



WOOD BUFFALO STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT (S3) FALL 2017 REPORT



Students are energized by solar electricity production - and many other experiences at S3 2017

Inside Education Regional Summits Expand to Wood Buffalo in 2017!

Inside Education hosted the pilot of the Wood Buffalo Student Sustainability Summit (S3) in Fort McMurray on November 2nd, 2017. S3 is the newest addition to a successful series of Regional Summits that explore climate change and energy efficiency in Alberta. E3 has been running in Edmonton since 2012 and C3 had it's inaugural year in 2016.

Making the S3 program available to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is so important due to the presence of the energy industry in the area. Students in the region are in an ideal situation to look at the industries around them, and identify sustainability innovations that are already taking place, and next steps for developing a future of sustainability in the region.

The S3 program showcased the sustainability initiatives in the RMWB through the participation of speakers, tours to a LEED certified commercial building and a Green home as well as through hands-on workshops. Experiencing sustainability in the community and engaging in critical thinking activities are invaluable ways for students to gain

knowledge and to take leadership in sustainability topics in their school communities.

Inside Education believes that these experiences are paramount for students to feel connected their community, and be empowered to take steps towards sustainability and environmental stewardship in their own lives and communities. S3 2017 was a huge success, and is expected to continue in coming years.

In This Report:	
Program Overview	2
Program Goals	2
Program Partners	2
Participants	3
Program Evaluation	3-4
Student Feedback	4
Expected Impact	4
Program Summary	5

Program Overview

48 students and 8 teachers from 5 schools from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo participated in the one-day S3 Pilot on November 2nd, 2017. The program ran as follows:

Program Start: 9:00 AM
9:00 - 9:30 S3 Sustainability Kick-Off <i>What is sustainability? How does it link to our community and climate change?</i>
9:30 - 10:00 Sustainability in the RMWB <i>Hear about how the RMWB is taking waste and turning it into valuable resources in the name of sustainability.</i> Tracey Boutilier , RMWB Solid Waste Services
10:00 - 12:30 Sustainable Communities Bus Tour <i>Visit a Lucullan Green Home and the LEED Gold certified RMWB South Operations Centre to see energy efficiency and sustainability in action.</i> Lucullan Homes RMWB South Operations Centre
Lunch
1:15 - 2:45 Building Blocks of Sustainability <i>Work with your peers and experts from the community to determine the pieces that come together to build a sustainable community</i> Eber Araujo , Fort McKay Sustainability Department Alan Gammon , Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Tracey Boutilier , RMWB Solid Waste Services Jennifer MacMullin , RMWB Beautification Solange Maher , Elements Society Ryan Jevons , Oil Sands Discovery Centre Akash Gupta , Student, University of Alberta
2:45 - 3:15 Youth Leadership Showcase <i>Be inspired by the story of a local high school alumni who has brought sustainability initiatives and entrepreneurship into the oil sands!</i> Akash Gupta , Student, University of Alberta
Program End: 3:30 PM

S3 2017 Numbers

48 Students

8 Teachers

5 Schools

3 School Districts

Program Goals

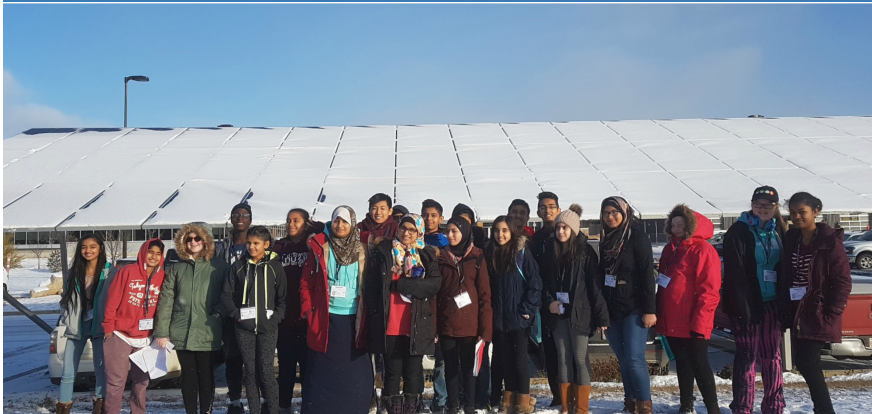
1. Showcase local sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives in the RMWB
2. Connect personal action, climate change and sustainability
3. Inspire students to initiate projects surrounding sustainability and energy efficiency in their school communities that will improve sustainability and environmental stewardship

Thank you to these generous partners who made S3 possible, as well as the individuals and organizations who provided in-kind support by sharing their time and expertise!





