchewan Museum

Session A (10:00 – 11:15 a.m.):

1. **“Teacher Workshop” M.J. Barrett – Learning for a Sustainable Future and Faculty of Education, University of Regina.** This workshop will address some of the nitty-gritty of getting an action project underway, including: helping students choose a topic, defining the scope of what's possible, gaining support from colleagues and administration, addressing barriers, maintaining momentum, and more clearly defining the teacher's role. It will be an opportunity for teachers to ask questions and share past successes. An overview of resources will also be provided.
2. **“A World in Jeopardy?” Denise MacDonald - Sask Council for International Cooperation, and Jim Harding - School of Human Justice, University of Regina.** The Earth is feeling the effects of present trends in population growth, economic growth and consumption patterns. Industrialized countries are consuming immense quantities of energy and raw materials, causing widespread pollution and disrupting ecosystems. In other regions, conflict and poverty are leading to the loss of renewable resources - primarily forests, soils and water - which in turn increases poverty. This workshop will focus on games that can be used to highlight global impacts due to human activity, including "A World in Jeopardy", "The Ethical Dilemma", "Blowing up your World," and "Global Issues Trivia." Participants will be provided with a take-home package that contains all materials necessary to play the games.
3. **“How To Handle Your Waste!” Dwight Mercer and Mark Smishek - Waste Diversion, City of Regina, and Malin Hansen and Doug Tratch - Biology Dept., University of Regina.** Waste is a big problem. The Earth can only hold so much, and where exactly does our garbage go? This workshop will provide shocking facts about decomposition and waste production and the value of composting and recycling. You will learn how to conduct a waste audit in your school and how to make your own compost bin with worms -- less smelly than you might think!
4. **“Wascana Marsh Nature Project: A Community Action Project” Lyle Benko - L*A*M*B* Environmental & Educational Consulting, and and Lorne Scott - Naturalist/Former Provincial Environment Minister.** Wascana Marsh is a valuable part of Regina, and we want to keep it! This workshop will be an interactive session that examines the historic and environmental aspects of the Wascana Lake and Marsh Project, and will give a political and economic perspective of the project. Through a simulation based on experiences of the "Friends of the Wascana Marsh Nature Project," participants will learn about efforts that were made to move key stakeholders in the community from AWARENESS to ACTION. They will also have a chance to comment on plans for a proposed Wascana Nature Centre.
5. **“Organizing Public Deliberations” Lori Latta - Sask Council for International Cooperation.** Many sustainability issues are controversial, but people still need to talk about them! Over the past two years, the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation has organized Public Deliberation Forums on globalization and international trade and food. This workshop will focus on strategies for resolving conflict and finding common ground. It will be useful for students who want to get their schools or communities to address controversial issues or plans, and those who are interested in helping to organize deliberations across the province.
6. **“So you need some money? How to write a successful grant proposal” Rhonda Rosenberg - Sask Assoc for Multicultural Education.** This workshop will cover the essentials of writing a grant proposal, including what funders want to know and how writing a proposal can help you

plan a successful project. Youth who have been involved with the Discovering Identity Valuing Equality (DIVE) program will share experience they have gained in both writing and reading DIVE proposals. Participants will also have a chance to work on their own grant proposals using actual application forms.

