



TOFINO BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION

FINAL REPORT to the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust June 2007

Curriculum Development and Planning: Youth and the Biosphere “Sustainability Camps”

Summary

This purpose of this project was to develop curriculum for a “Sustainability Camp,” a six day camp for Grade 6/7 students. The goal of the camp is to increase youth knowledge and awareness about the global ecological crisis, with the hope that this increased awareness will help moderate the behaviour of future generations and inspire political action for positive environmental and social change. The camp seeks to provide young people with the skills to take initiative in their own lives and communities. The curriculum is outlined in a series of 3-hour blocks, which was intentional so that they could be adapted for a three day, or even shorter, youth program.

The curriculum for is now complete and posted online under the Creative Commons License “Attribution-Share Alike 3.0.” Through this open online licensing agreement and through personal communication, we have encouraged other organizations and individuals to use, alter and share the curriculum to help improve the breadth and quality of its content.

We received \$4,150 from the CBT towards a projected \$6,383 total project budget (Table 2). However, the scope of the project expanded as the curriculum was being developed, and the total project budget came to \$8,817. The additional costs doubled the anticipated length of the curriculum and added additional practical lessons to teach youth the basics about and the importance of sustainability. TBFG felt it was important to capitalize on efficiencies that came up during the project (such as having a highly qualified curriculum developer in Tofino for two weeks) and therefore assumed the extra expense (\$2,434).

While this project did not fund the actual delivery of a “Sustainability Camp,” we did deliver a three-day camp in April 2007, and we provide a few details about that camp here to highlight the application of the new curriculum.



www.SustainableKids.org
Complete curriculum online, publicly available to use, reproduce and improve.

Expenditure of CBT Funds

There were three main areas of expenses: contracted labour, staff wages, and contractor travel (see Tables 2 and 3). Minor amounts were also spent on printing and advertising.

More than half of the money we received from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust was spent hiring contract labour to develop the curriculum. We received tremendous value from these contracts. The bulk of the curriculum development was delivered by Nadine Raynolds (M.A.), who was referred to us by Dr. Richard Kool. Dr. Kool developed and directs the Master of Arts in Environmental Education and Communication Program at Royal Roads, of which Ms. Raynolds is a graduate. Ms. Raynolds brought extensive experience and connections to the project. Her relaxed but professional manner and her employment experiences with the Environmental Education Group at the Pembina Institute (Calgary, AB) and other green curriculum development contracts are the main reasons that this project was such a success.

We initially forecasted five days of John Platenius' time (\$1,000 total) to coordinate the project, however, coordination of this project turned out to be more time consuming than anticipated. This did not affect the CBT funds, since the extra costs were borne by the Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation. The increased time for the project's coordination was incurred for three reasons:

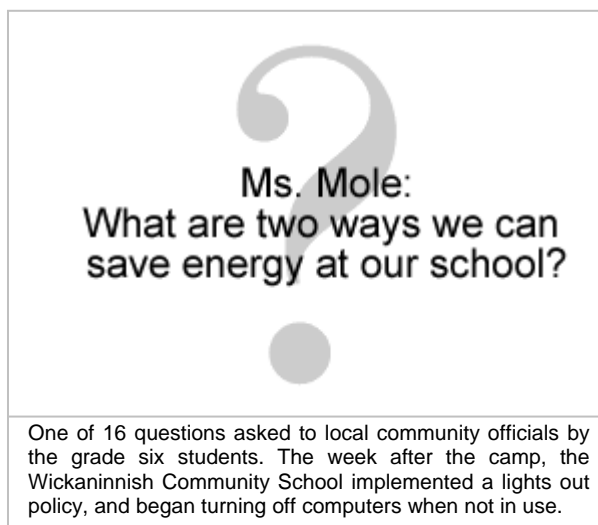
1. The coordinator made an assumption that there would be a large amount of existing youth sustainability education programs in an outdoor setting that could be adapted to fit the project's needs. Surprisingly, there were very few existing resources to draw from that fit our criteria.
2. The coordinator anticipated local capacity to develop and aid in the development of the curriculum, but this was unavailable. Additional time was spent trying to find and hire local educators who were able to work on the project. With no success finding someone locally, additional time was required to find and hire someone from out of the area. We ultimately hired an educator from Nelson, BC (Ms. Raynolds, mentioned above).
3. The scope and length of the curriculum grew as the coordinator gathered information and new ideas for the project. What was envisioned as a 30 page document grew into a 70+ page document.

