



Growing Child Care Spaces in the Basin

In 2017, the Trust launched the Child Care Support Program to help sustain and grow quality licensed child care in the Basin. Check out the results from the first year. Grant Intakes for 2018 are now open. **Apply now**...[full story](#)



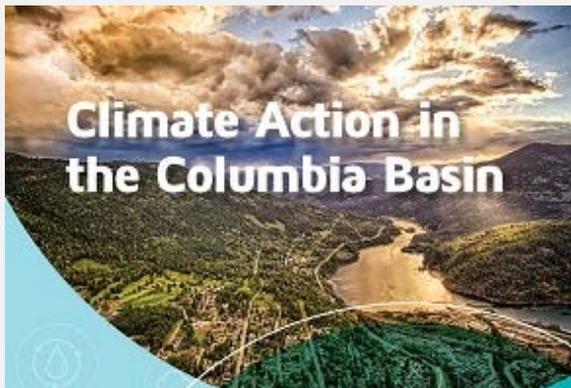
Environmental Education to Resume in Creston

With \$295,000 in support from the Trust over five years, the programs at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area will continue to welcome students, residents and tourists of all ages...[full story](#)



Reducing the Risks and Effects of Wildfire

Wildfire can rapidly destroy homes, communities and lives. With the Trust's support, 20 communities are implementing 28 projects to help them prevent or brace themselves against wildfire...[full story](#)



Taking Action on Climate Change

Check out this new resource from the Climate Action team and find out more about communities in the Basin taking action to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Plus see more about the projects that received support from the Trust...[full story](#)



New Affordable Housing Coming to Shuswap

For the first time in 30 years, new housing is coming to the Shuswap community. The construction of two new duplexes is nearing completion and will feature both two and three bedroom units...[full story](#)



Seeking Investment Opportunities!

The Trust has funds and resources to invest in commercial ventures that will grow our local economy. If you have a business opportunity, respond to our RFEI today...[Learn More](#)

Events & Deadlines

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April 1

[Receive Support to Attend #BCTECH Summit Deadline](#)

April 10

[Neil Muth Memorial Scholarship Deadline](#)

April 11

[RFEI: Basin Business Opportunities - Webinar](#)

May 24

[Child Care Capital Grants Deadline](#)

May 24

[Social Grants Deadline](#)

June 5

[Affordable Housing Project and Funding Readiness Workshop - Revelstoke](#)

June 6

[Affordable Housing Project and Funding Readiness Workshop - Cranbrook](#)

June 7

[*Affordable Housing Project and Funding Readiness Workshop - Castlegar*](#)

August 31

[*RFEI: Basin Business Opportunities Deadline*](#)
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Supporting Child Care Capacity in the Basin

News: March 27, 2018

In 2017, the Trust launched the [Child Care Support Program](#) to help maintain and create child care spaces in the Basin. In the first year, the program distributed \$1.2 million to support the creation of 116 new child care spaces, make improvements to 1,007 existing ones and support training for more than 60 early childhood educators.

The intakes are now open for 2018.

The Child Care Capital Grant intake is open until May 24, 2018. The Trust will provide \$1 million in this intake to projects that either support the creation of new licensed child care spaces or improve the quality and safety of existing licensed and registered child care space. Updated application guidelines are now posted at ourtrust.org/childcaregrants.

The Early Childhood Educator program distributes \$100,000 annually. The intake will remain open until all of this year's funds are committed. Visit ourtrust.org/eceworkforce.



42 facilities received Child Care Capital Grants

\$30,420 for new equipment for Child Care Facilities

More than 60 Early Childhood Educators receiving training

Over \$80,000 provided to train Early Childhood Educators

Columbia Basin trust

The infographic features a purple house with a white picket fence, a red and blue playground with a slide and swings, and two cartoon figures of a woman and a man holding hands. The background is a light blue sky and green grass.



Environmental Education Programs at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area to Resume This Spring

News: March 21, 2018



Programming at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area includes environmental education on wetland ecosystems and wildlife.

Columbia Basin Trust provides \$295,000 toward facilities and programming

(Columbia Basin) – Environmental education and awareness programs at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area are going to continue under new management. Since 1974, these programs were provided by the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority, but this ended with the permanent closure of the interpretive centre in October 2017. Now the programs will continue thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Authority and the Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Centre Society (KCDCS), with funding from Columbia Basin Trust.