7. ***“Drama For Social Justice” Warren Linds - Faculty of Education, University of Regina.*** The goal of this workshop is to learn how to effectively apply imaginative techniques into larger community and school settings, helping to clear obstacles that get in the way of dealing with critical issues. Using theatre games and exercises that invoke collective creativity, trust and respect, we will explore many important verbal and non-verbal approaches to communication that are often overlooked in other settings. Through analysis and reflection, participants will gain greater understandings of issues around sustainability by working from their own experiences and developing mini-plays on these issues through images, improvisation and storytelling. Skills and background in acting not required! Come, ready to have fun!
8. ***“Story-telling” Preston LeCaine - Royal Saskatchewan Museum.*** First Nations People have taught wisdom for centuries through traditional storytelling, whether it be related to personal conflict or external conflict. Respect is an overlying lesson in most stories -- respect for yourself, for nature i.e. animals, trees, rocks, water, and sky. This workshop will include stories that are directly related to nature/people. Some will be traditional; others are based on personal experience and are sometimes emotionally hard-hitting. Participants will also create a theatrical skit about concerns that students have about living in today’s society i.e. pollution, racism, poverty, drugs, gangs, etc.
9. ***“Dealing With Government” Randy Markewich - City of Regina, and Shannon Sills - Culture, Youth, and Recreation.*** They say you can’t fight City Hall. In reality, Municipal Councils and other levels of government pay a lot of attention to public input and often change decisions as a result. In this workshop, participants will learn how to deal with stereotypes and expectations that 'adults' have of youth. In small groups, they will identify an issue they would like to approach government about, decide on their strategy and act out what a meeting with a bureaucrat might 'look like.'
10. ***“No Sweat” Purchasing - What Are You Buying?” Audra Krueger - Oxfam Canada.*** This workshop will examine issues around “sweat shop” garments. You will learn how people, many of which were high school students, convinced the City of Saskatoon to adopt a “No Sweat” Purchasing Policy, which guards against purchases made from companies that employ hazardous, unfair, or undignified practices in their local or over-seas factories. The group will be divided into fictitious developing countries that are pursuing international contracts for the production of apparel for North American markets.
11. This workshop will consist of the following 15-minute Success Stories:
 - ***“Recycling Used Oil” Merv Hey - Sask Assoc for Resource Recovery Corp*** - Details will be provided about a province-wide program that involves collecting money, in the form of environmental handling charges, whenever people sell new oil and filters. This money is then used to fund the carriers who collect used oil for recycling and processing. The program caused recycling rates to rise from < 25% to 80% and is now being applied in other jurisdictions.

- *“Zero-Waste Community: An African Success Story”* **Rodney Silocki - HELP International** - HELP International is a Saskatchewan nongovernment organization based in Weyburn. One of HELP's current projects is 100% recycling of household and toilet wastes in two major slums of Nairobi. Home Associations in the slums collect wastes and use extremely low cost, low technology methods to produce new products for sale and use in the same local community. The waste products are creating a very big surge in local industry and income generation for women, who are among the most marginalized. Local government is also extremely excited as the project does away with the need for city council to provide waste collection and sewer systems.
- *“Destination Conservation”* **Margret Asmuss - Sask Environmental Society** - The Destination Conservation program has helped students across Saskatchewan become more energy aware, save energy at their schools, and save energy for their homes and communities.
- *“A “Green” Courtyard”* **Tom Biss and Curtis Hoffart - Michael A. Riffel High School** - Enormous amounts of heat were entering our school through our glass courtyard, which surrounds our science area. We identified the problem and investigated many possible solutions. Our students came up with a solution that was environmentally friendly, aesthetically pleasing, and economically feasible.

Session B (11:20 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.):

12. *““Exhausting” the Environment! – Climate Change, Transportation and Lifestyle”* **Carmelle Sikma - Climate Change Saskatchewan, and Phyllis Radchenko - Sask Outdoor & Environmental Education Assoc.** Exhaust from vehicles is the number one source of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, due to unhealthy lifestyles, obesity and diabetes are major problems for youth and now even heart disease is becoming a health issue. This workshop will examine the spread of the automobile and explore ways you can create a transportation revolution through the OFF-RAMP program, which aims to reduce the number of car trips to secondary schools by 10% over 2 years. You will also learn how to create awareness of this issue, participate in a challenge to earn an "IDLE-FREE ZONE" sign for your school, and promote anti-idling in your community!
13. *“How Big Is Your Ecological Footprint?”* **Jennifer Fix - Geography Dept., University of Regina, and Jim Elliot - Good Ideas Group.** Our impacts are affected by the choices we make. An effective way to measure these impacts is to estimate the ecological footprints we create as individuals, groups, and organizations. This workshop will involve learning about footprints and how to use a footprint calculator. Participants will also be able to "see" how their footprints respond when they make different choices around transportation, housing, food intake, and the use of goods and services.
14. *“Restoring Native Prairie”* **Jennifer Lohmeyer - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.** Only ~25% of Saskatchewan remains as native prairie. By restoring schoolyards and other areas to natural vegetation, people can appreciate and learn about the value of native grasslands and biodiversity. In this session, we will work through the steps of a prairie restoration project from idea, to choosing a site, to fundraising, to maintaining the plot.
15. *“What's In The Water?”* **Myles Radchenko - Swift Current Comprehensive, Jeff Hovdebo - Fisheries and Oceans, and Lorelei Benoit – Biology Dept., University of Regina.** Healthy water is essential for people and wildlife. This workshop will explore simple and practical techniques that can be used to monitor the quality of water supplies and fish habitat, including tests for turbidity, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrates, phosphates and dissolved oxygen. The results of a student-based monitoring program along Swift Current Creek will be

presented, including evidence that the city was dumping lagoon water without permission from Saskatchewan Environment.

