



wildsight
EDUCATION

BEYOND RECYCLING FINAL REPORT
2025/2026

SUBMITTED BY

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SUBMITTED TO

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SUMMARY

Wildsight is pleased to have offered the following two impactful environmental education programs to RDCK schools in 2025/26:

Beyond Recycling (BR) is a classroom-based environmental education program, developed and delivered in the Columbia Basin by Wildsight. Passionate local BR educators throughout the region animate 25 lessons that address environmental issues and inspire students to take positive action and find creative solutions to live more sustainably.

The 2025/26 school year was the 17th year of BR delivery in the RDCK. Through separate funding we also offered 4 programs in the East Kootenay. RDCK Highlights include:

- Beyond Recycling was delivered in **5 RDCK schools** to **112 students**. With 25 lessons per program at 75-minutes per lesson, this adds up to **31.5 hours of learning per student**.
- Our team of **3 professional environmental educators** partnered with 5 classroom teachers to deliver over 125 BR lessons including **30 teacher-led** lessons.

FutureMakers (FM) is a set of flexible and engaging environmental education resources that inspire students as they learn and design for a hope-filled future. The FutureMakers program showcases new technology and inspiring solutions that lead the way to a sustainable future. The decision-making power is put into students' hands to inspire hope, and to give them space to feel creative, resilient and capable.

2025/26 was the 3rd year offering the FutureMakers program in RDCK schools. Through separate funding we also offered 10 programs in the CSRD. RDCK highlights include:

- The FutureMakers program was utilized in **8 RDCK communities** by **13 teachers** and reached **315 students**.
- Participating teachers each utilized 7 FutureMaker lessons and completed hands-on design projects with students.

Wildsight would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Regional District of Central Kootenay in bringing this educational initiative to the students of our region. We value the partnership that has been developed over the years that continues to establish collaborative programming goals and messaging.

We were fortunate to receive additional funding from the BC Gaming Commission, as well as Wildsight individual donors to support the facilitation of these programs.

BEYOND RECYCLING OVERVIEW

Created in the Kootenays, Beyond Recycling (BR) is a school-based environmental education program. It provides solutions-focused curriculum that allows students to recognize the impacts of their lifestyle choices and highlights the importance of individual action. All BR lessons are based on scientifically sound knowledge and integrate locally relevant and recent information, particularly around issues of climate change, energy and waste reduction. Lessons are designed to complement the BC curriculum, with connections to science, social studies, language arts, math, applied design, skills and technologies (ADST) and the core competencies.

Twenty lessons are brought into the classroom (Grades 5-7) weekly by a local BR educator. Several optional special lessons involving field trips and Earth Day activities make for a potential total of 27 available lessons.

Our interactive lessons involve learning through inquiry and investigation, using experiential activities, discussion, small-group tasks and technology. Our goal is to encourage students to think 'beyond' simply recycling — taking effective, positive environmental action and finding solutions to live more sustainably. BR's environmental education lessons focus on increasing awareness and student empowerment. Lessons address environmental issues and aim to remove barriers to motivate environmentally appropriate choices and behaviours.

Key aspects of the Beyond Recycling program include:

- **Online Resources** - lesson plans and other online resources in the online BR Manual are housed on the password-protected interactive website at www.beyondrecycling.ca
- **BR Educators** - are what make Beyond Recycling such a powerful and effective program. Our educator team is composed of passionate, professional educators who visit classrooms weekly throughout the school year. The creativity, passion and profound dedication are what make the team dynamic and always welcomed in schools.
Each BR Educator has an extensive BR Prop Kits with supplies to facilitate each lesson.
- **Teacher-Taught lessons** - offer classroom teachers the opportunity to teach select BR lessons and empower teachers to incorporate some of the key messages into their own evolving practice. This model increases the number of total programs we are able to deliver with the budget we have available.
- **Student Pages** - contain online resources (videos, links, activities) that build on each of the Beyond Recycling lessons
- **School Blogs** - capture highlights of the program, and serve as a good way for students, teachers and the public to see what the schools are doing - www.beyondrecycling.ca/blogs
- **Field trips** - to transfer stations, landfills and recycling centres, as well as local farms and grocery stores are always a highlight of the program