Other Funding Partners

The Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation was the other major funder of this project (see Table 3, below). The bulk of TBGF funds (~\$2,400) paid the project coordinator and web developer, John Platenius, who is an employee of the Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation.

The Clayoquot Field Station also provided funds for this project through accommodation and office space for Ms. Raynolds for the duration of her stay (\$480). The Field Station was not listed on the initial proposal as a funding partner, but this donation was a necessary component to this project's success, given the lack of local capacity to develop the curriculum.

We are grateful to Josie Osborne, who provided an in-kind review of the curriculum (valued at \$300). Ms. Osborne has valuable experience in developing and evaluating educational programs and assisting people to learn about their environment and each other with respect and a sense of humour. This experience, combined with her intimate knowledge and experience at the Tofino Botanical Gardens was a tremendous asset to this project.



Press and Public Acknowledgements

The Youth and the Biosphere Project's "Sustainability Camp" was received very well by the local community. In January, an advertisement was placed in the Westerly News (CBT funds) to announce the program's launch. News of the grant awarded by the CBT for the curriculum development was announced in The Whimbrel (TBGF's newsletter: <http://www.tbgf.org/newsletter/1-1.php#sustainability>) and a press announcement issued to the Westerly News (Ucluelet, BC).

The curriculum was used soon after its completion by the Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation. The Grade Six class from Tofino's Wickaninnish Elementary School participated in the first Sustainability Camp. The camp was two nights, and a total of three full days. The Foundation raised enough money to support the entire cost of this first camp for the students and donated staff time and resources.

The students spent the three days learning in the Tofino Botanical Gardens' natural settings – the gardens, the old growth temperate rainforest and the mudflats – as well as two local beaches. The kids and chaperones stayed and learned in the Clayquot Field Station.

This three-day camp used different "blocks" from the six-day curriculum to immerse the students in the topics of community involvement, natural resources, renewable energy, pollution, and biodiversity conservation. This demonstrated the success of the project's intention to have interchangeable sections of the curriculum that could be used or not-used, depending on the length of the camp and the nature of the learning atmosphere.

The Westerly News printed a short article about this first camp, along with a photo (see attached). Many parents, teachers, community members and officials commented on the how the camp filled a necessary role in the community.

The websites of various conservation and sustainability organizations also posted stories about the first camp, including Botanical Gardens Conservation International (<http://www.bgci.org/education/news/0363/>), the Canadian Botanical Educators Newsletter (http://www.bgci.org/files/Canada/english_docs/nl_43.html)

Challenges & Future Considerations

As mentioned above, we underestimated both the local capacity to develop the materials, and the amount of labour needed to coordinate the project. We were very fortunate to have the unforeseen assistance of Ms. Raynolds in place of the local capacity. The Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation encouraged and financed Mr. Platenius to continue coordinating the project, despite the unforeseen labour expense incurred by the Foundation. It is impossible to know for certain the exact amount of labor that will be needed to coordinate any project, but we will certainly use our experience with this project to better forecast the cost of coordinating future educational projects and programs.

Three weeks after the first camp, John Platenius visited the students in their classroom to reinforce the lessons learned during the Camp, and to speak about the atmosphere, greenhouse effect and global climate change. This class was very well received by the students and the teacher. In the future curriculum development projects we will anticipate the need and benefits of a follow up class and budget appropriately to plan for these events.



Students play a game in the Botanical Gardens that teaches the importance of effective communication, trust and community involvement. These values are emphasized as paramount to the sustainability dialogue throughout the camp's curriculum.



The students mapped and calculated the distance that the ingredients of their food traveled during the first Sustainability Camp. The camp's instructors and the kids were amazed to find that their first breakfast traveled 42,000 kilometers to reach Tofino.

Table 1: CBT Funds Balance Sheet: This is exactly how the CBT funds were spent.