The informative and fun programs engaged with thousands of visitors each year, teaching them about wetland ecosystems and wildlife. Now, with \$295,000 in support from the Trust over five years, this valuable service will continue to welcome students, residents and tourists of all ages.

“The community showed great support for these programs, and residents moved quickly to make sure they wouldn’t lose this educational, economic and cultural resource,” said Kindy Gosal Columbia Basin Trust, Director Special Initiatives. “We’re pleased to help this community act on such a widely held priority and give the society a sense of financial stability while it works toward its future.”

KCDCS will use \$95,000 this year to cover transition costs; install a portable classroom, office and washrooms; and deliver a variety of programming for adults and children, such as canoe tours, family fun days and special events. For the subsequent four years, the Trust will provide \$50,000 per year to continue to support the programs.

Jim Posynick is Chair of the KCDCS. “The Wetland Education and Awareness Program creates an understanding and appreciation for the natural world so participants can make informed decisions and actions related to the environment. It also gives volunteers, community members and other organizations opportunities to help promote wetland conservation, stewardship and research. Having a safe, functional and appealing temporary home and the funding to think long-term will provide us with the foundation we need while making plans for a permanent location.”

This project is one example of how the Trust helps communities and residents achieve their collective priorities and take action on issues and opportunities. Learn more at ourtrust.org/community.



Reducing the Risks and Effects of Wildfire

News: March 26, 2018



In September 2017, the ?aq'am community experienced a wildfire. It will now be reducing fuel in high-risk areas with support from a wildfire mitigation grant from Columbia Basin Trust.

Twenty communities focus on mitigating wildfire with over \$800,000 from Columbia Basin Trust

(Columbia Basin) – Wildfire can rapidly destroy homes, communities and lives. To brace against this danger—now becoming more of a risk than ever because of a hotter, drier climate—20 communities are implementing 28 projects that will help them prevent or brace themselves against wildfire. These projects are being supported by \$856,406 from Columbia Basin Trust.

“Basin communities are part of forested landscapes, which gives us beautiful scenery and rich ecological values but also hazards to communities such as wildfire,” said Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. “Communities are well aware of this risk and came to us for help to both prepare for the possibility of these dangerous situations and to reduce their likelihood. This work aligns with our priority to support community resilience in a changing climate.”

With support from the Trust’s Community Development Program, local governments and First Nation communities are implementing projects focused on educating residents about how they can reduce wildfire risks on their properties, managing wildfire fuels, protecting critical community infrastructure and developing emergency response and evacuation plans. The Trust will continue to accept applications from local governments and First Nations until June 30, 2018. To see the full list of projects funded, visit ourtrust.org/wildfiregrants.

The wildfire mitigation grants are just one of the ways the Trust is helping communities adapt to climate change. Learn more at ourtrust.org/environment.

Here are a few of the current projects:

Close Call

Bring on the Students

Creating a Good Example

Educating and Supporting the Public



Taking Action on Climate Change

News: March 29, 2018



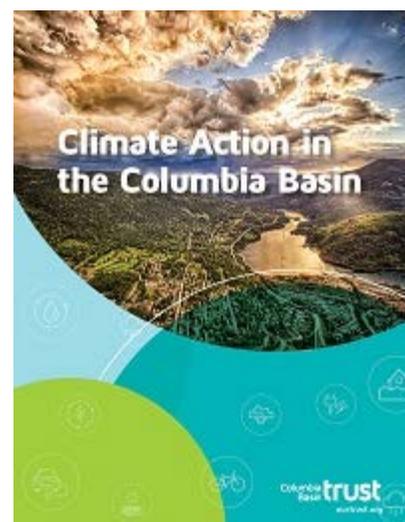
Columbia Basin Trust is supporting [12 climate action projects](#) through the first year of its three-year Climate Action Program with \$540,000. This support will help several communities in the Columbia Basin adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“Taking action on climate change is a high priority among many Basin communities,” said Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. “Through these projects, communities will be working to both reduce their contributions to climate change and become more resilient to climate challenges.”

Several communities will focus on water-related climate impacts. For example, the City of Cranbrook will install automated stream flow monitoring stations on nearby creeks to support community water supply and flood mitigation planning and actions.

