



**Alberta
Emerald
Foundation**

Emerald Youth Grants

Study Guides

Lacombe Composite High School's
“Ecovision”



30th Annual Emerald Award Recipient
Education

Synocrude

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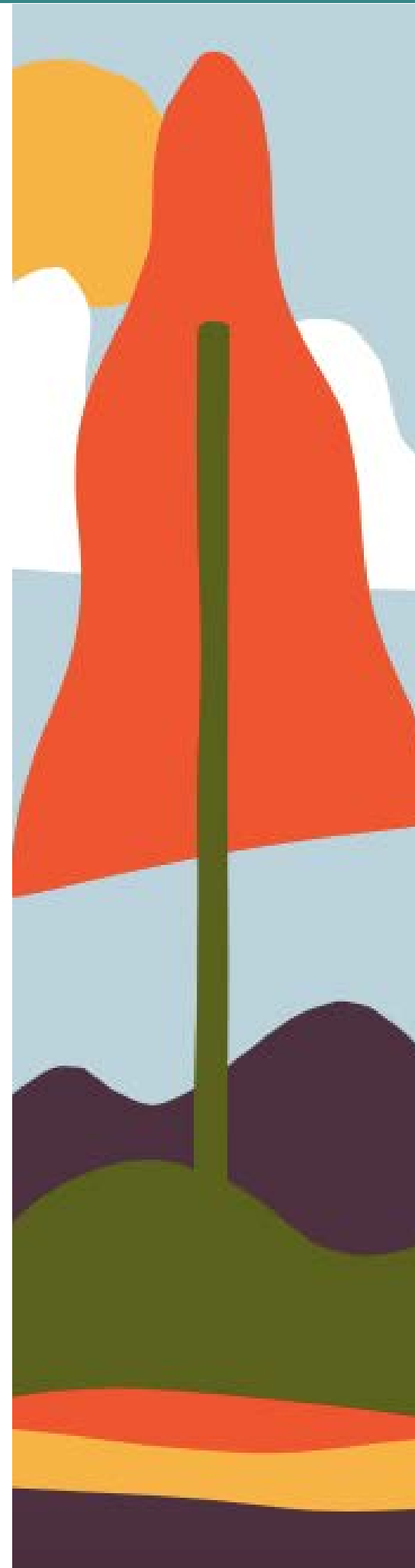
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About the Alberta Emerald Foundation



We're Alberta's environmental good-news storytellers!

The Alberta Emerald Foundation (AEF) is nonprofit organization that showcases and inspires our province's environmental achievements through the annual Emerald Awards. Through our Sharing Stories Communications Strategy, the incredible work of Emerald recipients is highlighted and celebrated year-round. What began as the Emerald Awards in 1992 has evolved into an ongoing conversation.

The AEF empowers the next generation by providing grants to youth-led and youth-targeted environmental initiatives in our province. The Emerald Educational Engagement Grants Program funds up to 30 groups a year for their dream environmental project inspired by the Emerald Documentary Series, What On EARTH Can We Do? Podcast, and Emerald Speakers Series. After finding inspiration from this content featuring Emerald recipients, submit your pitch to us online. If it's accepted, you will receive \$750, thanks to our sponsor Syncrude Canada Ltd., to make your project a reality.

We encourage you to use this study guide as a resource to help you along in your project's journey. For more information, please visit

www.emerald.foundation.ca

Overview

What they're all about

EcoVision grows student leaders through **student-led** projects. Everything they attempt needs to enhance the environment, education, and collaboration with their community. Over the years, they have accomplished numerous projects such as the installation of a 6.0 kW solar system in 2010 and a two-acre outdoor garden with drip **irrigation**. The group is overseen by a Teacher Facilitator, Mr. Steven Schultz, and includes teachers and students, as well as community volunteers.

A large project that Ecovision has done is the Bee Wise project, in which they created a **pollinator friendly** garden with a variety of plants, and placed two beehives in the garden. Students and staff worked with professional beekeepers on this project.



