

***United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise Saskatchewan:
Building New Partner Opportunities and Capacity for Regional Sustainability***
Funded by the Green Initiatives Fund Sustainable Communities Grants Program

**Interim Progress Report to Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
February 28, 2009**

The following is the interim progress report to Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment in fulfillment of the terms as set out in Schedule “3” (d) of contract # 1315 dated October 2, 2007, and amended January 27, 2009, for the project entitled “United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise Saskatchewan: Building New Partner Opportunities and Capacity for Regional Sustainability” between Luther College, Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan. The previous interim report was submitted on March 31, 2008.

Summary

In March 2007, the *Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Saskatchewan* (RCE Saskatchewan) was officially designated by the United Nations University (see www.saskrce.ca). The development of a proposal to the United Nations University was a two year collaborative process led by the province's three largest higher education institutions: the University of Regina (including its federated colleges), the University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. In October 2007, funding was received from the Green Initiatives Fund *Sustainable Communities Grants* program for the the project entitled *United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise Saskatchewan: Building New Partner Opportunities and Capacity for Regional Sustainability*. This funding is being used to deliver capacity-building projects identified by RCE Saskatchewan's members in four areas:

- (1) student research support for a regional ESD capacity assessment
- (2) communications and networking materials
- (3) hosting of an international RCE conference in Saskatchewan
- (4) RCE Saskatchewan participation in global RCE meetings of the United Nations and the UN University

Progress is on schedule in each of these areas. The following key milestones have been reached that are further detailed below:

(1) Student Research Support

During the period 9 students have conducted an initial inventory of sustainable development education initiatives in the region focusing on the RCEs 6 theme areas and two overarching themes as well as supporting the work of their respective working groups. Regular monthly meetings have occurred since December, 2007, concluding with the expiration of most of the contracts in December, 2008. 2 students have been rehired to prepare the data gathered for each working group, document the process to date, analyze the data, and work to develop an electronic mapping of ESD projects in the region in conjunction with the student researcher hired for the RCE Technology Group.

(2) Communication and Networking

Several achievements have occurred since the last reporting date. After the design of two draft logos for RCE Saskatchewan, one of these designs was selected. Go Giraffe Go, Inc., of Regina,

Saskatchewan, revised the logo on the basis of input from RCE Saskatchewan members. The logo was formally unveiled and incorporated into the RCE SK website, RCE SK business cards, a banner, souvenir items for those attending the *RCE Conference of the Americas* 2008 (bags and napkins), and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) recognition certificates. Technical improvements continue to be made with the RCE SK website including development of the online ESD Research Survey, the RCE SK Website Survey, and two RCE event websites (see (3) below). RCE Saskatchewan has had several articles published in the UN University's *RCE Bulletin* that is distributed among all 61 RCEs globally.

(3) International RCE Conference in Saskatchewan

The RCE Conference of the Americas for 2008 entitled *Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainability Assessing and Adopting Beneficial Practices* was held from May 25-27, 2008, at the University of Regina. There were 45 presenters and 95 registered. It was preceded by 3 pre-conference fieldtrips and included an evening public lecture on May 25 at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum featuring Severn Cullis-Suzuki attended by over 265 people. Conference information is available on the conference website: <http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/>. Originally envisioned to be part of the RCE Conference of the Americas 2008, the RCE SK ESD Recognition Event was subsequently held in Craik, Saskatchewan, on November 20, 2008, with over 50 attendees and 28 projects recognized. See the event website at: <http://www.saskrce.ca/RecognitionProgram/> The RCE is currently planning its "Spring Into Action" event in Saskatoon for June 8 and 9, 2009, featuring Dr. Chuck Hopkins, holder of the UNESCO Chair at York University.

(4) Participation in UN University International RCE Meetings

RCE Saskatchewan was formally invited to attend the 3rd *International RCE Conference* being hosted by the United Nations University on July 2-4, 2008, in Barcelona, Spain. Four people from RCE Saskatchewan attended the event (within the funding budgeted for 2 attendees) representing the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and Luther College. RCE Saskatchewan led and reported on the continental meeting of the Americas to the general assembly of RCEs in Barcelona and subsequently has actively participated in the planning for the 4th *International RCE Conference* being hosted in Montreal from May 13-15, 2009.