Father Mercredi High School, Westwood Community High and Bill Woodward School at the Lucullan Green Home.



Ecole McTavish and Fort McMurray Composite High School explore the solar panels at the RMWB South Operations Centre.

S3 2017 participants discover sustainability around the RMWB.

Participant Schools

Bill Woodward School,
Anzac

Ecole McTavish, Fort
McMurray

Father Mercredi, Fort
McMurray

Fort McMurray Composite,
Fort McMurray

**Westwood Community
High,** Fort McMurray

100% of respondents were empowered by S3 to get involved in sustainability initiatives in their schools

80% of respondents have ideas for leadership projects to take back to their school

100% of respondents would recommend S3 to other teachers and students

Program Evaluation

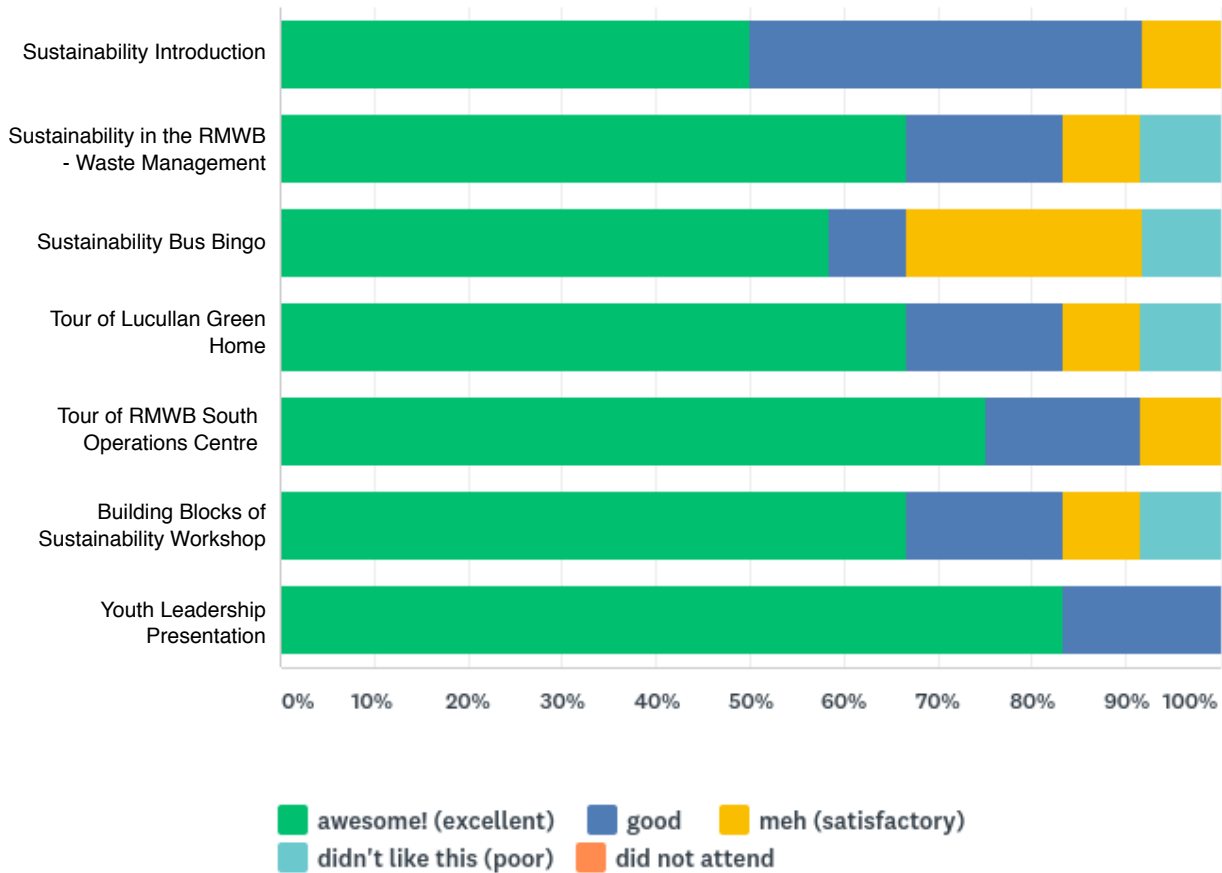
Teachers and students were given the opportunity to evaluate the 2017 Wood Buffalo Student Sustainability Summit through an online survey. This information is of utmost value as we continually develop and improve our youth summits.



After the S3 Program, participants were asked what words came to mind when they thought about "sustainability". The results are above.