FUTUREMAKERS OVERVIEW

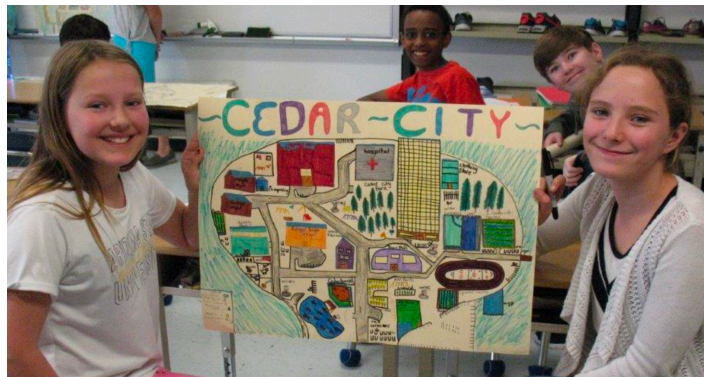
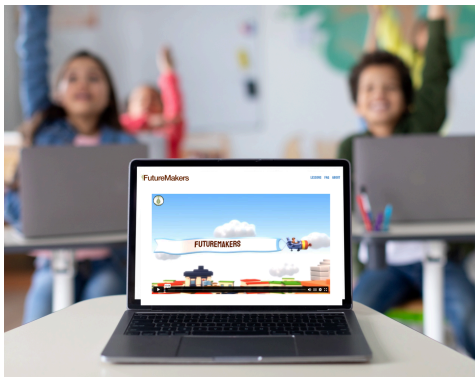
Created by Wildsight, FutureMakers is a school-based environmental education program that invites students to imagine, design, and build sustainable communities of the future. Through solutions-focused learning, students explore environmental challenges related to food, waste, water, transportation, and energy while developing creativity, resilience, and problem-solving skills.

FutureMakers highlights innovative technologies, sustainable design, and real-world examples of communities creating positive environmental change. The program encourages students to think critically about how community systems are interconnected and how individual and collective actions can contribute to a healthier future. Lessons are grounded in scientifically-informed sustainability concepts and are designed to support the BC curriculum, with connections to science; social studies; applied design, skills and technologies (ADST); language arts; arts education and the core competencies.

FutureMakers empowers students to see themselves as capable changemakers by helping them build hope, agency, systems thinking, and confidence in their ability to shape a sustainable future. This teaching resource combines digital learning, hands-on activities, discussion, reflection, and project-based learning to create an engaging classroom experience. Students investigate environmental challenges, generate ideas, and explore creative solutions through collaborative and inquiry-based learning.

Key components of the FutureMakers program include:

- **Video lessons** - introducing five sustainable community design themes: food, waste, water, transportation, and energy. Videos feature inspiring technologies, environmental innovations, and examples of sustainable communities.
- **“Extension buffet”** - activities that allow teachers to deepen learning through hands-on projects, games, outdoor learning, discussions, and inquiry activities that can be adapted for different classrooms and learning styles.
- **Student planning booklets** - where students record reflections, sketches, notes, and ideas as they develop their sustainable community designs.
- **Build time** - when students apply their learning by designing and creating sustainable community models or prototypes that connect multiple environmental systems together.
- **Teacher support and collaboration** - through an online Teacher Forum where educators can share experiences, ideas, and classroom adaptations.



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROGRAMS



WILDSIGHT EDUCATION

BEYOND RECYCLING

Year-long, action-oriented, solutions-focused, environmental education program brought into the classroom by a professional Wildsight educator

EDUCATOR LED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Students explore:

- ecological footprint
- product lifecycle
- climate change
- waste reduction
- sustainability
- resource extraction
- human impacts
- energy conservation

includes:

- field trips
- action projects
- games
- experiments

Grades 5-7
28 lessons
75 min each

wildsight

"Engaging, informative, fun, convincing, educational, well-organized, focused and CRITICAL to today's youth"

beyondrecycling.ca

BEYOND RECYCLING is a year-long, educator-led program that includes field trips, science experiments, EcoChallenges, and hands-on activities.

A Wildsight professional BR educator, with particular expertise and passion for the subject matter visits the classroom weekly.

Over 25 lessons in which students explore environmental issues at an age-appropriate level.

