

April 20th - 24th: Taking Action? Feeling overwhelmed? Want help?

Sign your school or class up for the EARTH WEEK CHALLENGE

Email Emily.Menzies@gov.bc.ca for free materials and an easy way to inform and activate your whole school on your (least) favourite climate and environmental issues!

Opportunities

Earth Day Canada: Research and post your earth day projects and events at www.earthday.ca or recognizes environmental leadership and achievement in your local community through their **2009 Hometown Heroes** Award Program. Canada's **2009 environmental hero will receive a cash-prize of \$10 000** (\$5 000 to keep and \$5 000 to donate to the environmental cause of their choice). Nominations due **Earth Day, April 22, 2009:** www.earthday.ca/hometown.

FUN Camps: Friends Uniting for Nature (FUN) Camps are a non-profit, **summer leadership program** for 8-12 and 13-16 year olds, focused on environmental education through fun, hands-on activity. For more info or bursary, contact maia@funcamps. Early-bird registration special of \$165.00 per week-long day camp goes until **April 22nd** at: http://funcamps.ca/2009_Schedule.html

Destination Conservation: A 3 year program that works with a team of students, teachers, administration, custodians and parents to address lifestyle and technical opportunities to **conserve energy, water and reduce waste**. Over 20 K-8 schools in the CRD have reduced their energy consumption through working with DC – is yours one of them? Info: www.dcplanet.ca or info@dcplanet.ca

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation: **Funding is available year-round** for projects that protect and preserve the environment, as well as promote understanding and participation in environmental activities: www.td.com/fe

Bike to Work (School) Week: Get ready for May 11-17! Adults – set an example and win prizes by registering your school staff team at <http://www.biketowork.ca>. Help students get in on the action through www.HASTEbc.org : **Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train Starter kits** are available - active schools **receive a free \$500 bike rack!** Contact omar@hastebc.org or 604.876.7962.

Idle Free Schools: Want to help parents, students and staff reduce air pollution, cut climate change, save money, improve safety, reduce traffic congestion and open the gateway to more active transportation? **Order Idle Free Zone signs** for your school today! Each school is eligible for up to 4 free signs at www.hastebc.org. Join the CRD's Idle Free campaign by creating a team, organizing an event and ordering **free Idle Free key chains and vehicle** decals to help spread the word. Contact: Emily.Menzies@gov.bc.ca

Sierra Youth Coalition's Executive Committee Election: Do you have what it takes to lead Canada's largest youth environmental organization? There are four seats available on the national board – to apply by **April 13th** or to vote April 17 to May 1st, you must be age 14-30 and a member: <https://getinvolved.sierraclub.ca/syc.php> For more info, call 1-888-790-7393 and **to apply, Submit a photo and 200-400 words** demonstrating your interests, qualifications and objectives to: syc.elections@gmail.com

Energy from Sewage: CRD Wastewater Community Dialogues. April 15-22, 5-6 & 7-8pm. Be a part of the solution and have your voice heard! Check out www.wastewatermadeclear.ca for **the date at your nearest location**.

Sustainability Education: A Solutions Summit: Mon April 27th 8am-5pm. To attend free Victoria webcast, dialogue and planning, contact Emily.Menzies@gov.bc.ca. To register for Vancouver host event: <http://walkingthetalksummit.eventbrite.com/>

Want to sign up for this E-newsletter? Do you have a resource or opportunity to share? Do you need help?

Take the CRD Youth Climate Leadership Alliance **SURVEY:** www.sureforms.net/emilymenzies.form

Contact me with requests and solutions at Emily.Menzies@gov.bc.ca or 250-361-8437

Earth Month April Events in the Capital Region

For more, check out Guy Dauncey's Monthly EcoNews: www.earthfuture.com/econews/default.asp

Sat 11, 10:30am-noon: **CRD Parks: Devonian Delight**. You get it all on this guided walk – forest, stream, wetland and ocean. 6 yrs+. Meet at the Devonian Park info kiosk in parking lot off William Head Rd. BC Transit #54 or #55. www.crd.bc.ca/parks

Tue 14, 5-7pm: **Victoria Green Drinks**. Network with green professionals: Canoe Pub, 450 Swift St. www.greendrinks victoria.ca