“The flow monitoring stations will be equipped with real-time sensors with the ability to transmit high-flow warnings to City staff and operators,” said Mike Matejka, Project Manager, City of Cranbrook. “This will be an important new asset and source of information for proactive flood response, as well as for planning future upgrades and replacement of downstream infrastructure.”

Other communities will tackle composting, which reduces the greenhouse gas emissions from organic waste that would otherwise end up in a landfill. The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) will advance a food waste composting program within the city of Revelstoke, beginning with the commercial sector, which generates about 1,400 tonnes of food waste annually.



Download this resource to see how our region's climate is changing and how communities are taking action.

“There’s strong support from Revelstoke residents to implement organics collection,” said Ben von Nostrand, Team Leader, CSRD Environmental Health Services. “There is also an appetite to conduct the compost process locally as opposed to hauling food waste to the nearest facility, which is a three-hour round trip from Revelstoke. This will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting organic waste.”

The year 2017 had one of the hottest, driest summers on record for the Basin. Across the province, 1.2 million hectares of forest burned, surpassing the previous record of 855,000 hectares in 1958. As global temperatures continue to increase, so do the risks of drought, wildfire and flooding.

To assist Basin communities in understanding the climate changes underway, the Climate Action Program engages leading climate scientists to provide up-to-date local climate change information, and brings people around the region together to collaborate on climate action priorities. Find these resources at ourtrust.org/climateaction.

To date, the Trust has met with 15 Basin communities, totalling over 300 community leaders representing 225 Basin organizations. During these meetings, leaders have learned how their local climates are changing, explored the range of projected impacts and identified opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The program provides funding, technical resources and information to help communities take local action.

“Climate change is not always an easy topic, so it has been inspiring to experience such a high level of interest and positive engagement in the communities we’ve met with so far,” said Meredith Hamstead, Climate Action Program Coordinator. “This is still a relatively new topic for many people, so these meetings provide time for learning, exchange and inspiring action.”

Climate action in the Basin has also been supported through the Trust’s Environment Grants program, Energy Retrofit Program for affordable housing, and Community Development Program for community wildfire risk mitigation projects. The Trust is a partner in Accelerate Kootenays, which is establishing a network of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the region, and it also supports valuable climate-related research and data collection through partnerships such as the Columbia Basin Snow and Glacier Research Network and a new partnership with the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute to develop an interactive climate science portal in 2018.

To learn more about climate change, climate impacts and climate action in the Basin, visit ourtrust.org/climateaction. Here you’ll find the latest resources, including the newly released “[Climate Action in the Columbia Basin](#).”



New Affordable Housing Coming to Shuswap Community

News: March 28, 2018



For the first time in 30 years, new housing is coming to the Shuswap community. The construction of two new duplexes is nearing completion at the Old Village Site and will feature both two and three bedroom units. The new units are part of a long-term strategy to create affordable housing for band members with low-to-moderate incomes and will mean big things for 13 potential tenants.

“Homes have not been built in our community for 30 years,” said Dolores Nicholas, Social Development/Housing Manager for Shuswap Indian Band. “This is very exciting for the community, especially since it allows for family members to finally come home.”

According to Nicholas, it’s difficult for band members to find affordable housing in the surrounding area due to high rent and shortage of availability. When band members move back to the community, often they are living in overcrowded situations with other family members.

“When there is a lack of housing available, members of our community do not have choice,” said Nicholas. “Anyone under 30 has never seen a new house built here. We’re hoping that the new duplexes will allow people to have more pride in their community and give them a comfortable place to live.”

The Shuswap Band and Council are also exploring several other housing options for the future such as tiny homes and more multi-units. According to Nicholas, there is room for more new development near the duplexes. The main challenge is developing infrastructure, not the availability of land, so the investigation into future housing opportunities is ongoing.

Construction is expected to be completed soon. The Shuswap Housing Committee is currently in the selection process for tenants and planning for families to occupy the new units by May 2018.

The Trust has committed \$100,000 to this project through its First Nations Housing Sustainability Initiative. This three-year initiative has \$4.5 million to support First Nations communities in the Basin to enhance and increase their local affordable housing. For more information about the initiative, visit ourtrust.org/fnhousing.