Additionally, Beyond Recycling has RDCK-specific content built into it, and has the flexibility of adapting lessons from year to year with input from the RDCK.

www.beyondrecycling.ca

FUTUREMAKERS is a teacher-led, online resource based on the Beyond Recycling program.

Seven lessons lead students through a design and hands-on build challenge where they create a hope-filled community of the future.

Accessible in communities where we do not have Wildsight educators available.

FutureMakers is also offered in the CSRD and available for sale online through the Outdoor Learning Store.

www.ourfuturemakers.com



FUTUREMAKERS

A set of flexible classroom teacher resources that inspires **hope** in students as they learn & design for a sustainable future

wildsight **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCE**

Includes:

- Video-based lessons
- extension activities
- Hope-filled resources to inspire students
- Flexible teacher resources
- Student design & building challenge

Students explore:

- Waste
- Energy
- Water
- Food
- Transportation

Grades 4-7
7 modules

"An essential framework for considering how we can all strive for sustainability. Each lesson can take a half hour or all day, it just depends on how deep you would like to go." - Teacher, Columbia Basin

GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

ACT NOW TO GET YOUR FREE PROGRAM - 12 AVAILABLE FOR RDCK TEACHERS

SCAN ME

beyondrecycling.ca/rdckfuturemakers

BEYOND RECYCLING IN THE RDCK

We are proud to have educators in various RDCK communities, as they are able to build relationships in their communities and deliver local content and messaging.

Community	School	Teacher(s)	BR Educator	Grade	# Students
Castlegar	Twin Rivers Elementary	Keri Russell	Jess Williams	5/6	22
Castlegar	Robson Community	Dyana Posnikoff	Jess Williams	4/5	24
Creston	Erickson Elementary	Gillian Cooper	Melissa Flint	4/5	27
Nelson	Rosemont Elementary	Eli Geddis	Brianna Thompson	5/6	17
Winlaw	Winlaw Elementary	Koan Ellis	Brianna Thompson	5/6	22
				TOTAL	112

This year-long program engaged **112 students** in **5 RDCK schools**. With 25 lessons per program at 75-minutes per lesson, this adds up to **31.5 hours of Beyond Recycling learning** for each student!

FUTUREMAKERS IN THE RDCK

FM allows content inspired by the BR program to be delivered where we do not have BR Educators available.

Community	School	Teacher	Grade(s)	# Students
Castlegar	Kinnaird Elementary	Sasha Giraid	6/7	24
Castlegar	Kinnaird Elementary	Kirsten Renz	6/7	28
Castlegar	Twin Rivers Elementary	Lawrence Redfern	7	26
Castlegar	Twin Rivers Elementary	Sarah Arnett	4/5	22
Castlegar	Twin Rivers Elementary	Keri Russell	5/6	22
Creston	Adam Robertson Elementary	Matt Blick	4/5	27
Nakusp	Nakusp Elementary	Anita Vibe	5/6	21
Nelson	Hume Elementary	Kelly Anast	5/6	29
Nelson	Redfish Elementary	Sarah Goggins	4/5	28
New Denver	Lucerne Elementary Secondary	Donna Hicks	5/6	22
Robson	Robson Community School	Sheeena Stienstra	5/6	24
Slocan	Brent Kennedy Elementary	Tamara Johnson	5/6	23
Winlaw	Winlaw Elementary	Megan Jamison	4/5	19
			TOTAL	315

This program engaged **315 students** in **13 RDCK schools**. Three other teachers (2 in Nelson, 1 in Winlaw) did apply to participate in the program, but had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances.