TOFINO BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION						
Expenses to develop a curriculum and plan Youth and the Biosphere "Sustainability Camps"						
Start	End				Revenue	Expense
01-01-06	06-20-07					
Foundation/NGO	11-06-06				4,150.00	
					4,150.00	
Wages & Salaries	05-28-07	Alana Jung wages (finishing curriculum)				250.00
Contract Labour	02-22-07	Nadine Raynolds contract labour: Curriculum Development				1,750.00
WCB Expense	02-22-07	WCB cost to Nadine Raynolds contract				26.43
Advertising & Promotions	11-30-06	Vancouver Island Newspaper ad				254.02
Travel	01-31-07	Tofino Bus (Nadine R.)				31.98
	02-22-07	Various travel (Nadine R.)				150.00
Project Coordinator		John Platenius wages				1,200.00
Photocopying & Printing Costs		Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation				75.00
Admin		Tofino Botanical Gardens Foundation				416.00
						4,153.43
Difference:		-3.43				

Table 2: Total Project Budget (Forecasted Budget from Project Proposal)

Personnel - Staff	# ppl	Days	Day rate	Subtotal	REQUEST FROM CBT	TBGF	local NGOs
Project Co-ordinator (reporting, liaising with CBT, coordinating curriculum development and evaluation framework)	1	5	\$ 200	\$ 1,000	\$ 800	\$ 200	\$ -
Web developer to post curriculum on Web. (Freely available to public and other Biosphere Reserves)	1	6	\$ 200	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800	
Personnel - Contract/Honoraria	# ppl	Days	Day rate	Subtotal			
Curriculum Development	1	5	\$ 250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ -
Evaluation Framework Development	1	2.5	\$ 300	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ -
Curriculum review by local educators (honoraria)	3	1	\$ 100	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300
Visiting educator / youth camp specialist	1	2	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
Travel and Accommodation	# units	days	\$/unit	Subtotal			
Travel to meet with local educators and First Nations (Ahousaht, Ucluelet)				\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	
Travel and accommodation for visiting educator / youth camp specialist				\$ 300	\$ 150	\$ 150	
Equipment and Materials	# units	days	\$/unit	Subtotal			
Photocopying & printing costs				\$ 150	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ -
Administration and Other							
Administration at 15%			15%	\$ 833	\$ 416	\$ 416	
TOTAL				\$ 6,383	\$ 4,191	\$ 1,891	\$ 300
					66%	30%	5%

Table 3: Total Project Actual Expenses

Personnel - Staff	# ppl	Days	Day rate	Subtotal	CBT	TBGF	local NGOs	CFS
Project Co-ordinator (reporting, liaising with	1	12	\$ 200	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ -
Web developer to post curriculum on Web.	1	6	\$ 200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel - Contract/Honoraria	# ppl	Days	Day rate	Subtotal				
Curriculum Development	1	7	\$ 250	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WCB Curriculum Developer				26	\$ 26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Evaluation Framework Development	1	2.5	\$ 300	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -
Curriculum review by local educators (honoraria)	3	1	\$ 100	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ -
Alana Jung, Visiting educator	1	1	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	
Travel and Accommodation	# units	days	\$/unit	Subtotal				
Travel and accommodation for visiting educator / youth camp specialist				\$ 300	\$ 182	\$ 118	\$ -	\$ -
Accommodation and office for curric developer					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 480
Equipment and Materials	# units	days	\$/unit	Subtotal				
Photocopying & printing costs				\$ 150	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -
Advertising and Promotion	# units	days	\$/unit	Subtotal				
Westerly Ad	1			\$ 254	\$ 254	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Layout and ad design	5		\$ 25	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ -
Administration and Other								
Administration at 15%			15%	\$ -	\$ 416	\$ 416	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 8,817	\$ 4,153	\$ 3,884	\$ 300	\$ 480
					47%	44%	3%	12%

Ms. Hansen's grade six class from Wickaninnish Elementary School was the first group to experience the Sustainability Camp at the Tofino Botanical Gardens this past week. The camp, administered by the TBGF foundation, ran for two nights and three full days. The TBGF raised enough money to allow all the students to attend the inaugural camp for free, with the generous help of many local businesses and individuals. The students participated in a wide range of activities, including a discussion on renewable energy. "The goal of Sustainability Camp is to increase youth knowledge and awareness about global and local environmental issues, with the hope that this increased awareness will help the next generation to develop solutions and inspire action for positive environmental and social change," said John Platenius, TBGF staff member and camp director.



Tanya Dowdall from Pacific Rim National Park Reserve shows the students images of plastic debris and how it affects wildlife and the marine environment during the pollution portion of the camp curriculum.