Ecovision has an online store, and has also partnered with various restaurants and stores, where you can purchase herbs, vegetables, frozen fruits and berries, jams, maple syrup, honey, and beeswax strips. This has created a micro-business for students to participate in.

Some of the other great projects that Ecovision has done include:

- Recycling
- **Composting**
- A community greenhouse
- An **aquaculture** system
- Outdoor garden and classroom
- And overall environmental **awareness** with students and community

Key Terms

Know your lingo



Aquaculture: also called fish farming, the cultivation of aquatic species such as fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants.

Awareness: the level of understanding that people have about a certain issue. This can be important because it can spark enthusiasm and support from people, helping attention to be given to problems, and can help create solutions.

Compost: rotted, homemade mixture of organic matter is often called synthetic manure. Compost supplies plants with food and improves soil structure. If mixed with the soil, it helps retain rainfall and plant food. It allows air to enter, prevents soil from crusting, and reduces erosion. If used on the top of the soil, it controls soil temperature, lessens evaporation, and discourages weeds.

Greenhouse: a structure with glass roofs (and sometimes glass walls, also) that plants are grown in. A greenhouse creates an artificial environment (a steady-state climate) by careful control of temperature, light, humidity, air quality, soil moisture, and heat levels. This stable environment helps plants to thrive, and in colder climates (like Alberta), allows plants to be grown year-round.



Irrigation: the artificial supply of water to agricultural land or gardens, to supplement rainfall.

Pollinator friendly: gardens and spaces that are planned out to be more welcoming to pollinators, such as bees and hummingbirds. These gardens are filled with a diversity of plants that are preferred by pollinators, spaces for the animals to make shelters and homes, and even water sources.

Student-Led: initiatives in which the students are the decision-makers and planners. The students have a direct role in leading the project, through support of their peers and teachers.



Conversation Questions

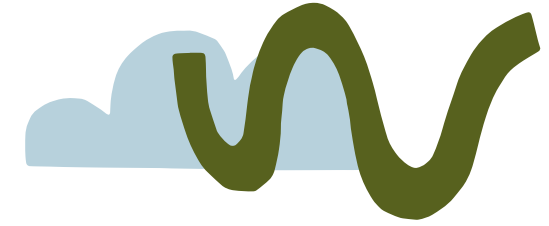
Let's talk about it

- What problem does Ecovision address? How do they address that problem?
- If you could do a project with your class or school, what would you want to do?
- Have you ever been to a greenhouse?
- What are some of the achievements of Ecovision?
- Have you ever collaborated with other students on a project? What was it like?
- What types of animals benefit from community gardens like the ones done by Ecovision?



Continuing Work

Inspiration for your Emerald Youth Grant



- Take action through the suggestions of Ecovision:
 - ☛ Recycle cardboard, bottles, tin, paper, oil, broken electronics, batteries and plastic.
 - ☛ Buy local produce when possible.
 - ☛ Grow a garden.
 - ☛ Compost your organic waste.
 - ☛ Use high efficiency appliances.
 - ☛ Walk or ride your bike.
 - ☛ Turn off the lights.
- Take a tour of your local waste facility to learn more about how waste is managed in your community.
- Set up a garden at your school, and see if you can get credits for taking care of the garden and other environmental projects, like the students at Ecovision.
- At your home and community gardens, ensure that you are planting pollinator friendly plants.
- Did you know that honeybees can communicate to each other through dancing? Learn more about honeybees and hives through this [document](#).

