

Earthwise Farm Education Program Final Report - August 31, 2009

Project Activities

Project activities focused on the development of a farm education program for secondary students and engaging high school youth in organic agriculture at the Earthwise Farm. With project partners, Delta School District and the Institute of Sustainable Horticulture at Kwantlen, Earthwise researched and recommended options for implementing an organic agriculture program. Beginning in September 2009, Grade 12 students may elect to take Sustainable Resources Agriculture (including organic farming) at the Earthwise Farm, as a graduating science credit through South Delta Secondary. The program will involve students in all aspects of small farm operations, from planting and harvesting, to business development and management. Earthwise is currently in the process of applying for organic certification for the farm.

Work experience placements at the Earthwise Farm were provided for four youth over the course of the project. Two "farm intern" work experience placements were provided for high school students at the Earthwise Farm during the spring and summer of 2009. As well two summer student placements were offered during 2008 and 2009. Under the guidance of the Earthwise Farm manager, the students took part on many aspects of farm operations, from the installation of irrigation lines, to planting, crop maintenance, harvesting, and marketing. Several of the students plan to continue their involvement with farming at the Earthwise Farm through the Sustainable Resources 12 program. In addition, the Earthwise Farm provided volunteer placements for high school youth over the summer season. During the 2008-2009 school year a group of students from South Delta Secondary tended three plots at the Earthwise Farm and provided the produce to the high school's culinary arts program.

Earthwise worked to extend the scope of program delivery for secondary students at the Earthwise Farm through developing contacts with other school districts, including Richmond and Burnaby. Various potential barriers were identified to accessing the program, including distance and lack of public transportation alternatives. A communication plan is in place to continue to work with these districts to promote regional participation in opportunities at the Earthwise Farm.

The goal of the Earthwise Farm Education Project was to increase the involvement of youth in organic agriculture. The project has been successful in that objective by introducing the first high school course in organic agriculture in the province offering work experience at an operational farm. Sustainable Resources Agriculture will educate youth about organic farming as a career option and provide the industry with new workers with training, interest, and experience. Through their involvement with Earthwise, youth participants have helped to engage the public and increase community awareness about organic

food production. This will be a key element of the high school education program that will be offered this fall.

| Outcome | Results |
|--|---|
| 1) Development of a farm education program for secondary students at the Earthwise Farm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Resources 12 (organic agriculture) will be offered at the Earthwise Farm in 2009-2010 - A Communications Plan for the delivery of this program at the Earthwise Farm this fall (Sept 2009) has been developed - The development of support materials for program delivery is complete. |
| 2) Introduction of a pilot project to involve secondary students in farming at the Earthwise Farm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eight high school students farmed three small plots at Earthwise through regular field trips and used the produce for the culinary arts program - Work experience placement for two high school students and two post secondary students as farm interns - Volunteer opportunities at the farm for four high school students. |
| 3) Extension of program to other school districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration in the Earthwise on-farm Program is open to high school students from other districts. - Preliminary contacts have been established with other school districts - A communications plan is in place for ongoing program promotion |
| 4) Recommendations of a co-op program in organic agriculture for grades 11-12 with hands on experience at the Earthwise Farm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delta School District has implemented a Grade 12 Course in Sustainable (organic) Agriculture in partnership with Earthwise - 10 students will take Sustainable Resources (Agriculture) for graduating science credits through South Delta Secondary - students will be involved in all aspects of farm operations at the Earthwise Farm |

Financial Statements

| Revenue Source | In-kind | Cash | Actual to date |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| West Coast Seeds (seeds) | 1500 | | 1,500 |
| Community Advisory Committee (consulting 60 hr @\$50/hr) | 3000 | | 3,000 |
| Delta Agricultural Society | | 500 | 500 |
| Services Canada | | 7000 | 7,000 |
| BC Healthy Living Alliance | | 2500 | 2,500 |
| Delta School District (40 hrs consultation @\$75/hr) | 3000 | | 3,000 |
| Individual Contributions (rent in-kind) | 3000 | 10,000 | 13,000 |
| Earthwise Society (office supplies and communication) | 3000 | | 3,000 |
| Vancouver Foundation | 13,500 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Organic Sector Development Program | | 16,000 | 12,000 |
| Total | | 46,000 | 42,000 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Program Management (staff wages) | | 4700 | 4,700 |
| Education Consultant | | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Delta School District | 3000 | | 3,000 |
| Farm Manager (staff wages) | | 2600 | 2,600 |
| Advisory Committee participation | 3000 | | 3,000 |
| Education Coordinator (staff wages) | | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Financial Services/accounting | | 2400 | 2,400 |
| Summer internship Positions | | 7000 | 7,000 |
| Office Supplies | 1000 | | 1,000 |
| Rent/utilities/office equip/telephone | 3000 | 500 | 3,500 |
| Educational materials & communication (including seeds) | 3500 | 1000 | 4,500 |
| Travel & mileage | | 500 | 500 |
| Administration (incremental costs) | | 2300 | 2,300 |
| Total | 13,500 | 46,000 | 59,500 |