



# Community Resources for Educators

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*Teachers can tap into a range of resources in their local communities to enhance their students' learning experience around air quality. Here are a few local organizations, outlets and individuals in the Fraser Valley Regional District who can help bring the lessons alive.*

## Field Trips

### Abbotsford-Mission Recycling Depot

- Abbotsford-Mission Recycling Depot has a comprehensive educational program that includes field trips or classroom visits on recycling and related sustainability issues for **Kindergarten to Grade 7**. Ask the speakers to tie air quality into the visit.
- Contact:
  - Website: <http://acsrecycling.ca/>
  - Location: 33670 Valley Rd., Abbotsford
  - Email: [recycling.reception@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com](mailto:recycling.reception@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com)
  - Phone: (604) – 850-3551

### Mission Adopt-a-Block

- Mission Adopt-A-Block's mandate includes education of local business, community organizations, schools and citizens on litter prevention and education strategies.
- Ask about classroom or school-based activities, or invite the Executive Director to chat with your students.
- Contact:
  - Website: [www.missionadoptablock.com](http://www.missionadoptablock.com)
  - Location: 7229 Mershon St., Mission
  - Email: [missionadoptablock@gmail.com](mailto:missionadoptablock@gmail.com)
  - Phone: (604) 826-9423

### Fraser Valley Regional District

- The regional district provides a wide range of services to its member municipalities that include Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Hope, Kent and Harrison Hot Springs, and eight electoral areas. Among its services is air quality planning.
- The FVRD maintains six **air quality monitoring stations** in its communities, in collaboration with Metro Vancouver. To learn about speakers or possible field trips to the monitoring stations, contact the FVRD Environmental Services Department.
- Contact:

- Website: [www.fvrd.ca/airquality](http://www.fvrd.ca/airquality)
- Location: 45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack
- Email: [environment@fvrd.ca](mailto:environment@fvrd.ca)
- Phone: (604) 702-5000

### **The Local Harvest**

- Locally grown food means less transportation of goods, and therefore less air pollution. The fruit and vegetable farm has tours for all ages, promotes sustainable organic farming methods, and also has bees, llamas, chickens and pigs to visit. Field trips can be arranged.
- Contact:
  - Website: [www.thelocalharvest.ca](http://www.thelocalharvest.ca)
  - Location: 7679 Lickman Rd., Chilliwack
  - Email: [dan@thelocalharvest.ca](mailto:dan@thelocalharvest.ca) or [info@thelocalharvest.ca](mailto:info@thelocalharvest.ca)
  - Phone: (604) 846-6006

### **Bakerview EcoDairy**


- Situated in dairy cow country, the Bakerview EcoDairy is a fun field trip that demonstrates new ways of managing waste and keeping dairy cows. It also hosts the only Electric Vehicle Fast Charging Station in Abbotsford (other stations in the city exist, but charge at a slower rate).
- Contact:
  - Website: [www.ecodairy.ca](http://www.ecodairy.ca)
  - Location: 1356 Sumas Way, Abbotsford
  - Email: [info@ecodairy.ca](mailto:info@ecodairy.ca)
  - Phone: (604) 557-5481

### **Walk around the neighbourhood**

- Take a walk with your students in the neighbourhood around the school or at another local location of your choosing. As you walk together, encourage students to find and observe contributors to poor air quality. They can make mental or actual notes of the sources of emissions and also of behaviours that may lead to reducing emissions. Invite them to write a brief report about their observations and allow for time as a class for the students to discuss what they saw.

### **Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition**

- The FVWC is a non-profit organization that works on restoring local waterways and habitats, and has several easily accessible projects in Fraser Valley communities. What does this have to do with air quality? Healthy ecosystems regulate local temperatures



and also clean the air. However, the natural world can also suffer from poor air quality. Field trips at local restoration projects provide in the field experiences for your students and sometimes hands-on work led by experienced biologists and field technicians. They welcome students of all ages.

- Contact:
  - Website: [www.fvwc.ca](http://www.fvwc.ca)
  - Location: 1356 Sumas Way, Abbotsford
  - Email: [rachel@fvwc.ca](mailto:rachel@fvwc.ca)
  - Phone: (604) 791-2235

### **Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve**

- The Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve is a remarkable wilderness reserve in Yarrow for great blue heron and many other local species.
- Contact:
  - Website: [www.chilliwackblueheron.com](http://www.chilliwackblueheron.com)
  - Location: 5200 Sumas Prairie Rd., Chilliwack
  - Email: [herons@shawbiz.ca](mailto:herons@shawbiz.ca)
  - Phone: (604) 823-6603

## **Events**

- **Fortis Environmental Mind Grind:** Abbotsford-Mission Recycling also promotes this 'Reach for the Top'-style knowledge competition, with a segment on air quality, for high school students **Grades 9 - 12**. Teams from high schools in Abbotsford and Mission can apply to take part in spring (April) competition and win cash for their school.
- Contact Abbotsford-Mission Recycling for more details and the latest study guide on this contest. See <http://acsrecycling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/EditToDate-2015-01-21.pdf>
  - Website: <http://acsrecycling.ca/>
  - Location: 33670 Valley Rd., Abbotsford
  - Email: [recycling.reception@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com](mailto:recycling.reception@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com)
  - Phone: (604) – 850-3551

