



# Surveying ESD Initiatives in the Prairie Eco-region

## RCE Saskatchewan Student Researcher Inventory



Kim Dohms, Peta White, Jill Arkles, Emma Findlater, Brooke Leurer, Billy Patterson, and Ann-Marie Urban

### Who are the student researchers?



**Jill Arkles is the student researcher for the Supporting and Bridging Cultures for Sustainable Living and Community Building Theme Area Working Group (TAWG) at RCE SK.** Jill is a third year social work student at the University of Regina, and interested in sustainability, community development and organizing, and education.



**Kim Dohms is the student researcher for the Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems TAWG at RCE SK.** Kim is currently a graduate student in the Department of Biology at the University of Regina. Kim has delivered and developed two landowner stewardship programs aimed at conserving remaining grassland habitat for species at risk. Currently, she is secretary for Friends of Wascana Marsh, a member-at-large for Nature Saskatchewan, and Co-editor of the *Nature Views*.



**Emma Findlater is the student researcher for the Farming and Local Food Production, Consumption, and Waste Minimization TAWG at RCE SK.** She is a fourth year Environmental Science major and Development Studies minor at Queen's University.



**Brooke Leurer is the Student Researcher for Sustainable Infrastructure Including Water and Energy TAWG at RCE SK.** She is a first year student at the University of Regina in the Faculty of Fine Arts majoring in Media Productions and Studies as well as considering completing a BA in Political Science.



**Billy Patterson is the student researcher for the Climate Change TAWG at RCE SK.** Billy is a part-time student, full-time activist in his 4th year undergraduate studies at the University of Regina. Billy is also on the RPIRG (Regina Public Interest Research Group) Board of Directors, URSU (University of Regina Student's Union) Part-time student director, ASA (Arts Student's Association) Social Coordinator.



**Ann-Marie Urban is the student researcher for the Health and Healthy Lifestyles TAWG at RCE SK.** Ann-Marie is a Registered Nurse and a PhD student at the University of Regina as well as a faculty member at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAS), Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS), Regina site. Her areas of teaching include health education and mental health nursing.



**Peta White is the student researcher for the cross-cutting themes: Sustaining Rural Communities and Education Approaches for Regional ESD at RCE SK.** Peta is a Western Australian environmental educator who came to Canada to undertake doctoral work at the University of Regina and is currently exploring environmental education activism, with specific interests in self-sustainable living practices. Peta is a passionate environmental education activist and is currently the President of the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA).

### What is RCE Saskatchewan?

The Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE SK) seeks to transform education for sustainability in our region. Education is broadly understood to include formal education (such as primary, secondary, and post-secondary education) as well as informal and non-formal education (such as the private media and public education by non-governmental organizations).

Education at all times respects the autonomy and dignity of the learner. Education for sustainable development aims at promoting reflection and discernment in our region that helps us identify and pursue paths to sustainability. Such paths lead to ongoing improvements in quality of life while sustaining healthy ecosystems. They promote active environmental stewardship, social justice, and intergenerational equity.

As such, the Sask RCE on ESD has outlined six thematic issues along with two cross-cutting themes to serve as an initial focus of educational activity.

#### Cross-cutting themes:

- Sustaining rural communities
- Educational Approaches for Regional ESD

#### Six Thematic Issues:

- Climate Change
- Health and Healthy Lifestyles
- Farming and Local Food Production, Consumption, and Waste Minimization
- Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems Supporting
- Bridging Cultures for Sustainable Living and Community
- Building Sustainable Infrastructure including Water and Energy

### What are we doing?

The Student Researchers are current students at any post secondary institution in Saskatchewan. Currently we have 7 students (one for each of the 6 theme area working groups and one whom covers both the cross-cutting themes). Students range from undergraduate to graduate and work together and independently. We meet once a month and have jointly designed our inventory survey. We use the survey quite independently to gather our information, coming together to decide how we might present it.

### What are our challenges?

1. Engaging people to respond to our survey requests.
2. Creating understanding of potential for this inventory.
3. Creating understanding of why people should take the time to complete the survey.
4. How best to present the inventory information.
5. How best to collect and manage data.

### How have we addressed these?

1. Email, personal phone calls, and filling out surveys ourselves using information from webpages has helped engage people.
2. Focused on potential for networking and research possibilities; online survey form brings participants to RCE homepage for further information that cannot be captured in a single email or phone call.
3. Focused on networking and collaborating for increased identification of ESD initiatives.
4. Created template of survey; first as a document and then as an online survey form.
5. Online survey form deposits data into database for easier data management.

### Our inventory survey

Using the Webform application in the open source Drupal Content Management System, we have created an online survey for our inventory. This allows us to collect information for our inventory online, where it is deposited into a database for easy management.

You can view our survey at: <http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/532>

Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise - Research Survey

Thu, 2009-04-07 09:38 - gajagajhe

The Saskatchewan RCE is conducting research that will identify provincial education for sustainable development participants. Students have been hired to collect information and the completion of the survey will assist us in this endeavor. The information that is collected here will be verified by the student researchers before it is placed into a large database. It is hoped that this database will become a useful searchable tool that will assist to link Saskatchewan ESD providers/researchers/participants.

You have been sent this link because we feel that you have a program, project, event, activity, initiative, resource, or something that is relevant. Please complete a separate survey for each that you are involved with. We will refer to this area of possibilities as "project". Once you begin this survey, you can not save your responses and come back another day (sorry). The questions (fields) with a yellow star are mandatory (must be complete to progress). Please enter "not applicable" if you don't have anything to include. If you have any concerns regarding this survey, please contact the RCE Student Researcher who contacted you originally.

Thank you  
Student Researchers

Date of survey completion: \*  
[ ] month [ ] day

Name (of person completing the survey): \*

Contact Address: \*

Email address: \*

Project title: \*

Identify the Resource/Contact person for this project: \*

Location of project (city/town): \*

Select the Theme Area that this project falls under:

Climate Change

Farming and Local Food Production

Health and Healthy Lifestyles

Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems

Supporting and Bridging Culture

Sustainable Infrastructure

Describe the project (200 words): \*

Describe the timing of your project (date and length of time the project runs): \*

List keywords that relate to the project (to be used for searchable databases): \*

Please upload a file (if you have one) that offers more information (optional):  
[ ] files

Please upload a photo relevant to the project (optional):  
[ ] files

Describe the educational component (informal awareness, professional training or formal schools): \*

Describe any research questions or research opportunities that could be explored in relation to your project:

Describe any research that has been published (or soon will be):

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