16. ***“Care and Feeding of the Media” Sean Prpick - CBC Radio.*** It's a fact of life. Just about anyone who would like to get involved in business leadership or public life is going to end up talking to the Media. In this workshop, you will learn how to make this as painless as possible. Through a role-playing exercise that puts you at the centre of a serious public emergency, you will learn about preparing a news release and how to deal with journalists one-on-one. If something goes badly wrong, what do you do when the media comes? This workshop will show you.
17. ***“Can Do! How to Plan a Project” Lizabeth Nicholls - Saskatchewan Watershed Authority in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Saskatchewan Environment.*** How do we plan a project? What are our community resources? Where can we get advice? We will explore these questions and look at a model for developing an environmental action project at your school, based on the Project WILD and National Wildlife Week resources.
18. ***“Applying A Social Justice Lens” Liz Cooper - Faculty of Education, University of Regina***
As we work to understand how to protect and improve our physical environment, we must always remember to consider the people who live and work in that environment. This workshop will help us think about working with people, being fair to them, finding out what they think about, and want for the environment around them. This will help us to plan better, fairer and more successful projects.
19. ***“Effective Communication” Paul Trottier - CRTEE, University of Saskatchewan.*** Effective methods of communication are critical when people want to raise awareness about sustainability issues. This workshop will revolve around two sustainability action plans that will be broken down to identify necessary partners and steps that need to be taken to ensure the desired message gets across.
20. ***“Starting A Green Business” Phil Anderson - SCARS Cycle Messenger, and Fred Clipsham - City of Regina councillor.*** There are many opportunities for developing "green" businesses that would reduce the amount of fossil fuels consumed in day-to-day activities. This workshop will look at some of the steps involved, including the identification of key people and organizations and the creation of a viable plan. We will also focus on one-on-one communication skills that are useful when approaching people who can get the job done.
21. ***“How Your Food Gets to You” Rick Morrell - Eat Healthy Foods.*** Learn how to minimize the impact of the food you eat! This workshop will address a range of issues related to food, including fair trade, bioregionalism in food production and overall consumption patterns, organic agriculture, multinational control of the food supply, and environmental impacts of food production and how to minimize them. The group will pick one topic of interest and strategize about how to promote it to the public. As a consumer, you have the right to choose!
22. This workshop will consist of the following 15-minute Success Stories:
 - ***“Lumsden High School Outdoor Environmental Club” Chelsey Bartlett and Amy Wilker - Lumsden High School*** - Students of Lumsden High School have created a better environment over the years. They have taken on a range of projects, including shelterbelts, extensive recycling programs, wetland rehabilitation, and a current proposal to the school board, requesting the implementation of a previously designed naturalized schoolyard. The students will show the group how they got their ideas of the ground!

- *“Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) - Working With Communities”* **Barbara Hanbidge and Rick Wishart - Ducks Unlimited Canada** - This workshop will describe how DUC has been working with community groups to restore wetlands, using examples from across Canada. Projects have included urban wetlands and areas adjacent to schoolyards. These areas are now used for educational programming and teaching teachers and are also available to the public.
- *“DIVE in!”* **Rhonda Rosenberg - Sask Assoc for Multicultural Education** - The purpose of Discovering Identity Valuing Equality (DIVE) is to engage youth in exploring issues of diversity in their lives and taking a leadership role in their community. DIVE offers opportunities to young people to explore their own and other cultures at a weekend training retreat, and then works with them to create strategies for them to take on a leadership role in their schools, homes and communities. The Saskatchewan Association for Multicultural Education (SAME) supports youth-created projects that provide opportunities for the youth and others to grow in intercultural acceptance. Participants also are involved in a conference and networking activities.
- *“Preserving Our Urban Forest”* **D'Arcy Schenk - Wascana Centre Authority** - The City of Regina has a diverse urban forest that faces a range of threats, including damage due to Dutch Elm Disease. This workshop will look at steps that being taken by Wascana Centre Authority to preserve the health of trees in the City.