

Summary of Comments from 9th RCE Saskatchewan ESD Recognition Event

May 3, 2017, in Hafford, Saskatchewan

What inspired you today?

- Seeing the amount of innovation associated with small scale projects
- All the great presentations and the commitment of everyone. You could see it in the passionate presentations.
- The fact that I have discovered that the RCE exists and is world-wide.
- That so many people in SK are focused on sustainability.
- The degree of innovation and accomplishment. One spark leads to a fire!
- All the different levels of engagement – families, K-12, Post-secondary, municipalities, crown corporations, etc.
- Those creating opportunities for students/next generation.
- Starting education on sustainability at a young age at many schools.
- Engagement of our youth
- Seeing local school involvement in projects as well as attending the awards.
- Earth Connections, community partnerships.
- How many projects connect to each other.
- The variety of projects being done in Saskatchewan on sustainability.
- The variety of projects and the passion in the room.
- The passion people in the room have for the environment and sustainability.
- It rejuvenates you and strengthens your own passion.
- The creativity of all different groups and the innovative ways to solve the same problem.
- To witness the number of people working for sustainable communities. There are amazing things going on that most people are unaware of.
- Seeing so many diverse groups working on sustainability in our world.
- How much is going on in SK. EYES OPEN!

- Being with like-minded people who want to make a difference.
- Hafford Central School as a UNESCO affiliated school and the Redberry Biosphere along with the 16/43 projects and the impact it has had on our community.
- Seeing the potential at the Redberry Educational Centre.
- Rooftop garden, methane digester, SENS – Maureen Reed, biosphere reserve
- Aspen Park group working together across communities, vertical agriculture/food security project, classroom communities and the power of relationship
- The clarity and precision of the Rafter Y gang.
- The success of the Regina Outdoor Education Program

One piece of wisdom you'd like to share

- Engage your people – you will only move forward if you can live what you want to be.
- Diversity and partnerships are **very** important.
- Build allies in your community. We are all working toward common goals.
- Your champions are your biggest resource
- We need a database that links to projects that need help or are offering help.
- The planet isn't a commodity for us to use up. It is the world we live in.
- Don't wait for someone else to start to be an innovator. Look around, research and jump in.
- Advice to myself: take the time to research what is going on in my community! There is so much more going on that I am missing out on.
- Persistence will be required.
- Community development will bring many great idea and projects together if everyone is excited about making a change for the environment and getting all age groups to work as one.
- To continue to increase your territory, learning and sense of community.
- Diversity is key – people, knowledge and experience, ideas
- Find allies
- Learn from international sustainability efforts
- Sometimes it is ok to seek forgiveness rather than permission (guerrilla gardening)

- Sustainability is cooperative, not competitive. We can help each other and everyone can contribute.
- Make it up as you go – just get started.
- Pick your battles and capitalize on opportunities to advance collaborative sustainability initiatives.
- No matter what happens, keep pushing forward. Don't lose faith.
- If government funding fails, rally support at the community level for projects big and small. Fundraising, exchange of services etc.
- Always consider how you might hit multiple sustainability goals through a single initiative and use the 17 UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a lens to do so.
- It takes time and commitment to get any project to succeed and you need to get a good working committee.
- Never stop learning. Always be open to new perspectives, ideas and methods.
- The work being done by the organizations represented today needs to be celebrated and shared more.

What help/collaboration/info are you looking for?

- How can the Saskatchewan Environmental Society get more involved with rural communities?
dcs@environmentalsociety.ca
- Ways to engage urban people in grasslands – ideas, volunteers
- Partnerships for our Aspen Innovation Park project – ideas, funding (Contact 16-43 Waste Management Corporation)
- Wanting to know an alternative water system for making an outdoor park in the bowl on campus. – source of water, needs of flooding; tips for an ice skating rink would be helpful. Thanks!
vpstudentaffairs@ussu.ca 306-966-6970
- Renewable energy projects & clean energy investments
- Help! Democracy works for people. How do we make it work for the environment?
- I'm interested in collaborating with more school divisions that would like to share their school sustainability projects on a green map. Paul.stinson@sunwestsd.ca
- What are like minded communities doing and working towards? Could there be sharing of info between groups?
- Any projects or information that students in Regina Public Schools could benefit from when it comes to sustainability. Lori Milligan lori.milligan@rbe.sk.ca
- Students and public to put pressure on the U of S.

- A way of having group access to project info so that groups are not reinventing the wheel and having issues and the same spot again and again.
- A list of all presenters websites so we can learn more susan.carr@sasktel.net Prince Albert Model Forest
- Collaboration on electrification of energy sources, development of renewable energy, particularly solar
- Looking for ways to spread info about the importance of recognizing the ecological core in children and the efficacy of the Four Communities Classroom.
- I need people to keep working toward sustainability so that by the time I enter my career there's still a world left to serve.
- Demonstrating metrics and tangible objectives for community-based programs and initiatives.
- Always funding sources.
- Would like to know more about the U of R print optimization project – potential lessons for the U of S.
- I want to see what other innovative projects different orgs are working on that we could implement to help the environment and our pocket books at the same time.
- How to prioritize and focus when overwhelmed