BEYOND RECYCLING FEEDBACK

TEACHERS

- “Beyond Recycling has been central in developing an awareness of how our actions affect the world around us. I love the real world lessons that it teaches. I've heard from parents about their kids coming home and revamping their recycling practices. **Funders should know that the program does make a difference.** A quote: “I didn't know THAT was recyclable!” - Eli Geddis, Rosemont Elementary 25/26
- “I would have this program in my class **every year if possible.**” - Sheena Stienstra, Robson Community School 24/25
- “The most **eye-opening experience** was the deep dive into waste. Students explored the core concepts of “reduce, reuse, and recycle,” with a strong emphasis on reducing our reliance on material goods. One of our first activities involved **auditing our classroom garbage.** We discovered that only about 5% of what was in the bin was actual waste—most of it was recyclable or edible food, some still in unopened packaging. This **sparked critical thinking about consumption and waste in our daily lives.** We then examined the lifecycle of common household items like blue jeans, glass bottles, soccer balls, batteries, aluminum cans, and pencils—tracing them from resource extraction to production, distribution, consumption, and disposal. Students learned about the environmental impact at each stage and how much waste and pollution result from everyday products. A **highlight was our visit to the Creston Landfill**, where students saw the town’s composting efforts firsthand. We discussed how keeping organics out of the landfill helps reduce methane emissions. Standing on what looked like a hill—but was a mountain of garbage—made the issue feel very real.” - Matt Blick, Adam Robertson Elementary 24/25
- “I really loved how the students’ **learning is directly applied to real world scenarios.**” - Jessa Adams, Canyon Lister Elementary 24/25
- “Students see the world differently and **are more aware that they can make changes.** BR offers children the chance to connect ideas to their home family structures because they are given the language, understanding and tips that make that reach possible. - Gillian Cooper, Erickson Elementary School 25/26
- The Beyond Recycling program helps students understand the real-world impact of waste in a way that is **concrete, age-appropriate, and empowering.** Having a knowledgeable facilitator lead the learning allows students to ask meaningful questions and make connections between their everyday choices and environmental responsibility. Students are becoming more aware, thoughtful, and motivated to reduce waste at school. “Students asked before every session if we were going to sort our garbage. It was fun and such a powerful visual for them to see just how much waste they create in a six-hour school day.” - Dyana Posnikoff, Robson Community School 25/26

STUDENTS

- “I loved the field trips because you got to learn about what they did with the garbage.” - Sarah

- “I think that oil or batteries if they are not recycled properly can be a big harm to the environment.” - Georgia
- “I stopped wasting so much food.” - Grace
- “I learned to recycle all bottles or cartons to make the world healthy and not dirty.” - Trent
- “Instead of just throwing the garbage in the recycling I think how that will affect nature, animals and overall the environment.” - Eddie
- “I think Methane gas is an issue, if you don't compost properly.” - Florence
- “I used to not care if a piece of paper or cardboard went into the bin, but now that I know what happens I always put them in the recycling.” - Mikaela
- “I use the same piece of paper multiple times so that I don't use 14 pieces of paper a day.” - Thea

FUTUREMAKERS FEEDBACK

TEACHERS

- “Thank you for this incredible resource. **FutureMakers was one of the best things I’ve done** with students as it inspired hope, creativity, sustainable thinking, and deep learning.” - Megan Read, Twin Rivers Elementary 24/25
- “The kids enjoyed **learning about ways to positively affect the community instead of glooming and dooming** about climate change which is normally how lessons about this subject matter seem to go.” - Trestan Shunter, Salmo Elementary 24/25
- “**This program was absolutely brilliant** for inspiring projects for my students. They learned an incredible amount and the local connections were inspiring.” - Megan Read, Twin Rivers Elementary. 24/25
- “I enjoyed how **easy it was to teach**. Everything was laid out for me and there were many resources to pull from to deepen students understanding of topics ”
- “I also **loved the level of engagement and interest my students showed**. It took very little on my part to hook them into being excited about this program”
- “The carefully selected videos and resources that are suggested as extension **activities are brilliant**. Not only were they packed with information, the kids loved them and often wanted to watch them another time.”
- “I like how it starts with “imagine you were invited to attend an important planning meeting that gathers youth from around the world to help decide what the future will be like. With all the current trends locally & internationally, it is a great way to show how communities and countries can begin to tackle these important problems.”

25/26 REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

We reached over **425 students** in the 2025/26 school year. We continue to work to improve equity throughout the RDCK.

BEYOND RECYCLING

We were pleased to offer a Beyond Recycling program in Winlaw this year, where we were able to train a new BR Educator. We continue to search for additional funding to support additional programming in the RDCK and local educators who are able to facilitate programs in rural communities.

