

A Leading Edge Community Greenhouse

In the East Kootenays of British Columbia

The **Community Greenhouse** is a leading edge, low energy use, solar heated, water conserving, 3000 sq. ft. educational greenhouse owned and operated by the Groundswell Network Society at David Thompson Secondary School in Invermere, British Columbia. The **Community Greenhouse** addresses issues of climate change, energy, water and resource conservation, regional ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, food security, and the decline in agriculture in our communities and region.

“For the first time ever our children may not live as long as their parents” This was the conclusion of BC’s Select Standing Committee on Health when exploring childhood obesity. The problem? Sedentary lifestyles and poor food choices. The solution? Encourage children to exercise and to make healthier food choices!

We partnered with our local high school and its award-winning Chef Training Program which focuses on fresh, healthy food choices and preparation. The **Community Greenhouse** will complete the food circle as students learn how to grow and harvest fresh organic food from the greenhouse they then prepare in the kitchen.

We also believe that the whole community needs to be involved not just schools. In addition to School District #6, Trustees and all Schools in SD 6, seniors & seniors service providers, First Nations, service clubs, food security networks, municipal and regional governance, disabled community, agricultural sector and over 300 regional businesses, organizations and individuals have been consulted/contacted for this project since 2006. Six inter-provincial gardens, universities and colleges and one international garden and greenhouse expert were also consulted.

Your Support and Involvement will Help Us Reach Our Community Greenhouse Objectives:

Complete construction and commissioning of the Community Greenhouse in 2009 and begin a 3-year operational pilot;

Decrease CO₂ production associated with food production and transportation and demonstrate its viability;

Produce healthy, organic food for use in high school Chef Training and Career Development programs and in the Community;

Increase regional food security;

Produce native plants for use in local ecosystem restoration programs;

Engage all citizens in programs of horticulture, sustainable building design and demonstrations;

Demonstrate and teach adoptable, practical, alternative water collection, energy conservation and use strategies in production of local foods and in our daily lives;

Serve as a catalyst for sustainability and share results.

For more information please contact:

The Community Greenhouse 250 342 3337 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkLayBsE3s>

The Community Greenhouse, Invermere, BC. "Cultivating Community"