Resources

Click to discover

[Ecovision website](#)

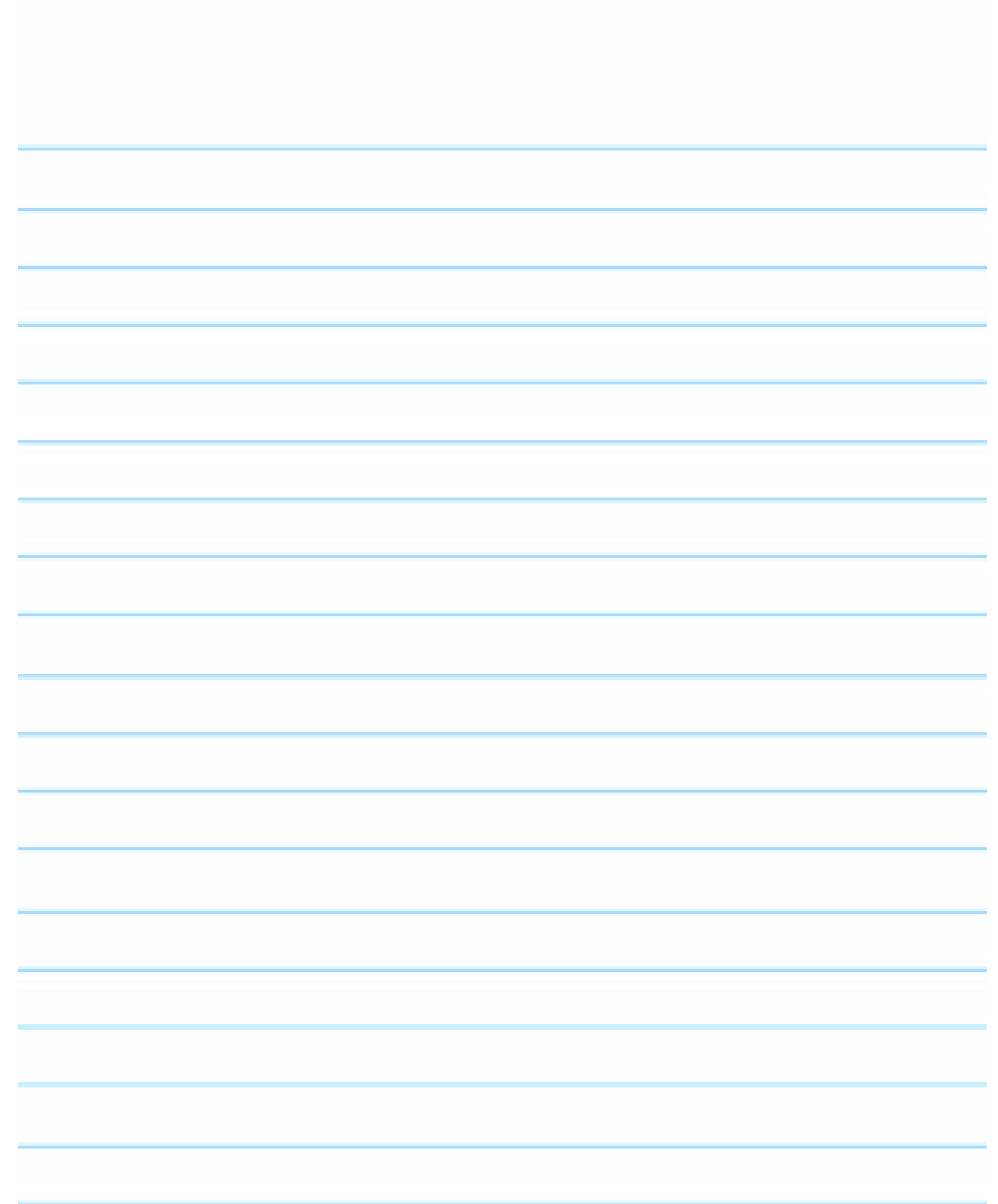
[Pollinator garden tips from ReThink Red Deer](#)

[2017 Ecovision Video](#)

[Britannica Kids](#) (used for Key Terms)

[36 environmental project ideas that you could get funding for!](#)

Notes





Emerald Youth Grants

The AEF would like to thank Syncrude Canada Ltd. for their sponsorship of the Emerald Youth Grants Program. As well, we'd like to thank Hoopla Media for their work on the Emerald Documentary Series.

This study guide was created and written by AEF Summer Student, Katherine Rogers.

[Click to apply for an Emerald Youth Grant!](#)