Progress During the Reporting Period

The following details specific progress in each of the four project areas from March 31, 2008, to February 28, 2009. In a number of cases, Luther College, Regina has entered into contracts in relation to the various deliverables outlined below. Copies of these contracts are available upon request.

(1) Student Research Support

Nine students were hired to conduct an initial inventory of sustainable development education initiatives in the region with one focusing on each of the 6 RCE theme areas and one focusing on the RCE's two overarching themes. In addition to the three students hired in December, 2007 and three hired in January, 2008, one student was hired in May, 2008, one in September 2008, and one in December, 2008. In addition, the student working with the RCE Technology Group was hired in June, 2008. Three of these are doctoral students, 1 is at the masters level, and 6 are at the undergraduate level (see attached table of student hirings). During the reporting period, regular joint monthly meetings with student researchers and supervisors were held on April, 28, May 15, June 9, July 15, August 19, November 15, and October 20, with a wrap-up on December 2, 2008. All but 2 of the initial contracts ended December 15, 2008. Agendas and minutes for each of these meetings is posted on the RCE

Saskatchewan website (www.saskrce.ca) under the respective meeting date. Students have also met individually with their respective supervisors. A standard template for documenting ESD projects was developed collectively. The RCE then implemented the survey using an Open Source survey module available for Drupal (the content management system used for the RCE Saskatchewan website). This was in keeping with efforts to minimize costs and keep RCE information stored in a single location. The RCE Technology Group student researcher implemented the technology. The on-line survey tool is available at <http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/532> . As of January 15, 2009, data on 204 ESD projects had been entered within the RCE theme areas of education for Climate Change, Farming and Local Food Production, Health and Healthy Lifestyles, Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems, Supporting and Bridging Cultures, and Sustainable Infrastructure. Students identified 61 projects with research questions and opportunities that could be explored (see “Results of RCE Saskatchewan Research Survey of ESD Projects as of January 15, 2009” attachment). The 8 student researchers working on the ESD inventory that were hired prior to October, 2008, each submitted final reports regarding their own project results, reflections and learnings from the project. Two of the students have since been rehired as of February 5, 2009, to analyze these reports and document the process used by RCE SK for other RCEs globally. In addition, they will prepare summary documents of the data for each working group and work on developing a mapping tool for the data on the RCE SK website using “Nice Maps” Open Source mapping software (also available as a module for the Drupal Content Management system; see <http://drupal.org/project/nicemap>).

(2) Communication and Networking

The finalization of the RCE Logo following the previous reporting period included the development of a range of templates (vertical and horizontal that included the logo and title “RCE Saskatchewan” in short and long forms) by Go Giraffe Go, Inc., of Regina. Electronic versions of these in a variety of formats (.jpeg, .eps, and .pdf) are now held and owned by the RCE. In addition, electronic templates were developed for both electronic letters as well as business cards. 5000 pages of formal letterhead were also printed (see sample page with business card attached). In addition, a description of the components of the symbol was also presented at the unveiling and subsequently posted on the RCE Saskatchewan website (see attached description of RCE logo or visit <http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/906>). A vertical form of the logo was chosen for the development of a 31” X 78” banner that was unveiled at the *RCE Conference of the Americas* banquet on the evening of May 25, 2008. It was also presented at the 3rd International RCE Conference in Barcelona as part of a poster presentation. A poster developed by the RCE Student Researchers documenting their work was also presented at both events. In addition, business cards incorporating the new RCE logo were created for the coordinators of each RCE working group and for the student researchers. A further innovation was the silkscreening of the RCE logo on 75 natural cloth bags and 75 napkins made by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council and presented as souvenirs to the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008* participants at the banquet. The RCE Saskatchewan website (www.saskrce.ca) received several technical upgrades including an upgrading of the version of Drupal currently being used. The RCE Technology Group (RTG) also met to develop a survey of the RCE's website users in order to further improve the site (see attached *RCE Saskatchewan RTG Survey Questionnaire* or visit <http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/765>). The implementation of the web survey required an application to the Research Ethics Board of the University of Regina that was subsequently approved. In the near future the RTG intends to publish results from the survey as well as documented milestones in the development of the RCE SK website for use by other RCEs. RCE SK also had a number of articles published documenting funded activities by the Green Initiatives Fund. This included a two page lead article in the United Nations University *RCE Bulletin* Issue #5 (July, 2008; see attached 2 pages of this issue). The RCE SK ESD Recognition Event on November 20, 2008, was also mentioned in the *RCE Bulletin* Issue #7 (December, 2008, p. 2).

