

Backgrounder

CRD
Making a difference...together

2012 EcoStar Award Winners

Water Stewardship Winner: Superior Restaurant Services

Superior Restaurant Services has been working with restaurants to eliminate or control the discharge of chemicals and grease into the storm and sanitary systems of Victoria since 1999. Superior Restaurant Services invented a recovery system that releases rain water and captures the grease generated from kitchen exhaust fans, which then directs the exhaust fans wash water away from the storm system. This recovery system also ensures that the service provider will have the equipment and process available to prevent storm water contamination by achieving 99% waste recovery. Landlords and property management companies are now implementing this protection on roofs across the country.

Climate Action Winner: Oughtred Coffee and Tea

Family owned and operated, Oughtred Coffee and Tea has been an active community contributor since 1973. In 2009, with the goal of becoming a carbon neutral company, Oughtred developed an in-house Carbon Reduction Program. In addition to practicing waste management including composting organic waste recycling, and recycling coffee sacs, the business changed their purchasing practices and equipment. They now route and load based on reducing emissions and introduced a system to re-route heat from their coffee roasting process through pipes to warm their plant in the winter months. Now a carbon neutral business, Oughtred extends its commitment to the community, speaking to local businesses and students about sustainable operating practices and inspiring other businesses to practice sustainability.

Climate Action Non-Profit Winner: Saanich School District

With approximately 7,000 local students, and hundreds of international and distance learning students, the Saanich School District offers a variety of quality programs to its students that place an emphasis on social responsibility. The School District's approach to sustainability begins with making sustainability an integral part of the learning environment. In 2009, the district piloted diskless client technology, a hybrid technology that utilizes energy efficient "slim" clients. These diskless computers have a significantly longer expected lifespan than desktop

PC computers, which cuts down on e-waste and replacement costs over time. The technology is now used in all middle and secondary schools in the district, and has resulted in a 75% reduction in energy use.

Waste Reduction Non-Profit Winner: Woman in Need Community Cooperative

Women in Need (WIN) Community Cooperative is equally dedicated to helping women along their journey between crisis and wellness, and promoting a healthy and sustainable environment. In one year, WIN was able to better understand the extent and impacts of their carbon footprint. Their efforts resulted in a 49% reduction in waste. This in part was achieved by increasing the diversion of goods that were not needed in their programs to more than 10 other local organizations; implementing an extensive recycling program; and launching an education campaign for donors to increase awareness of how and where to recycle items not suitable for donation. The success of WIN continues through the efforts of 35 employees and over 50 volunteers.

Waste Reduction Winner: Heritage Office Furnishings

Over the past decade, Heritage Office Furnishings has become a true leader in sustainability, diverting an impressive 90% of their waste from Hartland landfill every year. Their waste management program is not only effective in diverting waste from the landfill, but has inspired the community and provided an innovative model for their industry. Heritage has adopted a 'zero waste mission' that includes: an internal recycling program; re-furbishing used furniture; recycling wooden delivery pallets; selling 95% recycled furniture; and donating surplus furniture to over 20 local charity organizations.

Integrated Watershed Management Winner: Bowker Creek Blueprint

The municipalities of Victoria, Oak Bay and Saanich, along with land stewards and community volunteers, are working together to improve the health of Bowker Creek and its watershed through the development and implementation of the Bowker Creek Blueprint. The blueprint outlines a specific and achievable creek restoration action plan over a 100 year period which will help prevent further flooding, water pollution and habitat loss to this critical watershed.

Community Environmental Leader Winner: Frances Litman

Frances Litman, acclaimed photographer and advocate for the arts and the environment, combined her two passions to orchestrate a unique fundraising event in support of environmental charities. Driven by a desire to see environmental charities become as well funded as disease charities, Frances took the initiative to enlist volunteers, businesses, individuals, and groups to come on board in support of an event that would be unlike any other Earth Week event held in Victoria. Approximately 4,000 people attended the inaugural Creatively United for the Planet festival. This first-time fundraiser raised almost \$6,000 on behalf of participating Non-Government Organizations.

The festival showcased proper environmental practices with its commitment to zero waste, sustainable power generated onsite and sustainable bus transport for attendees.

Youth Leader – Meaghan Dinney

This well rounded Youth Leader is leaving a legacy of environmental stewardship across multiple programs, initiatives and communities - inspiring her peers at Reynolds Secondary School and youth in her community to take action to protect the environment. From spearheading a workshop to educate youth on food security issues on Vancouver Island, to getting her hands dirty in school gardens, to establishing a chicken fostering program that fosters chickens and portable arks to community members, Meaghan Dinney has demonstrated what can be achieved through vision, creativity and hard work.