



# EW ENERGY WIRE

## SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

*An initiative from SD43's Facilities Department - Energy Management and Sustainability*

Issue No. 11 Date: February 2023

### About Us

We are the District's Sustainability and Energy Management Team.

We work with BC Hydro, Clean BC, and Fortis BC in finding ways to make our schools run more efficiently to reduce our carbon footprint. New LED lights at your school? That was us. New efficient heating system? We were there too. Holiday Shut Down competitions, us too, and so much more.

This newsletter is designed to let everyone know about SD43 sustainability initiatives. All through the District, great things are going on to make our students, our community, and our world more sustainable. We want to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

### Calendar of Sustainable Events:

Earth Day District-wide Eco-Challenge Competition Week (April 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>)

Riverside SEC's Environmental Club Presentation (March 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Gleneagle Green Team Bake Sale (March 1 -2)

City Nature Challenge (April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>)

School Bike Programs for Grades 4-7 and Bike-to-school week, May 29-June 2. (All School Levels)

Get your vegetable Gardens ready. Planting in late March.

# Celebrating Earth Day with District-wide Eco-Challenge Competition week (April 17 – 24<sup>th</sup> 2023)

Earth Day is one of the most important days of the year. We hope our schools will take the opportunity to take some time to ensure students recognize the importance of sustaining our environment.

Please join us in the Eco-Challenge this year. Make the Eco Challenge your school's Earth Day event. We are developing the challenge in a fun and easy-to-use format.

To get involved or to get more information please fill in the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vCwdhrfWCI>

We are hoping to get as many schools as possible to participate. In the form is a request to identify a contact person to receive information on the many sustainability programs that arise. (There is a QR Code for the survey attached to this email if that is easier).

Please plan to participate in the Eco-Challenge from April 17 through April 24th. With Earth Day at the end of this week, we hope to get more schools participating this year in this fun and educational structure to bring awareness to Climate Action and Sustainability. **Scan the QR code for more information:**



## Riverside SEC's Environmental Club Presentation

The Riverside Environmental Club has developed lessons to teach Elementary Students the importance of our ecosystem. On March 2nd, they will be at Central Elementary to deliver the second part of their lesson series with a focus on promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

This is a fantastic initiative and one that other secondary schools should consider enhancing the education of students at all levels. Well done Riverside!!

## Gleneagle Green Team Baking Sale



Gleneagle Green Team & the Baking Club will be having a bake sale on March 1st and 2nd at lunch in the foyer! There will be cupcakes, cookies, brownies, and much more!

# City Nature Challenge

The City of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody are teaming up to participate in this year's City Nature Challenge and we're inviting your school to get involved!

What is a City Nature Challenge? It's a global initiative in which cities all over the world compete to get the most citizen scientists to participate in local flora and fauna identification using the "iNaturalist" app. [Here](#) is a link with more information.

The challenge runs from April 28 – May 1, but preparation and practice using the app are highly encouraged beforehand.

To encourage staff and students to participate, you may consider doing a private challenge in your school to see which class can get the most observations! All entries will still count towards the greater challenge so long as observations are taken within city boundaries.

Please share these resources with your staff to make the experience run smoothly and more enjoyable. Here is a [teacher's guide](#) to using iNaturalist as well as an [Education Toolkit](#) with helpful tips for successful participation. Some highlights include:

- Uploading all student photos from the teachers' accounts to ensure quality data entries
- Using the Seek app instead for our younger/beginner citizen scientists
- Cultivated Organisms vs Wild Organisms

We would love to see your school get involved in this challenge! Should you wish to partake, please let us know so that we can keep track of all our participants.

Please feel free to reach out to us or Sabina Bendall (T: 604-927-4310 | C: 604-218-0469 | E: [sbendall@coquitlam.ca](mailto:sbendall@coquitlam.ca)) from the City of Coquitlam if you wish to participate in this challenge.

## School Bike Programs for Grades 4-7 and Bike-to-school week, May 29-June 2. (All School Levels)

Local municipalities have confirmed funding for approximately 10-13 more elementary schools to participate in a fully funded [Learn2Ride course](#) in 2023. Additionally, our provincial [Everyone Rides Grade 4-5 program](#) is funding 3-4 more Learn2Ride courses in SD43 this coming spring.

Please see the attached "BTSWBTS Joint Poster" pdf that combines information on Bike to School courses (such as Learn2Ride) and the upcoming [Bike to School Week event](#) (open to schools at all levels).

There is a link for you to register your interest in the Bike to School courses for your school.

# BIKE<sup>to</sup>school



## BIKE TO SCHOOL COURSES

Providing fully-funded bike skills and instruction for Gr 4-7 students. Our trained instructors show up at your school with a fleet of bikes so that all students can participate in either of our two programs:

### Learn2Ride

An introductory course for Gr 4-5 covering basic road rules in the classroom portion (1hr) and then safe cycling skills in the mocked-up scenarios we build on school grounds (1.5hr).

### Ride The Road

Targeted to Gr 6-7, this course takes place over 4-5 days, and explores basic bike maintenance and cycling safety. The last session includes a 30-45 min road ride in your neighbourhood where no more than 6 students ride with each instructor.

Register your interest at:  
[bikehub.ca/biketoschool](http://bikehub.ca/biketoschool)

## BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

A FREE week-long event to encourage students of all ages to bike, roll, or walk to school. Practice skills learned during a HUB course or get students excited about an upcoming course while building community and enhancing green initiatives at your school!

### SIGN UP NOW:

Teachers, administrators, and engaged parents can sign-up for FREE! HUB provides the tools and resources to run the event at your school.

### Resources include:

- Bike to School Week Guide
- Temporary tattoos and prizes
- Promotional posters
- Giant tracking poster
- Media kit

Visit our website for more information:  
[bikehub.ca/bike-to-school-week](http://bikehub.ca/bike-to-school-week)



HUB Cycling is a charitable non-profit organization seeking to make cycling more accessible to people of all ages and abilities in Metro Vancouver through advocacy, events and education.

## Get your Garden ready.



Spring is about to spring! Gardeners and garden clubs should start getting their planting plots ready.

This year we will be developing some fun competitions to see how green your thumbs are. We are hoping to have a similar partnership with Urban Roots Garden Market that we had last year where they provided our schools with ready-to-plant vegetable and herb seedlings. We expect delivery will occur in late March, so get the weeds out and be ready.

## What is going on at your school?

If you or your school is doing something that will help sustain our world's environment, we want to hear about it and let everyone else know. Please contact us so we can help get the word out.

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