



**Alberta
Emerald
Foundation**

Emerald Youth Grants

Study Guides

The Confluence



30th Annual Emerald Award Recipient

Infrastructure

Synocrude

Table of Contents

 Overview

 Key Terms

 Conversation Questions

 Continuing Work

 Resources

 Notes



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

The Confluence: kăn-flü-ən(t)s – a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point (Merriam-Webster).

Aptly named and targeting to be just the fourth residence on the planet to be a fully certified project with the Living Building Challenge (LBC), The Confluence resides in the Summer Village of Waiparous, Alberta, Canada. At just 2,200 square feet over three compact levels, this conservative floor plan captures the essence of a **green building** with its small footprint. Located in a hamlet in the foothills, this special home demonstrates a confluence of:

- Natural and built environments
- The Rocky Mountains and the Prairies
- New and salvaged materials
- Traditional and **contemporary** design
- Family and friends, who can gather here over the years



The Living Building challenge (LBC) is the world's most rigorous and ambitious green building **certification**. It is based on the idea of **reconciling** the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment.

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Woodpecker European Timber Framing, and an Alberta family have partnered to construct this one-of-a-kind home in the foothills of southern Alberta – one that produces more energy than it uses, captures water on-site, and creates a positive impact on its people and environment. The Confluence project is one that celebrates **innovation** and creativity, while keeping **sustainability** at its core.

Key Terms

Know your lingo

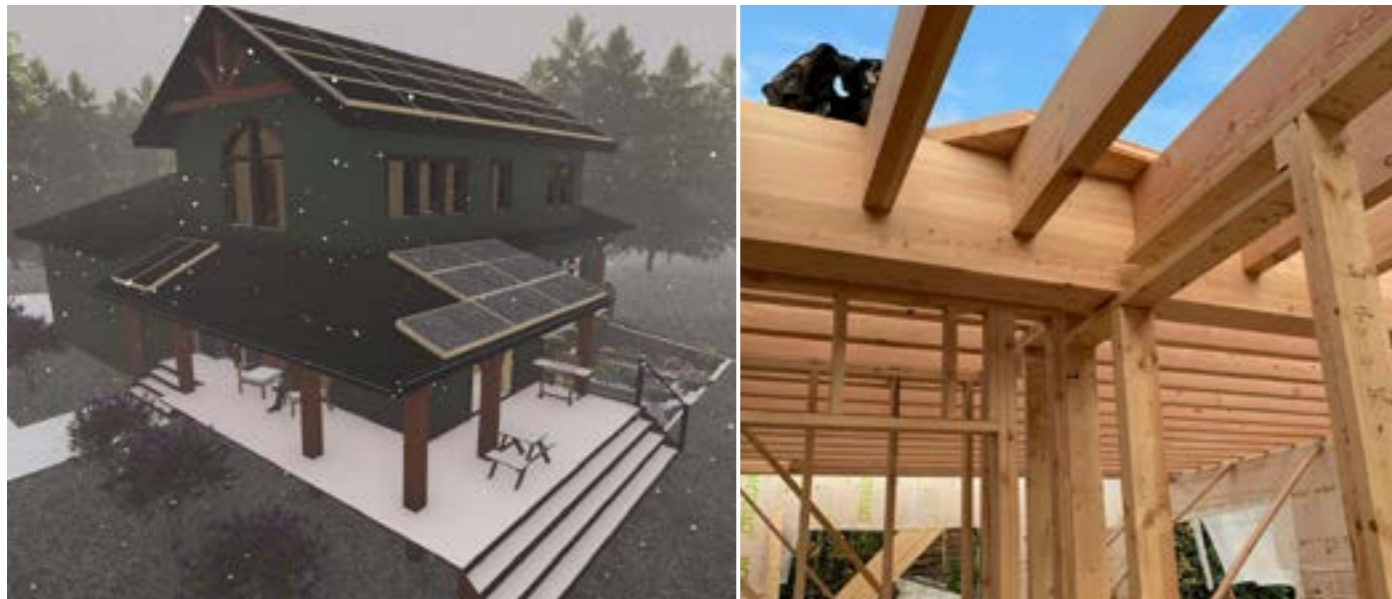


Certification: to guarantee to be true or valid or as claimed or meeting a standard. To be certified means to be shows to meet certain standards or qualifications.

Contemporary: of the present time. Something that is modern or current.

Green building: a building that, in its design, construction or operation, reduces or eliminates negative impacts, and can create positive impacts, on our climate and natural environment. Green buildings preserve precious natural resources and improve our quality of life. (World Green Building Council - learn more [here](#)).

Innovation: a new idea, method, or invention. This can also mean a new way of doing something.



Reconciling: to make friendly again, or settle some kind of argument.

Sustainability: meeting our needs and using natural resources in a way that we could keep doing for a long time. This can be done through reducing the amount of resources that we use.