(3) International RCE Conference in Saskatchewan

Much of the preparation for the *RCE Conference of the Americas for 2008 (Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainability Assessing and Adopting Beneficial Practices* from May 25-27, 2008, in Regina) is already documented in the previous interim report. The poster for the event was completed by *Factor X Solutions* (see attached poster or visit <http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/> go to “conference poster”). The website for the event was completed by Timothy Maciag and includes most of the documentation for the event, specifically:

- The updated [conference program](#) listing the final schedule, including the list of presentors, workshops, and other activities that took place at the conference (see attached or visit: http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/files/u1/May_RCE_Sask_Conference_Program.pdf)
- Most of the [delegate presentations](#) given during the *2008 RCE Conference of the Americas* (<http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/?q=node/24>)
- [Photos](#) taken during the *2008 RCE Conference of the Americas*: <http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=image/tid/41>
- [Conference evaluations and indicator reports](#) solicited from delegates attending the *2008 RCE Conference of the Americas* (see attached conference evaluation or visit: <http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/?q=node/29>)
- A short video prepared by two students, Charene Claude and Peta White, asking conference delegates about their experience at the conference and involvement with the RCE network: <http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=node/649>

The conference officially commenced on the evening of Sunday, May 25, 2008, with Keynote Speaker, Severn Cullis-Suzuki on “Reconciling our inheritance: Finding opportunity in the challenges of the 21st century”. In this call for citizen education and civic engagement, Cullis-Suzuki identified the need to uphold a vision for human living through recovering connections with the world around us. A champion for sustainable development since her famous speech on behalf of future generations at the *Rio Earth Summit* in 1992, she has been a member of Kofi Annan's Special Advisory Panel for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and recently edited “Notes from Canada's young activists: A generation stands up for Change” published in 2007. This public event boasted a theatre near its three hundred person capacity and was held at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. The talk was followed by an organic wine and cheese reception and a chance to view displays showcasing Saskatchewan's natural history, aboriginal culture, human ecology, and natural resources.

Over the course of the conference delegates were able to hear from approximately 50 presenters and panellists, including speakers from RCE Montreal, RCE North Texas, RCE Curitiba-Parana (Brazil), RCE Greater Sudbury (Canada), and RCE Toronto. The presenters included Bob Willard, a leading expert on the business value of corporate sustainability strategies, who joined a panel session via live web conferencing from Toronto, Ontario. There were a number of participants in the poster and display session which gave delegates a chance to learn more about initiatives and organizations working on education for sustainable development in Saskatchewan and elsewhere in the Americas.

An evening networking event was held on Monday, May 26 2008, at SoHo, a contemporary gourmet restaurant in Regina's revitalized Warehouse District featuring local and regional dishes. The event was

a perfect time for conference delegates to unwind as they listened to a live performance by Glenn Sutter. There were also brief presentations on the significance of revitalizing the old warehouse district for urban sustainability, and the RCE Saskatchewan logo was unveiled.

Delegates were also able to register for exciting pre-conference tours that included:

- A two-day regional trip on Saturday & Sunday, May 24-25, that included a visit of the Last Mountain Lake Bird Sanctuary (www.econet.sk.ca/sk_enviro_champions/last_mountain_lake.html), the first bird sanctuary in North America, established in 1887, the internationally known Manitou Springs mineral spa (www.manitousprings.ca/), and the Craik EcoCentre (<http://www.craikecovillage.ca/>), a straw bale community centre with composting toilets and geothermal heating.
- An urban ecotour on Sunday, May 25, that included visiting several sites in Regina, Saskatchewan, that demonstrated principles of sustainability, including stops at the Saskatchewan Science Centre, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion, and First Nations University of Canada, among others.