FUTUREMAKERS

Over the last 2 years we have undertaken extensive promotion to rural schools, including mail outs with posters and directed letters, email communications and phone calls. This yielded increased participation in the following schools in:

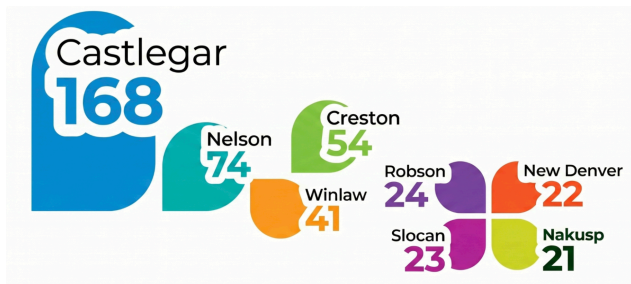
- 25/26 - Nakusp, New Denver, Robson, Crescent Valley and Winlaw
- 24/25 - Robson, Salmo, Creston and Crawford Bay

RDCK STUDENT OVERALL DISTRIBUTION

Both programs reached a total of 426 students overall, including:

- 112 students participated in Beyond Recycling
- 315 students participated in FutureMakers.

The breakdown of number of students per community is represented in the graphic below



RDCK PARTNERSHIP

Wildsight has a unique partnership with the RDCK as a key funder of the Beyond Recycling program. Since 2009, the program has supported the mutual goals held by Wildsight and the RDCK of providing education programming for students in the region, with an emphasis on waste reduction. Since then, we have continued to develop additional sustainable living topics, including regional food security, energy conservation, and climate resilience.

In the 25/26 school year, we focused on:

- **RDCK school communication** - Continued to strengthen the communication of relevant RDCK programs and initiatives of the Regional District through Beyond Recycling lessons and

resources. Adaptations to include RDCK content in specific BR Lessons can be found in Appendix A.

- **Rural Accessibility** - To improve equity throughout the RDCK region we continue to increase programming availability to rural schools.

BEYOND RECYCLING IN ACTION

- **Erickson Elementary** - We did a deep dive into water health with a creek clean up and dip netting for an EcoChallenge. We also did a school garden planting activity for Earth day. Both activities were at the school so it was good to help the students steward activities at their own schools. This classroom is still recycling soft plastic since the last time I taught BR with this teacher (3 years ago).
- **Twin Rivers Elementary** - Due to the learning around the lessons Garbology, History of Waste, and the landfill field trip the teacher has implemented a NO GARBAGE CAN in the classroom rule. She has asked students to bring home all of their waste so it can be diverted into the right paths at home (since there is no plastic, food, or wrapper recycling at the school). This also makes students more aware of what and how much waste they create daily. For the EcoChallenge, students chose a category to investigate and complete actions in their home for one week. Categories were Energy (screen free challenge), Water (short shower challenge), Food (homemade granola bars challenge). Students completed challenges individually and/or challenged members of their family. Students were surprised at the amount of water they saved by being aware of how long they showered, or how they had fun playing outside instead of being on screens, and how homemade granola bars actually taste better and are cheaper than store bought. Some great lessons with this EcoChallenge!
- **Winlaw Elementary** - This class started to collect food scraps for a teacher's chickens. It was quite challenging to properly implement a recycling program in the school as there is no transfer station in the town of Winlaw itself. Students then had a choice to do an energy or water audit, and then challenged themselves to reduce energy or water. Two weeks prior to our landfill/transfer station field trip, I set up recycling bins and the students put all their "garbage" into those, we then brought it to the landfill to recycle. They saved about 3 garbage bags worth of waste.
- **Rosemont Elementary** - This is the second year that the teacher has hosted Beyond Recycling, in the previous year they started recycling all of their waste and they brought a food cyclor into the class and continued to do that with this year's class. I know they are keen to position SD8 to reinclude paper recycling at their schools. We hosted a Toy Swap as an EcoChallenge and for Earth day we spent two classes doing communities of the future using recycled material.
- **Robson Elementary** - This class worked really hard at establishing a plastics recycling zone in their classroom. The items had to be clean and organized, but students got to see first hand at how many plastics they were able to keep out of the landfill, just because they learned about waste diversion and the many options we have in our area. For the EcoChallenge, students were challenged to change their behaviour and actions around one of 3 categories: Energy, Water, and Food. Each category had an investigation component to complete at home and also an action piece to work at for a full week. Depending on each student's interests and habits they chose either a "screen free challenge" (energy), "short shower challenge" (water)

