



Sustainability Recognition Award Application Guide

Who is RCE Saskatchewan?

The Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) program is a global initiative of the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). An RCE is not a physical centre or building, but rather a network of individuals, organizations and experts who are committed to using education as a tool for building a sustainable future. In March 2007, the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan was officially designated by the United Nations University.

What is sustainable development?

Two popular definitions of sustainable development are “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” and “improving the quality of life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.”

How is education incorporated into sustainable development?

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) fosters solutions that simultaneously support social wellbeing, economic prosperity, and ecological health and includes education that:

- explicitly addresses sustainability and/or furthers our understanding of the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental issues;
- contributes directly toward solving one or more major sustainability challenge (e.g. contributes toward achieving principles outlined in the [Earth Charter](#)); and/or
- engages community members with the aim of combining knowledge and action to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.

ESD is an ongoing, life-long process that includes formal education, non-formal education, and informal education. Formal Education includes school systems from kindergarten to the end of high school, as well as technical institutes, colleges and universities. Non-formal Education includes education, training, and public awareness that occurs through organizations outside the formal school system, such as businesses, community-based organizations. Informal Education includes educational activities occurring through the public and social media such as news and film.

How is the Education for Sustainable Development definition applied by RCE Saskatchewan?

The goal of all RCEs is to promote and support transformative education for sustainable development that fosters sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods that are locally relevant and culturally appropriate.

RCE Saskatchewan’s Education for Sustainable Development Theme Areas:

1. Building sustainable communities
2. Climate change
3. Farming and local food production
4. Health and healthy lifestyles
5. Reconnecting to natural prairie ecosystems
6. Sustainable infrastructure including water and energy
7. Cultural adaptation for sustainability
8. K-12 education
9. Youth

How will applications be evaluated?

Projects must include education for sustainable development and acknowledge its three pillars: environment, society, and economy. Through education, projects must strengthen one or more pillars, while not damaging the other pillars.

Evaluators will review the applications by the ability to easily answer the following:

Section 2:

Project description – Is it easy to understand the nature and scope of the project? Is there a clear indication of the educational nature and its relationship to sustainability themes and issues?

Project achievements –Is the application demonstrating the sustainability impact and accomplishments of the project or program? Has the project or program reached a significant milestone or its conclusion by March 31?

Section 3:

Building capacity for sustainable development –Does the applicant demonstrate that the project or program has a lasting effect with capacity to maintain ongoing momentum toward sustainable development?

Will supplemental information be accepted?

Additional information that directly relates back to the application questions and helps illustrate the project and accomplishments is encouraged. This can be as a low resolution photograph, scanned news article, brochure pdf or link to a YouTube video. Please be aware that large files (ie PowerPoint presentations) emailed directly may not be received and extremely lengthy presentations will only be skimmed. If your project is selected to receive a recognition award you will have opportunity to re-submit high quality photographs to be used in the event’s presentation.

What kinds of projects have received recognition in the past?

The RCE Saskatchewan recognition program acknowledges innovation, research, and activities in Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan. It celebrates the organizations and individuals who are building capacity for sustainability in Saskatchewan through education. This education can take place in formal contexts such as K-12 or post-secondary programs. Informal or non-formal education can be undertaken by individuals, community groups or organizations, ranging from small, not-for-profit groups to large companies, co-operatives and crown corporations.

The following table provides examples of initiatives that have received recognition in the past.

Examples of Initiatives Recognized in Previous Years

| Initiative | Exemplifies education for sustainable development (ESD) because: |
|---|--|
| <p>The Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative* helps preserve and build natural and cultural heritage in communities and brings together partners from a variety of sectors (the museums, governments and non-governmental organizations, businesses, volunteers, and researchers) to advance local projects with important cultural and environmental dimensions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotes environmental stewardship and heritage preservation • collaboration and partnerships build capacity to work together among multiple communities • demonstration sites provide opportunities for public to learn about sustainable development |
| <p>Regina's Edible Campus is an organic community garden at the University of Regina that brings together faculty, staff, students and community members to plant and harvest high quality vegetables. Produce harvested from the community gardens is donated to the Carmichael Outreach Centre. The Edible Campus is a partnership between the First Nations University of Canada, the Regina Public Interest Group, Wascana Centre Authority and the Institut Français.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a demonstration site for the community to learn about localized food production, healthy lifestyles and food security • gives faculty, staff, students and community members the opportunity for hands-on horticulture experience • promotes healthy lifestyles by giving underprivileged groups access to high quality vegetables |
| <p>Sustainability Action and Awareness Month (SAAM) showcased sustainability initiatives at the University of Regina and educated the public on sustainability themes such as food security and transportation. SAAM featured events such as movie screenings, winter cycling workshops, and seminars. The project empowered university members to make a change in their lives and their community.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • showcased sustainability initiatives happening on campus giving the campus community opportunities to get involved • featured Information sessions and seminars that educated the public about a variety of sustainability issues • created a space where interested parties on campus could network and develop partnerships, building capacity |
| <p>Footprints is an initiative of the First Nations University of Canada Northern Campus. Initially the goals were to develop an on-campus recycling program and to promote awareness of waste. It later grew to include wider environmental concerns including local food, composting, and hosting Earth Day events.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee with broad representation, including students, was established to address local environmental concerns. • The committee gained wide internal support and involvement in their on-campus activities and their educational efforts reached a large number of students. |
| <p>Green Sustainable Housing Forum, a forum on sustainable housing options in Canada was hosted by Saskatchewan Polytechnic in 2012 in conjunction with the City of Moose Jaw Environmental Advisory Committee.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • networked many local experts in fields related to sustainable housing, as well as some from other parts of Canada • sessions were attended by Sask Polytechnic engineering and architecture students and was open to the public • walking tours of local sustainable housing projects were included |
| <p>SaskPower Energy Conservation & Efficiency Education Program provides customers with information to assist in effectively managing electricity use with the goal of saving money, benefiting the environment and helping SaskPower manage infrastructure growth.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helps individuals to understand how energy conservation and efficiency benefits themselves, the environment and reduces the need for more power stations • encourages and supports positive behavior change |
| <p>Regina Catholic School's Oil Recycling Project is organized and operated by students to provide Regina residents with an opportunity to drop off used oil products.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students learn about the impacts of the disposal of used oil • builds students' capacity and life-long skills for leadership and taking positive action • provides Regina residents with an easy way to dispose of used oil responsibly and to learn about why they should do so |
| <p>Prairie Spruce Commons is Regina's first multi-generational cohousing community committed to creating a beautiful, sustainable, green building with abundant common spaces.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • builds capacity in members for cooperative decision-making • building designed for energy and water efficiency • located to reduce transportation-related ecological footprint • designed for efficient use of resources by enabling sharing of space and other resources |

* This project received international recognition at the 9th Global RCE Conference in Okayama, Japan, in November, 2014.