In the spirit of sustainability we endeavoured to provide as much local, fair trade and organic food and beverages as possible throughout the conference. Conference delegates were encouraged to bring their travel mugs and use conference shuttle services to minimize transportation emissions. Conference package printing was kept to a minimum and any necessary printing was double-sided on recycled paper.

Sponsors of the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008* included:

- Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment *Green Initiatives Fund*
- University of Regina Faculty of Education
- Centre for Sustainable Communities at the University of Regina
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association
- University of Regina VP (Academic) Conference Fund
- Luther College at the University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
- Evil Twin Booking Agency
- Saskatchewan Lotteries
- The Royal Saskatchewan Museum
- Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Network.

A further major activity was the planning and holding of an “RCE Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Event” on November 20, 2008, in Craik, Saskatchewan. A 5 member committee held meetings on September 17, October 29, November 6, November 12, and November 26 to plan the event (agendas and minutes are documented on the RCE SK cite for other RCEs; search “RCE Recognition Event Planning Meeting”). A contract was developed and Carla Ballman was hired as the event coordinator. Possible recognition criteria were initially summarized from the November 2007 RCE Gathering. These were then revised by the committee and final evaluation criteria, an application form, and backgrounder were developed (see attached RCE Recognition Event Application and Program Background). The recognition certificate was designed by Tania Wolk of Go Giraffe Go, Inc. (see attached sample certificate). There were a total of 28 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) projects that received recognition certificates and, of these, 27 were able to send representatives to the Craik Eco-centre to receive their awards. Over 50 participants attended. Information on each recognition award recipient and photos from the event are

available on the RCE Saskatchewan website at <http://www.saskrce.ca/RecognitionProgram/>.

(4) Participation in UN University International RCE Meetings

A total of four members of RCE Saskatchewan attended the *3rd International RCE Conference* in Barcelona, Spain, from July 2-4, 2008. Dr. Daryl Hepting is in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Regina. Dr. Roger Petry is a philosophy professor at Luther College at the University of Regina, and Dr. Bob Regnier is in the Department of Educational Foundations at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Regnier's wife Sylvia, a high school teacher from Saskatoon also attended. RCE SK was profiled on the four member Final Reflections Panel by Dr. Petry on behalf of the RCEs in the Americas (alongside panelists representing RCEs in Europe, Africa, and Asia; see attached summary of the continental meeting of the Americas at the conference prepared by Dr. Petry, the conference program, and the *Report on the 3rd International RCE Conference*). Dr. Regnier also provided a summary of his observations regarding the value of participating in the conference (see attachment). As the only Canadian RCE represented at the Conference, RCE SK was instrumental in helping arrange that the 4th International RCE Conference to be held in Canada in 2009 (through e-mail dialogue with RCE Montreal during the conference). RCE Saskatchewan's expertise in developing the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008* is now feeding into the *4th International RCE Conference* through its formal invitation and participation on the organizing committee (Dr. Petry) and advisory committee (Lyle Benko) of the *4 International RCE Conference*. RCE Saskatchewan currently has 10 people having expressed initial interest in attending this Conference. RCE SK intends to use \$4000 of the remaining GIF funds distributed among those who are able to attend to help support their participation.

Project Progress to Date

Many of the expected deliverables as set out in each of the four areas above have been accomplished. The *4th International RCE Conference* will be arriving shortly and much of the preparatory work of RCE SK for the Conference has been completed. The extension of the RCE SK final GIF reporting date to September 15, 2009, enables further work by the RCE Student Researchers to complete the documentation of their ESD projects over the next few months and to ensure a smooth transition of their work to each of the RCE Theme Area Working Groups. These groups, in turn, can use this initial capacity assessment of ESD projects within their respective theme areas as a springboard for their work. The RCE SK "Spring Into Action" event, tentatively planned for June 8 and 9, 2009, in Saskatoon, will provide space for the working groups to meet along with the RCE's organizational partners. Through the support of the Green Initiatives Fund, RCE Saskatchewan has been able to demonstrate the capacity building potential of the RCE network, both regionally and internationally. It is anticipated that the organizational partners of the RCE can now confidently step up to support various RCE projects, both financially and in-kind, given their demonstrated potential.