and a "homemade granola bars" (food). This EcoChallenge gave students insight on their habits and how they could make simple changes in order to reduce energy consumption and therefore cost, reduce water use, therefore reducing energy, and exploring positive choices with food - local, seasonal, organic and reduced packaging options. At the end of the week's challenge, most students enjoyed the change in habits and made a pledge to continue into the future and to also challenge members in their families.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Note: Our programming aligns with the school year and is often in the classrooms until the end of June. This report is being prepared before that time, meaning that there are still some invoices outstanding. The forecast below is based on our closest estimate of this year's actuals.

2025/2026 Financial Report - RDCK Beyond Recycling Delivery			
Revenue - RDCK Beyond Recycling and FutureMakers Delivery			
<i>Funder</i>	<i>25/26 Budget</i>	<i>25/26 Forecast</i>	<i>RDCK Contribution</i>
RDCK	27,640	27,640	27,640
BC Gaming	10,310	10,310	
TD Friends of the Environment	0	880	
Wildsight Donations	860	848	
TOTAL REVENUE	38,810	39,678	27,640
Expenses - RDCK Beyond Recycling and FutureMakers Delivery			
<i>Expense</i>	<i>25/26 Budget</i>	<i>25/26 Forecast</i>	<i>RDCK Contribution</i>
Program Delivery	17,395	17,395	14,050
Program Mileage	1,150	2,335	1,050
Program Supplies	418	127	100
Program Coordination & Management	9,285	9,285	4,800
Administration	3,531	3,643	2,500
Communications	3,531	3,643	2,500
Future Makers - Subscriptions	3,500	3,250	2,640
TOTAL EXPENSES	38,810	39,678	27,640
NET	0	0	0

BR - CONNECTING TO CURRICULUM

Beyond Recycling is an ideal complement to BC's redesigned curriculum, offering numerous opportunities for students and teachers to delve deeper into the learning through inquiry as well as place-based learning. The program spans the disciplines, incorporating Big Ideas in Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies, as well as incorporating numerous Core Competencies (in the Thinking, Communication, and most particularly the Personal and Social arenas). The new BC curriculum has been designed with flexibility and choice in mind, and Beyond Recycling matches this commitment in numerous, exciting ways.

In particular, the EcoChallenge projects fit very well. EcoChallenges offer the students a chance to take a leadership role, work through the design process to solve a real life problem, and take ecological responsibility for their actions.

These can be done within the class, within the school, and/or at home, with many connections to the curriculum. Most EcoChallenge action projects can address the Core Competencies (Communication, Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking, Positive Personal & Cultural Identity, Personal Awareness & Responsibility), but the strongest link is Social Responsibility.

Beyond Recycling
Curricular Connections to Grade 5



Beyond Recycling Lessons	Science			Socials			ADST			Career Ed			Physical & Health Education			English Language Arts		
	Big Ideas	Content	Curricular Competencies	Big Ideas	Content	Curricular Competencies	Big Ideas	Content	Curricular Competencies	Big Ideas	Content	Curricular Competencies	Big Ideas	Content	Curricular Competencies	Big Ideas	Content	Curricular Competencies
Garbology	x		x	x						x			x					x
History of Waste	x	x	x	x														x
Waste Field Trip	x		x									x						x
From the Earth	x	x															x	x
Lifecycle of Stuff	x		x	x				x	x	x							x	x
It's Plastic World	x			x											x			x
Closing the Loop	x		x									x						x
Paper Making			x				x			x	x							x
Our Climate												x	x				x	x
Our Energy									x									x
Path of Power	x	x	x										x					x
Energy Debates	x	x	x	x					x	x	x						x	x
Eco Footprint	x	x	x						x		x	x			x	x	x	x
Sustainability	x	x	x	x					x	x								x
Transportation	x		x	x								x	x			x		x
Our Water			x	x					x	x								x
Fishing For		x	x	x					x	x								x
True Cost Food			x	x									x	x	x	x	x	x
Food Field Trip			x	x								x						x
We Are Nature		x	x											x				x
EcoChallenge			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x
Earth Day			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x			x

Please Note: Depending on the specific content taught, or projects completed in your individual classroom, there may be other curricular links met than the ones outlined above.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Based on feedback from teachers, educators and students, the following opportunities exist for program improvement.