Program Evaluation (continued)

Respondent ratings of the different components of S3



Student Feedback

“The S3 program was an immersive and well developed [program]; the program was a inspiring opportunity to learn about how youth in the community can contribute to our society.”

- Michael Wang, Student, Ecole McTavish

“Loved the experience! It was very fun, informative, and inspiring. I feel encouraged to continue to promote sustainability within my community.”

- Jeremy Christopherson, Student, Westwood Community High

ENMAX has generously partnered with Inside Education to offer a \$500 **Energizing Schools Energy Education Grant**, to which all participants of the 3 regional summits can apply. The grant will help schools reach their project goals, such as these projects that teachers and students were excited about after S3:

- Setting up aquaponics and a living wall at McTavish!
- Create an efficient method to reuse waste water from faucets
- Charging port powered by bicycles; Green wall
- Sustainable future for oil sands; Sustainable way to power rockets
- Student-driven environmental leadership in the community; Innovating to solve environmental challenges; Examining waste produced in

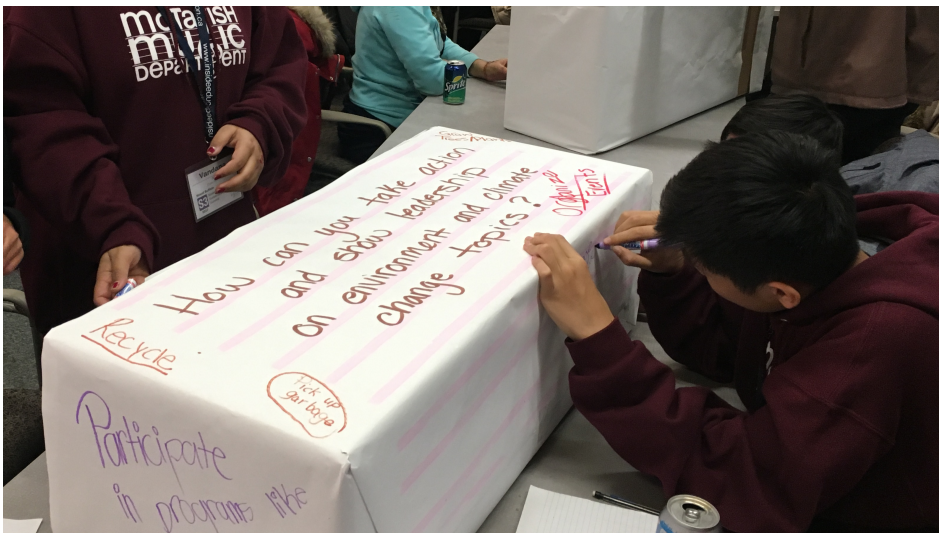
Program Summary

The Wood Buffalo Student Sustainability Summit (S3) held in Fort McMurray on November 2nd, 2017 was a great success. Through interacting with local professionals, taking tours of sustainable buildings in the municipality and sharing ideas and inspiration with peers, 48 grade 7-12 students and their teachers learned about their role in sustainability in the RMWB.

Inside Education has run Regional Summits in Edmonton since 2012 and in Calgary since 2016. Adding northeastern Alberta to the summit series provides support for environmental and climate change education to an ever-growing geographic area in Alberta. This is an important step in Inside Education's goal of promoting energy and climate change literacy across the province.

S3 was such a success due to the involvement of schools from three school divisions, as well as the support Inside Education received from 15 different organizations in the region. In the survey sent to participants after the program, students proclaimed an increased interest in developing sustainability-related programs in their school communities and an increased confidence in their knowledge of sustainability topics. Therefore, the RMWB community is an ideal place to continue running programs such as S3 in the future.

With the support and success of S3 in the fall of 2017, Inside Education strives to continue providing experiential programs such as S3 in the region to junior and senior high school students in the future. Experiential education and critical thinking are important components of Inside Education's mission in natural resource education as they allow for students to learn from their own experiences and use these to develop into stewards of their natural resources.



Students collaborate on ways in which they can show leadership on climate change and environmental topics

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Successes:

- Expansion of Inside Education Regional Summits from Edmonton and Calgary to Fort McMurray
- Varied program with speakers, workshops and tours to encourage learning in different ways
- Offering opportunity for receiving the ENMAX: Energizing Schools Grant to all S3 participants
- Participation from 3 different school districts in the region
- Interest by schools and professionals to take part in a youth summit in the RMWB

Next Steps

- Continue learning about sustainability initiatives in order to provide students with more information next year
- Continue involving more partners, professionals and participants in Inside Education youth summits in the region