Conversation Questions

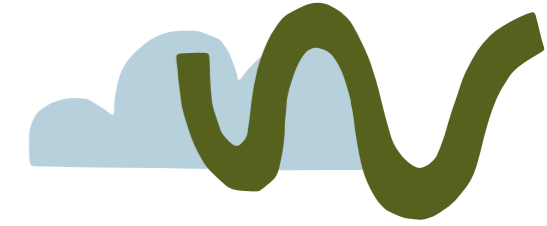
Let's talk about it

- What problem does The Confluence project address? How do they address that problem?
- What is your favourite thing about The Confluence home? What is the most interesting part of it?
- What would your dream-home look like?
- Where do you want to live when you grow up?
- What are some things we can do in our own homes that can help the environment?



Continuing Work

Inspiration for your Emerald Youth Grant



- Check and update your school or office's energy efficiency using an accredited guide, and do a fundraiser campaign to help install innovations to make your space more energy-efficient.
- Do a science project on a renewable energy source. See some ideas [here!](#)
- Do a fundraiser to install solar panels on your school or local community building.
- Take a look at some other [Living Building Challenge projects!](#)

Resources

Click to discover

[The Confluence](#)

[The Confluence's Explanation of LBC](#)

[Municipal Solar Rebate Programs](#)

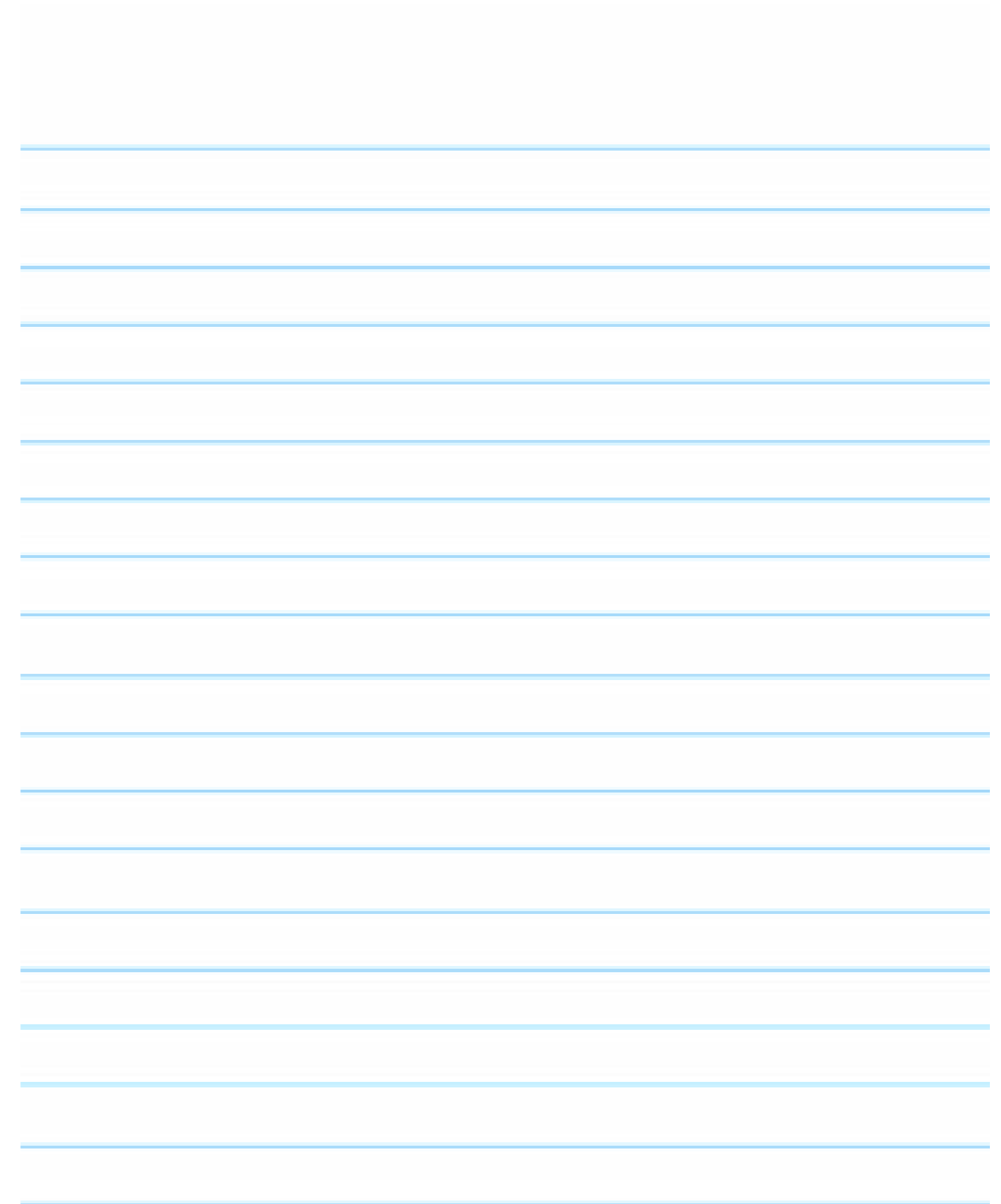
[Municipal Climate Change Action Centre](#)

[Federal Grants and Incentives For Solar](#)

[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!](#)