Beyond Recycling

- Increase additional funding opportunities - Additional funding would allow us to increase the number of programs offered within the RDCK.
- Expand climate change & eco-anxiety learning - Although climate change is addressed throughout the whole program, there could be more targeted learning on the topic of climate science and specifically address eco-anxiety.
- Host educator gatherings - BR Educators are spread throughout the region and rarely connect with each other beyond sharing and reading lesson feedback online. An online or in-person has been suggested by educators to problem solve and connect.
- Provide bussing funding for RDCK field trips - Currently schools are asked to cover the cost for all busing.
- BR Educator Training - Identify and train new Beyond Recycling Educators in rural communities: New Denver, Nakusp, Winlaw, Crawford Bay.

FutureMakers

- **Improve teacher engagement & feedback** - The CSRD offers teachers a \$200 honorarium to share feedback on each lesson. This allows us to track which teachers complete the program.

PHOTOS



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2025/12/05/waste-diversion-programs-at-the-creston-landfill/>
Beyond Recycling - Erickson Elementary



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/04/10/our-waste-our-opportunity-to-do-better/>
Beyond Recycling - Twin Rivers Elementary



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/01/17/creating-paper/>
Beyond Recycling - Twin Rivers Elementary



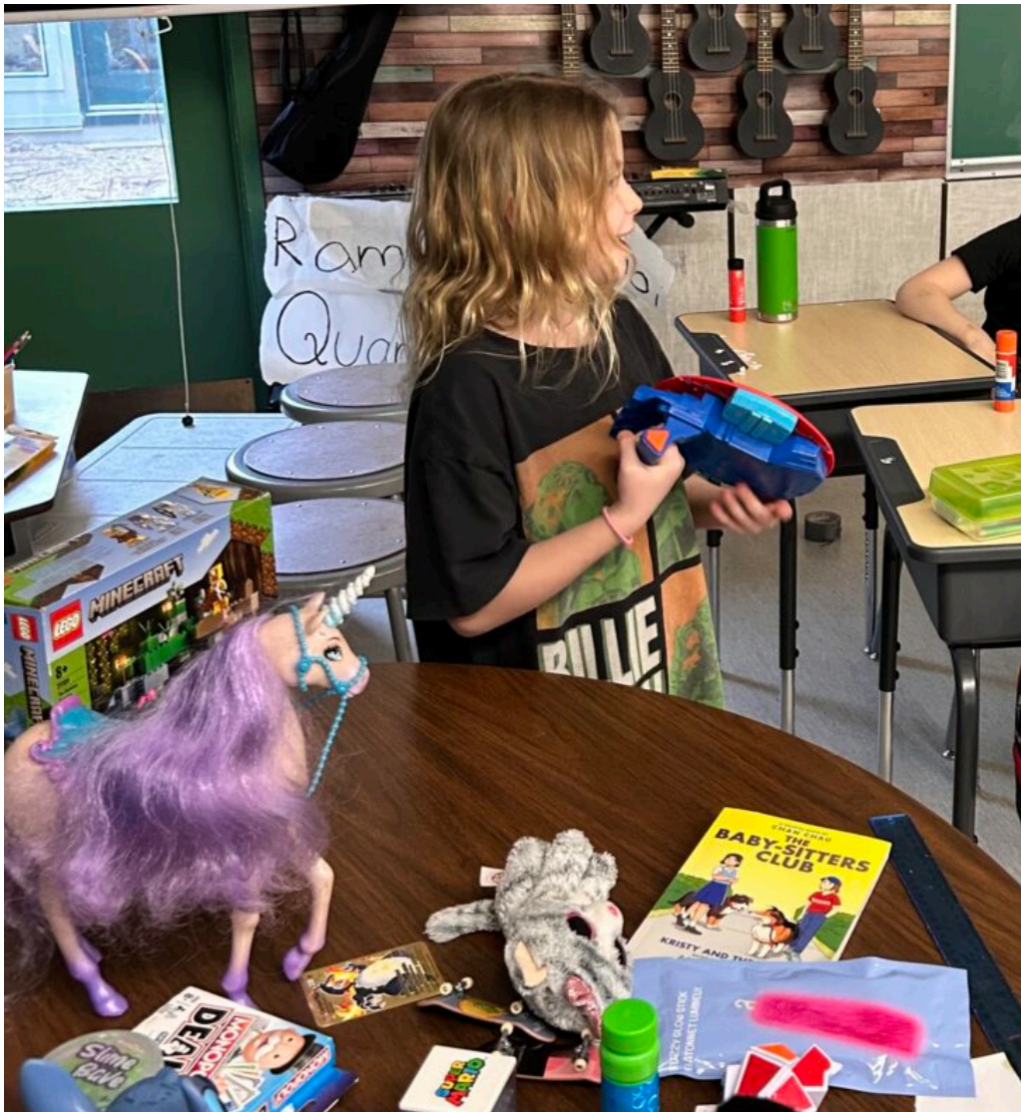
<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/05/27/water-lets-be-grateful/>
Beyond Recycling - Robson Community School