Performance Measures

The following indicators were set out in Schedule "3" section b) of the Sustainable Communities Grants contract between the Ministry of Environment and Luther College, Regina. Information available to date is provided though some is not yet available (as indicated) based on the status of each project.

- *Research data collected by students and written reports developed from student research activity*

204 ESD projects have been entered into the RCE Saskatchewan online ESD project survey (see attachment “Results of RCE Saskatchewan Research Survey of ESD Projects as of January 15”). 8 final reports have been prepared by the RCE Student Researchers whose contracts ended on December 15, 2008. 2 Student researchers have subsequently been hired to review and synthesize these reports as well as compile the survey data into a useful format for the RCE working groups and RCE website users.

- *Number and composition of participants in International RCE Saskatchewan Conference held in Saskatchewan (includes specific groups represented at the conference e.g. students, attendance from representatives of other RCEs, and attendance from those outside Regina but within region)*

-Total conference registrants: 95

-Total speakers/panelists: 45

-Total attendance of students: 21 students attended, 9 as presenters/moderators

-RCEs represented: 6 RCEs of 8 possible: RCE Curitiba-Parana (Brazil) (1 participant), RCE Montreal (2 participants), RCE North Texas (2 participants), RCE Greater Sudbury(3 participants) , RCE Toronto/UN University (1 participant), RCE SK (77 participants)

-Breakdown of attendance from RCE SK region: Regina & surrounding area (53), Saskatoon(11), Moose Jaw (3), Borden (1), Davidson (1), Craik (2), Estevan (1), Humboldt (1), Lipton (1), Outlook (1). Wadena (1), Prince Albert (1)

- *Indicators of volunteer activity quantifying in-kind contributions of RCE Saskatchewan stakeholders in developing RCE Saskatchewan Conference*

In-kind value of time contributions: over \$16,000 (including participation in conference planning committee [303 hours!], planning sub-committees, volunteer hours, and international participation in conference planning calls).

- *Number of organizations involved in International RCE Saskatchewan Conference*

46 organizations' representatives attended the conference, many of which participated in the poster/display session and/or presented during the conference.

- *Number of media reports related to International RCE Conference in Saskatchewan*

Media coverage of the RCE Conference (5 official media stories and additional coverage):

- one *LeaderPost* article; the University of Regina also featured the conference twice on the feature page in the *LeaderPost* (see attached articles)

- Carla Ballman spoke about the RCE and the RCE Conference as a guest on the CJTR program “the Green Report” with host Sheri Florizone on Monday, March 17, 2008, and replayed on Thursday, March 20

- The conference was featured on Newstalk Radio on Sunday, May 25th, 2008.

- Roger Petry delivered a 10 minute presentation on Access Communications’ program “Talk of the Town on Friday May 9th, 2008, that aired on Monday, May 12th.

- Event announcements emailed through list servers: University of Regina (and posters), SIAST (posters at all campuses), University of Saskatchewan (and posters), Sask ESD Network, SOEEA, SCIC, NESDEC, SES (180 posters in total were widely distributed around Saskatchewan)

- A lead article about the conference appeared in the UN University *RCE Bulletin*, Issue #5, pp. 1-2, circulated to all 55 RCEs in existence at the time
- Following the conference, Lyle Benko and Roger Petry were invited to present at Saskatchewan Agriculture
- media coverage for the RCE SK ESD Recognition Event occurred through publications in the Craik newspaper (December 2, 2008) and through SOEEA and SaskPower news releases.

- *Usage and number of members registered on RCE Saskatchewan website leading up to conference*

The conference website had 2,639 visits with 1606 unique visitors (60.89% new visits) that came from 71 countries/territories. See attached analysis from April 1 to June 9, 2008.

- *Estimates of numbers of general public attending public events organized as part of International RCE Conference*

Over 265 people attended the public keynote address; subtracting the 95 conference attendees this suggests over 175 people from the general public attended the keynote address.