Thur 16, 7pm: **Permaculture Design**. One of several workshops hosted by UVic and the CRD. Learn to work with natural processes and systems to create healthy, vibrant outdoor spaces. David Strong Building Room C108. Register: www.uvic.ca/sustainability

Sat 18 - Sun 19, 10am-3pm **Gardening for Wildlife** Annual Native Plant Sale. Presentations, displays, and over 5000 native plants will be available to purchase. Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Rd. \$3/one day, \$5/both. Margaret Lidkea, 250-479-0211

Sat 18, 10am-noon: **Native Plant Walk**. Learn how to garden with native plants and shrubs at a free, outdoor workshop in Beacon Hill Park. (Meet at the Service Building near the public washrooms.) To register: 250.361.0732 or click on What's New: www.victoria.ca

Sat 18, 1-2:30pm: **CRD Parks: People, Plants and Places**. Learn more about common local native plants and their uses. 9 yrs+. Meet at Witty's Lagoon Nature Centre off Metchosin Rd. BC Transit #54 or #55. www.crd.bc.ca/parks

Tue 21 - Wed 22, 7pm. **Open Cinema 2nd Annual Earth Week Celebration** in partnership with VIDEA and guests. Award-winning documentaries Blue Gold: World Water Wars (April 21) and Addicted to Plastic (April 22). Cash bar, silent auction, food vendor, door prizes. By donation, Doors at 5:30pm. Victoria Event Centre (1415 Broad St) www.opencinema.ca

Sat 25, 10-2pm: Rites of **Spring Bike Ride**: tour of public gardens in the Greater Victoria area. Meet Trans Canada Trail Pavilion, south end of the Selkirk Trestle on the Galloping Goose trail. 20 easy km ride; bring lunch. www.gvcc.bc.ca

Mon 28 -Tues 29: **goBEYOND Project Development Summit** - BC Post-secondary students meet at Capilano College, Vancouver. Billeting & travel bursaries can be provided. Register at www.campusclimatenetwork.org or: mbaynham@campusclimatenetwork.org

Wed 29th, 4-6pm: Youth Green Drinks. Solstice Cafe, 529 Pandora. Youth ages 12-30 and youth workers, come share ideas and opportunities for green projects and opportunities throughout the region. Info: Alison@sierraclub.bc.ca or 250-386-5255 ext 225

Wed 29, 7-10pm: \$20. Exploring the **Wave of Environmental Sustainability Education** on the Web: the role of new media in the environmental and sustainable development movement. 1-866-890-0220. www.royalroads.ca/continuing-studies/GLEL1495-Y08.htm

Thur 30, 6:30pm **Oak Bay High Green Evening**, celebrating the school receiving 10 solar panels after almost a year of fundraising! Refreshments, booths and talks by Nobel Laureate Andrew Weaver and climate solutions expert Guy Dauncey. \$50/table, or \$15 to attend. Info: Sonora Godfrey: whereismyrevolution@gmail.com

Thur 30, 2009 **Sharing the Dream** webcast with **Severn Cullis-Suzuki**: [classes can join](http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca) environmental activist, speaker and author in an interactive discussion on environmental issues and becoming community leaders: www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca

Sat May 2, 9-5pm **The Climate Challenge: Practical Solutions to Global Warming**. Full day course with Guy Dauncey. \$95 Royal Roads. 1-866-890-0220. www.royalroads.ca/continuing-studies/GLGI1504-Y08.htm

Weekly events: (ongoing past April)

Every Tue, Thur, and Sun morning, 10 to Noon. Mt Douglas Park **Garlic Mustard removal**. www.mountdouglaspark.ca..

Every Wed and Sun, 9am **Bird Walks**: Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Rd. Call Margaret: 479 - 0211

Every Wed, 1-3pm Haliburton Community **Organic Farm work parties**. 741 Haliburton Rd. www.haliburtonfarm.org

Every Sat, 7am VNHS Saturday **morning birding**. Call Rick Schortinghuis: 250-652-3326 on Friday for location.

Every Sat, 9-12pm **Beacon Hill Park Ivy Pull**. Volunteers welcome. Cornelia: 250-920-3556

Every Sat, 1:30pm Tour of Merve Wilkinson's **Wildwood EcoForest** near Ladysmith. Jay: 250-245-5540

Every Sun, 10-4pm **O.U.R. Ecovillage weekly Sunday work parties**. RSVP: 250-743-3067. www.ourecovillage.org