### Fraser Valley Bike to Work and School Week

- Each spring (usually end of May/early June) the Bike to Work and School Fraser Valley Society encourages commuters of all ages to leave their vehicles at home during Bike to Work and School Week. It's a fun and tangible way to show your students that individual action can make a difference to air quality.
- Contact:
  - Website: [www.biketowork.ca/fraser-valley](http://www.biketowork.ca/fraser-valley)
  - Location: All across the Fraser Valley and BC
  - Email: [terri-lynn@biketowork.ca](mailto:terri-lynn@biketowork.ca)
  - Phone: (604) 859-9095

### Commuter Challenge

- Similar to Bike to Work and School Week, the Commuter Challenge is a nation-wide event that promotes friendly competition among organizations and cities to see who can get the highest percentage of employees out of single occupancy vehicles and into healthier and cleaner modes of commuting such as walking, cycling, transit, and carpooling. Learn more at <http://commuterchallenge.ca/>.

### Environmental Days

- Earth Day: April 22
- Clean Air Day: first Wednesday in June
- World Environment Day: June 5
- Canadian Environment Week: first week of June
- Zero Emissions Day: September 21
- Other ideas: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_environmental\\_dates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_environmental_dates)

## Other Resources

### BC Lung Association

- The BC Lung Association offers the **Air We Share** online contest, in which regional high schools can compete for cash. Schools may also apply for grants of up to \$1,000 for an **Air We Share project proposal**. In addition, BC Lung Association staff may be available to complete workshops in classrooms.
- Contact:
  - Website: <https://bc.lung.ca/>
  - Location: All across the Fraser Valley and BC
  - Email: [airquality@bc.lung.ca](mailto:airquality@bc.lung.ca)
  - Phone: (604) 731-5864

### **Idle Free BC**

- Schools across the province have developed ‘idle-free zones’ to encourage parents to turn off their vehicles or school buses while waiting to pick up students. Unnecessary idling wastes fuel, degrades local air quality and contributes to climate change. Schools can apply for free signs, car stickers and other materials. Learn more at [www.idlefreebc.ca](http://www.idlefreebc.ca) or [www.hastebc.org/tools/anti-idling-cookbook](http://www.hastebc.org/tools/anti-idling-cookbook)

### **Burn it Clean**

- Burn it Clean is a public education campaign on best practises for storing firewood and operating wood stoves or fireplace inserts. The intent is to improve air quality, health and safety by reducing wood smoke and fire hazards. For more information: <http://www.bcairquality.ca/topics/stove-burning-practices.html>
- The campaign also promotes the exchange of older wood stove models to newer, high efficiency appliances and a stove rebate program, which is administered by the Fraser Valley Regional District, at <http://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/services/wood-stove-exchange-program.html>

## **Local Governments**

### **City of Abbotsford**

- The Abbotsford- Mission Water and Sewer Commission has A Water Conservation Resource Kit for Teachers for K-12. See: [http://www.ourwatermatters.ca/files/File/Education%20Resources/Water\\_Education%20Kit\\_Grades\\_K-1.pdf](http://www.ourwatermatters.ca/files/File/Education%20Resources/Water_Education%20Kit_Grades_K-1.pdf)
- The Fraser Valley Regional District, in conjunction with Metro Vancouver, maintains two air quality monitoring stations at Mill Lake Park and Abbotsford Airport. (See the Fraser Valley Regional District section.)

### **District of Mission**

- Mission is also one of a handful of districts in B.C. to manage its own municipal forest. Globally, trees are of great importance in protecting air and regulating temperature and water in ecosystems. Schedule a visit to learn how forests can positively impact air quality. See more at [www.mission.ca/forestry](http://www.mission.ca/forestry)
- The Fraser Valley Regional District, in conjunction with Metro Vancouver maintains an air quality monitoring station at Mission Secondary School. (See the Fraser Valley Regional District section.)



### **City of Chilliwack**

- The Fraser Valley Regional District, in conjunction with Metro Vancouver, maintains an air quality monitoring station at the Chilliwack Airport. (See the Fraser Valley Regional District section.)
- The Environmental Services Department oversees waste management in the community, and also has a strong public education mandate. Students can take part in several programs, listed here: [www.chilliwack.com/main/page.cfm?id=2254](http://www.chilliwack.com/main/page.cfm?id=2254)

### **District of Hope**

- The Fraser Valley Regional District, in conjunction with Metro Vancouver, maintains an air quality monitoring station at the Hope Airport. (See the Fraser Valley Regional District section.)

### **District of Kent, Village of Harrison Hot Springs**

- The Fraser Valley Regional District, in conjunction with Metro Vancouver, maintains an air quality monitoring station in central Agassiz. (See the Fraser Valley Regional District section.)

For additional lessons and to complete an evaluation survey, visit: [www.fvrd.ca/airquality](http://www.fvrd.ca/airquality)

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