



BASIN*Link*

Issue 46

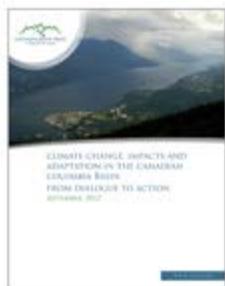
October 2012

Apply Now for Environmental Project Support



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Report Looks at Local Climate Change



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Students Learn About the Importance of Water



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Apply Now for Environmental Project Support

Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Maximum increased for CBT's Environmental Initiatives Program grants

Columbia Basin groups wishing to help maintain or enhance environmental conditions in and around their communities are invited to submit project ideas to the Environmental Initiatives Program (EIP) of CBT. Over the past 11 years, the program has provided over \$5 million in funding for environmental conservation, restoration, stewardship and education projects across the Basin.

The program's small grants stream, geared at projects under \$10,000, has a continuous application intake depending on available funding. The large grants stream has an annual intake, and, for 2012-13, will fund projects up to \$50,000. The next application deadline is 3:30 p.m. PDT/4:30 MDT on October 26, 2012.

"We're pleased we can increase our support of projects that aim to reduce the impacts people have on our environment," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Environment. "The projects also encourage education and awareness for all generations about Basin ecosystems."

White Bark Consulting was recently able to carry out whitebark pine restoration thanks in part to EIP support. Whitebark pine is an endangered tree species of high-elevation forests that provides food and shelter for various wildlife species. The project also included educating community members, collecting seeds from healthy trees and creating a distribution map of the Basin.

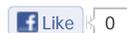
"The funding provided by CBT has been vital in enabling people and organizations that are interested in whitebark pine to come together and work on restoration efforts," said Adrian Leslie, White Bark Consulting. "It has been a fun, interesting and rewarding experience."

Another example is Seepanee Ecological Consulting, which undertook a wolverine population and habitat assessment. By collecting wolverine hair samples from the Selkirk mountain range, as well as from trappers, this project was an important step in determining if the current harvest levels of wolverines are at risk of being unsustainable.

"Funding from partners like CBT has been critical to the success of the project," said Doris Hausleitner, Seepanee Ecological Consulting. "Without their contributions, and assistance from local trappers and a multitude of volunteers, this type of research would not be possible."

For more information about EIP or to get an application form, visit www.cbt.org/eip or contact Rick Allen, Program Manager, Environment, at 1.800.505.8998 or rallen@cbt.org.

To learn more about CBT's other environmental priorities, visit www.cbt.org/environment.



Report Looks at Local Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation

Monday, September 24, 2012

CBT releases comprehensive resource

How has the climate in the Columbia Basin changed in the past, how is it projected to change in the future, what are the potential impacts and what can we do? These are the types of questions addressed in *From Dialogue to Action: Climate Change, Impacts and Adaptation in the Canadian Columbia Basin*, recently released by CBT as part of its Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative.

This comprehensive resource has been created for Basin communities and residents seeking to learn more about local climate change impacts and provides information on how communities can begin to adapt and prepare for potential future changes.

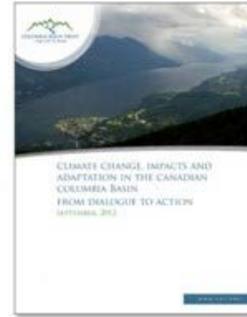
"The climate in our Basin has changed over the last 50 years and is projected to continue changing over the coming decades, so providing communities and residents with current information about climate impacts and adaptation can help them plan to be more resilient to these changes," said Kindy Gosal, CBT Director, Special Initiatives.

The report updates the projected climate change impacts and adaptation actions that were first shared with Basin residents in 2007 in CBT's report *Starting the Dialogue*. *From Dialogue to Action* features new research on future climate projections and extremes in the Basin from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. It also shares what's been learned from five years of on-the-ground experience with climate adaptation planning under the Communities Adapting to Climate Change Initiative.

The full report, a summary report and a short animated video can be found at www.cbt.org/climatechange. To have a copy of the report mailed to you, please call 1.800.505.8998.

CBT is working with a range of partners to increase awareness of local climate change impacts, provide credible, science-based information on expected changes and supports local governments, municipalities and First Nations to reduce their emissions through a multi-year mitigation effort. For more information about CBT-supported climate change initiatives visit www.cbt.org/climatechange.

- [From Dialogue to Action Summary Report](#)
- [From Dialogue to Action Complete Report](#)
- ["From Dialogue to Action" Video](#)



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From Dialogue to Action is a comprehensive resource on climate change in the Columbia Basin.

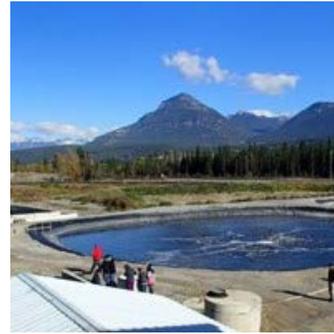


Students Learn About the Importance of Water

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Golden's grade eight classes take part in CBT's Know Your Watershed program

Students from Golden's three grade eight classes spent a day travelling around the town and area in order to learn first-hand where their water comes from, where it goes after it's used and how important it is to look after water and keep watersheds healthy. The field trip was part of Know Your Watershed, a water stewardship program developed by CBT and local environmental educators.



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Grade eight students visit the Town of Golden's waste water treatment facility.

The students toured the town's water facilities, learning how water gets from underground aquifers to Golden's homes and businesses, then what happens to the used water before it flows back into the Columbia River. The day included stops at a well near Alexander Park Elementary School, the town's water reservoirs near the sports fields and the waste water treatment facility. The students also visited North Hospital Creek to perform water quality tests of their own, plus discover what organisms live in the creek and what they tell about the health of the creek.

"A huge thank you to the Town of Golden, especially Al Taylor, Water Systems Operator, who led us on our tour of the municipal water facilities; not only is he knowledgeable, but also able to convey the information to the students in a relevant and engaging way," said Sanne van der Ros, Know Your Watershed educator. "We also want to thank the volunteers who came out to help, who shared great knowledge and enthusiasm for water and healthy watersheds."

The students learned many fascinating facts, such as:

- Golden is one of the few BC communities that doesn't need to add chlorine to its drinking water as it already meets health standards;
- Town staff sample the water 307 times a year to make sure it continues to meet standards;
- Under the town, there are 39 kilometres of pipes for clean water, plus 36 km of pipes for sewage; if laid end to end down the valley, these would lead from Golden all the way past Parson and back;
- Golden residents and businesses collectively use an average of four swimming pools of water per day.

"It's important to actively engage youth in water issues in the Basin," said Rick Allen, CBT Program Manager, Water and Environment. "Through Know Your Watershed, students are learning the important role water plays in our lives."

The Know Your Watershed program includes two classroom sessions and a full-day field trip that increase students' knowledge and awareness of their watershed and water-related issues in their community. Students are also encouraged to take part in a local water action project that expands on the classroom and field-trip learning. To learn more about Know Your Watershed, visit www.cbt.org/waterstewardship.

