



# EW ENERGY WIRE

## SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

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

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### 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>)

Urban Roots plant delivery (April 24 – 28)

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

School Bike Program Bike-to-school week, May 29-June (All School Levels)

# Celebrating Earth Day with the Districts Earth Day Eco-Week Challenge (April 17 – 24<sup>th</sup>)

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.



## Earth Day Eco-Week Overview

**Eco-Week Dates:** April 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> (the week leading up to Earth Day, which is Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>).

### How to Participate:

Form a Team and select a Team Captain.

- A team can be comprised of an entire school, class, club, or group of friends. Teams require a minimum of 10 people.
  - The team captain will be responsible for the coordination and submitting proof of participation (this can be a teacher or student).
2. If you haven't already done so, register your team for the Eco-Week Challenge before **April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, by scanning the QR code above or [clicking here](#).
  3. Participate in the daily activities listed below for a chance to win prizes!

**Prizes:**

**Team Prizes (8 available)**

Win a Pizza Lunch for you and your Team! Each day during Eco-Week, two different teams will be drawn to win a pizza lunch (*\*limit 5 large pizzas*) ...that gives you 8 chances to win a pizza lunch! To enter, all you need to do is submit your team's daily actions by following the instructions below.

- Each day your team can submit up to two entries into the daily prize draw (one for telling us what you did in relation to the day's activity and one for submitting a relevant photo).

**Individual Prizes (100 prizes available)**

On Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, everyone can submit a personal response for individual prizes. Each person who submits their own commitment will be entered to win!



**Please join us in the Eco–Week Challenge and make it your school's Earth Day event.**

**As it is so easy to participate, we hope your school will put in at least one team.**



# Urban Roots Plant Donation - Get your Garden ready.

Spring is here and once again Urban Roots is offering our schools an assortment of vegetables, herbs, and flower starter plants.

So far we have had 34 schools sign up for this donation. We expect to have the plants distributed during the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> right after Earth Day. If your school's garden club has not already signed up please contact us ASAP to get on the list.



**URBAN ROOTS**  
GIVING GARDENS

**2023 PLANT DONATION**

We are excited to donate a mix of vegetable, herb and pollinator plants that have been grown for this initiative

Urban Roots Garden Market is holding its third annual plant donation and giving to over 250 school and community gardens

Our mission is to promote food literacy, food security, and pollinator gardens within our communities & provide opportunities for hands-on learning

**EACH SCHOOL WILL RECEIVE 126 STARTER PLANTS**

This year Urban Roots is providing a variety of **vegetable, herb, and flower starter plants**, with pollinators in mind. Plant varieties subject to availability dependent on rate of germination.

Urban Roots is happy to provide this donation with the support of your school district.

If your school has an active garden program, please sign up through your District Coordinator or email [givinggardenseurbanrootsgardenmarket.ca](mailto:givinggardenseurbanrootsgardenmarket.ca). This donation is guaranteed for the first 250 schools that sign up, additional schools will be added to our waitlist.

There will be a designated pick-up location in your district, and plants will be available on **April 24th**. We are excited to support your schools and look forward to seeing your pollinator gardens flourish!

**Sign Up**  
Email [givinggardenseurbanrootsgardenmarket.ca](mailto:givinggardenseurbanrootsgardenmarket.ca) to register your school.

**Pick Up**  
Plant pick up will take place April 24th within your school district. Exact location TBD.

**Plant & Take Photos**  
Keep in touch! Send photos to [givinggardenseurbanrootsgardenmarket.ca](mailto:givinggardenseurbanrootsgardenmarket.ca) & fill out our survey!



# 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.

## 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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