

Second Place

Dewdney Elementary School in Dewdney, BC

Dewdney school is a small rural school with a vision to make an impact on the world. They started their focus on environmental education three years ago and have since doubled their population and welcome teachers, principals and other organizations to learn with them.

They have changed their school focus and school grounds as well as their thinking in order to be greener, healthier and more sustainable.

Here are some key elements of their green school story:

- **Learning programs:** implementation of the Community Outdoor Recreation and Environment program (CORE) that reconnects children with nature through place based learning opportunities, field studies, outdoor recreational experiences and environmental service projects.
- **Indoor plants:** indoor container gardens, terrariums and plants are present throughout the school.
- **Waste reduction:** reusable lunch and water containers, compost bins, classroom recycling, and the donation of leftovers from events to the local Mission youth centre.
- **Water savings:** classroom water buckets used for hand washing in place of taps with excess water used in outdoor foliage as well as water conservation barrels set up to catch rainwater for use in the garden.
- **Energy savings:** a windmill was installed in the DEN to provide an alternative energy source for lights or simple electric tasks off the grid.
- **Health and well-being:** Natural daylight is used as the primary source of light in all classrooms and outdoor activity improves physical and mental well-being of the students and teachers.
- **Giving back:** the school has partnered with the Adopt a Block organization to ensure the Dewdney slough and Norrish Creek watershed are free from litter, and have also partnered with BC Wildlife Federation and Fraser Valley Water Coalition to promote and educate the community on the riparian zones that border the school.