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/01/17/the-lifecycle-of-stuff-2/>
Beyond Recycling - Twin Rivers Elementary



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/02/19/handmade-with-love-our-valentines-paper-making-project/>
Beyond Recycling - Winlaw Elementary



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/03/05/some-old-toys-are-ready-for-a-new-story/>
Beyond Recycling - Rosemont Elementary



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/04/19/rosemont-students-waste-diversion-tour/>
Beyond Recycling - Rosemont Elementary



<https://beyondrecycling.ca/2026/05/20/real-food-field-trip-to-cartwheel-farm/>
Beyond Recycling - Erickson Elementary

APPENDIX A - RDCK CONTENT IN BR LESSONS

Wherever possible, we have built opportunities to incorporate particular messages and programs of the RDCK into various lessons. These are used by BR Educators when teaching the RDCK schools.

Example - Our Changing Climate Lesson

A series of Community Action Cards was developed to highlight RDCK programs. In this lesson, students explore climate change by imagining they are a character from an epic story that will overcome obstacles by learning new skills, growing emotionally and developing a deeper understanding of their situation. We explore the differences between climate and weather and how we know our climate is changing, as well as play a game to understand the greenhouse effect and the impact of increasing levels of greenhouse gases. The lesson ends with an activity that highlights what actions are being taken to reduce CO2 production and aims to offer hope and a frame of reference for some of the emotional impacts from this lesson.

Adapted BR Lessons

- **Garbology:** Students learn about what we can recycle and compost in the lesson. RDCK educators have links to the new [RecycleBC program](#). During the compost section in the lesson they will share ideas for backyard composting, as well as [organics diversion](#).
- **It's a Plastic World:** Students learn how to recycle plastics in their community with [Recycle BC- What Can I Recycle?](#)
- **Waste Field Trip:** Students visit a landfill site and learn from RDCK staff. They explore waste reduction (recycling, composting, waste diversion and all the R's), how different types of waste are sorted, and learn about [Product Stewardship](#). Some classes also visit a recycling depot.
- **Closing the Loop:** Students learn about [Product Stewardship](#) with regard to batteries, paint, tires and propane tanks in this lesson. They also talk about recycling aluminum cans and glass bottles and where they can recycle things like batteries, electronics and paint, '[What can I recycle?](#)'
- **Our Changing Climate:** RDCK-specific Community Action Climate Cards (as explained above). Students also explore how to save water and energy with [Water Conservation](#) and learn about [FireSmart](#).
- **Our Energy:** Students explore how much energy they use in their homes with [HomeSave Central Kootenays](#). BR Prop kits include thermal energy cameras to help students learn about energy efficiency of their homes.
- **EcoFootprint:** Students learn how to reduce their energy footprint with [HomeSave Central Kootenays](#); reduce their waste footprint by composting and [Organics Waste Diversion](#); about [Water Conservation](#); and learn supporting local [Food and Agriculture](#) can reduce the size of their ecological footprint.
- **Transportation:** Students learn about [Transportation](#) and the [Accelerate Kootenays](#) program.
- **Our Water:** Students learn about water and the importance of [Water Conservation](#).
- **True Cost of Food/Good Food Field Trip/Real Food Potluck:** Students learn about local [Food and Agriculture](#) in the [Central Kootenay](#)

