

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