

For Immediate Release

School District 22 Youth Climate-Action Projects Support UN and City Goals

More than 120 Grade 11 students from Vernon secondary schools are crafting community projects that support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals <<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>> and the City of Vernon's Climate Action Plan <https://www.vernon.ca/sites/default/files/docs/Sustainability/Climate-Action/210408_cap_full_final.pdf> .

Small groups of students are building climate-action solutions that promote environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits. Examples include composting, beekeeping and tree-planting projects, a community street fridge, a butterfly garden, and a hydroponic garden at Seaton Secondary.

"We need to inspire our youth and act now to preserve a livable climate," says School District 22 Superintendent, Dr. Christine Perkins. "We need to limit global warming and reduce the chances of catastrophic events such as heat domes, wildfires, and flooding, all of which our area has experienced. The solution is with our youth and their ideas for the future."

Participating teachers are keen to build interest in and capacity for youth contributions to climate action at the community level. To that end, the Fresh Outlook Foundation <<http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/>> is teaching students to better understand community sustainability, the importance of public engagement across all sectors, and how to design and deliver high-calibre projects and events.

Between now and the end of March, project teams will be looking for technical input and sponsorship from the City of Vernon, UBCO and Okanagan College, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and other community advocates. This support will help them finetune their projects to optimize community benefits now and into the future.

Project outcomes will be displayed at a Youth Climate Action Summit in May. This event will be planned, organized, and delivered entirely by students, and will feature global youth activist speakers.

For more information, or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and benefits, contact Jo de Vries at jo@freshoutlookfoundation.org <<mailto:jo@freshoutlookfoundation.org>> .