

2017



A Year of Impact Be The Change Earth Alliance

Fulfilling our Mission

Be The Change Earth Alliance (BTCEA) develops and delivers education that empowers youth to lead positive environmental change in their individual lives, homes, schools, and communities.

SLS: Student Leadership in Sustainability



SLS is an iterative and extensive curriculum that engages middle and high school youth on matters related to personal and global health, consumer choices, resource conservation, connection to self, community and nature, and various social justice topics. Students learn about the issues, connect them to their own lives, think critically and creatively, and then take action.

6 Years of impact...


STUDENTS
17,000 


500,000 KG OF CO₂
REDUCED

Curriculum – BTCEA updated SLS to stay relevant to today’s changing solutions and challenges in both English and French, researched how to build individual and school resilience in our approaches, and honed our Climate Change curriculum in preparation for a new 2018 initiative.

In development – We are in the creative collaborative process of developing Interconnectedness and Reconciliation materials.

“The most important observation I made from the overall experience was the empowerment the students felt after finishing the projects...[they] commented several times how surprised they were at the impact the small actions made...This was such a gift, SLS being so very well-rounded, and easy to teach.”

Teacher Fiona Buchanan

Teacher Education – More than sixty teachers received professional development workshops in 2017. Additionally, we collaborated with the Delta School District on an educator cohort, where 12 teachers received in-depth professional development, training, and community building. 100% of the cohort indicated an increase in confidence, 86% indicated that participation was an empowering experience, and 75% felt the curriculum enhanced students’ sustainability choices.

In the 2016/17 school year – SLS was taught by 115 teachers in 36 schools, to approximately 3,000 students!

Waste Programs

Over the last year, BTCEA delivered nine Waste Watchers audits, providing students with hands-on insight into the waste issues at their school. The students went on to develop projects to target these problems including a school-wide plastic bottle reduction campaign and many other informed impactful projects.

As part of a contract for the City of Vancouver, BTCEA delivered 20 Zero Waste workshops to inform students about global waste challenges, introduce them to some innovative solutions from around the world, and ask them to be part of the solution by taking action.

Of the 600 students that pledged 2,500 actions after the workshops:

- ✚ 92% of students increased their knowledge of local waste challenges
- ✚ 81% felt inspired to continue taking action and learn more about waste after the workshop
- ✚ 78% of the students indicated an increase in the skills and knowledge necessary to be an effective change-maker in their school and local community

With both waste initiatives, BTCEA meaningfully engaged 750 students and 20 teachers in waste awareness and action.

“This is without a doubt the most unique approach to waste management data collection/awareness I have ever encountered...I came out of this experience enlightened with the knowledge of just how we waste, and the knowledge that there *are* ways of making a change.” *Student Jenny Hue, Prince of Wales Secondary*



Systemic & Strategic Approaches

BTCEA is currently conducting research into social innovation interventions within B.C.'s education system to influence the development of a school culture that nurtures environmentally conscious citizens.

With the support of the Vancouver Foundation, and using Social Innovation technology, BTCEA and Maureen Jack-LaCroix have embarked on a community-action research process that will bring educational stakeholders to share professional knowledge and best practices.

This project will prototype school-based activities, projects, and initiatives that will empower sustainable culture change in schools. We have interviewed 12 stakeholders, and are currently working on synthesizing their valuable input.

We also held a dialogue session that helped inform how this social innovation project will unfold in the future.



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