- *Documentation of planning for International RCE Conference to be available for other RCEs seeking to organize similar events.*

All of the agendas and meeting minutes for the planning of the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008* and the *RCE SK ESD Recognition Event* are available on the RCE Saskatchewan website (www.saskrce.ca) by selecting the appropriate date on the event calendar or using the website search functions. The conference program and final evaluation results are available on the RCE Conference website (and have been attached).

- *Number of participants attending in-person meetings of Theme Area Working Groups and RCE Technology Group*

A number of the Theme Area Working Groups (TAWGs) did not meet during the reporting period as their members were heavily involved in preparing for the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008*, including acting on conference planning committees and acting as moderators, presenters, workshop leaders, and pre-conference event organizers. Specific portions of the conference were dedicated to each theme area for which the working groups were responsible. Theme Area Working Group coordinators and members also actively identified projects for recognition at the *RCE SK ESD Recognition Event* in November of 2008 as well as participating in the RCE Facilitation Group meetings during this period. In addition, meeting time was spent with coordinators working individually with their respective RCE Student Researchers as well as participating in the monthly meetings with these researchers (see below). Now that the capacity assessment of ESD projects in the RCE SK region has been completed, these groups will be able to identify individuals and organizations to participate in their working groups as well as have material from which to analyze and advance possible ESD research and other projects. Much communication of the Theme Area Working Groups occurs through the RCE SK website. The number of current subscribed members for each TAWG on the RCE website are as follows:

Climate Change	91
Farming and Local Food Production, Consumption, and Waste Minimization	83

Health and Healthy Lifestyles	74
RCE Facilitation Group (RFG)	26
RCE Technology Group (RTG)	8
Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems	71
Supporting and Bridging Cultures for Sustainable Living and Community Building	93
Sustainable Infrastructure Including Water and Energy	80
Building Sustainable Communities (newly launched in November, 2008)	8

Note: group members can be identified by logging into the RCE SK website group listing (<http://www.saskrce.ca/?q=og>), going to the specific group page, and clicking “members” to the left of the page.

A total of 24 in-person meetings with a total of 200 attendees were held as follows (in addition to the networking at the RCE events listed above and planning meetings associated with each RCE event). Working group meetings are listed as of the start of the GIF funding (as not reported in the previous report):

- 3 Health and Healthy Lifestyle TAWG meetings (6 attendees on average): January 24, 2008, May 21, 2008, November 26, 2008
- 2 Farming and Local Food Production Public Events on November 18, 2008: Afternoon Panel Discussion “Replenishing, Repairing, and Revaluing Water in Rural and Urban Settings” with Joel Salatin and invited guests (20 attendees) and “How to Eat Well AND Save Our Planet” talk by Joel Salatin (held at the Education Auditorium, University of Regina; approximately 175 attendees—not counted in meeting attendee total)
- 2 Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems Meetings (8 attendees on average): Spring, 2008
- 1 RCE Technology Group Meeting: September 24, 2008 (4 attendees; note that most activities of this committee are mediated electronically)
- 12 RCE Student Researcher Meetings (6 to 8 attendees on average): December 14, 2007, January 23, 2008, February 27, 2008, March 26, 2008, April, 28 2008, May 15, 2008, June 9, 2008, July 15, 2008, August 19, 2008, November 15, 2008, October 20, 2008, December 2, 2008
- 2 RCE Facilitation Group Meetings: July 15, 2008 (13 attendees), January 22, 2008 (18 attendees)
- 2 RCE Gatherings (includes an invitation to all members of the RCE): November 23, 2007 (27 attendees), November 20, 2008 (20 attendees)
- *Number of initiatives and new partnerships identified by RCE working groups*

Substantial partnerships will become possible now that the RCE Student Researchers have documented ESD projects in each of the RCE thematic areas. 13 specific initiatives and/or new partnerships that RCE working groups are engaged in are as follows:

Health and Healthy Lifestyles TAWG:

- This TAWG engaged in sustainable health discussions world-wide through completion of the UN University's Sustainable Health Thematic Group questionnaire developed by RCE Penang (Malaysia) that fed into a short background paper for RCE participants on this theme.
- TAWG Co-coordinator, Dr. Tanya Dahms, is an applicant for an NSERC grant being led by the Farming and Local Food Production TAWG. She will make contributions related to her knowledge of food and metabolism.
- Initial discussions are occurring with RCE Greater Sudbury in the area of health, particularly as it relates to the RCE SK ESD survey tool and possible areas for collaboration with RCE SK.

Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems TAWG:

- This TAWG through its members and TAWG activities (such as organizing the RCE Conference of the Americas the pre-conference field trip and conference workshops) is forming partnerships between the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, First Nations University of Canada, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Friends of Wascana Marsh, Nature Regina, Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environment Education Association, Brightwater Science and Environmental Program, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, and the Craik Sustainable Living Project.
- Workshops were held by Dr. Malin Hansen (TAWG coordinator) and Dr. Fidji Gendron (TAWG member) during the summer on how to grow native plant species. These were held at the native prairie area outside First Nations University of Canada. The workshops had about 25 participants and were given in May (in conjunction with the conference), June, July, August, September and October. The next one will be held on March 16 of this year.

Sustainable Infrastructure Including Water and Energy TAWG

- This TAWG through its structure and members is facilitating linkages related to its sustainable infrastructure theme between the following organizations: the University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, the University of Saskatchewan (School of Environment and Sustainability, Facilities Management, and Division of Environmental Engineering), the National Research Council Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research (CSIR), Communities of Tomorrow (CT), RREDA, SREDA, SK Advanced Technology Association (SATA), SK Trade and Export Partnership, ECOCanada, Roadmap 20/20, Low Energy Design, DGMercer Inc., Youth Build Saskatchewan, Craik Ecocentre, City of Regina, City of Saskatoon, SIAST, Saskatchewan Research Council, PTRC, Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment, Sask Property Management, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Saskatchewan Highways, SaskWater, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, Environment Canada, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan, Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Association of Science Technologists and Technicians, Wascana Centre Authority, Meewasin Valley Authority, Regina Airport Authority, Saskatoon Airport Authority, CP Rail, and CN Rail
- Members of the TAWG are part of the *Engineering Education for Sustainability Initiative* (EESI; education in alternative energy technology), one of 3 flagship projects of RCE Saskatchewan. The goal of the Engineering Education for Sustainability Project

is to continue to build on education and research related to sustainable wind energy in the RCE Saskatchewan region through the collaboration of Shamrock Energy Systems/Cleanfield Energy Corporation, the University of Regina, RCE Saskatchewan, and the Centre for Study in Energy and Environment. The Project involves contributing to the development of two Regional Laboratory Centres (RLCs), one in a rural and one in an urban settings, initially to be established in Craik, Saskatchewan, and at the University of Regina, both geographically positioned within the existing RCE Saskatchewan corridor. The *Engineering Education for Sustainability Initiative* will involve the testing of Vertical Axis Wind Technology (VAWT) within the RLCs for its compatibility, effectiveness and reliability in Saskatchewan. Plans to install a VAWT unit at the research park at the University of Regina are well underway and should be completed shortly.

Farming and Local Food Production TAWG

- This TAWG is currently participating in a project with RCEs from the European Union regarding education related to global trade in food (particularly cereals). RCE Saskatchewan is the North American RCE participating in this project. This partnership emerged as a result of the participation of RCE SK in the *3rd International RCE Conference* in Barcelona in July, 2008.

RCE Facilitation Group (RFG)

- As a result of participation in the 3rd International RCE Conference in Barcelona, RCE Saskatchewan was invited to participate in two global UN University working groups, an RCE Marketing and Communications Group (involving two RCE SK members, Curt Schroeder and Roger Petry) as well as an RCE Strategy Group (involving two RCE SK members, Robert Regnier, and Roger Petry)
- RCE Saskatchewan was one of a few RCEs invited to formally participate in the planning of the 4th International RCE Conference in Montreal (May 13-15, 2009) with Lyle Benko serving on the Conference Advisory Group and Roger Petry serving on the Conference Organizing Committee.
- RCE Saskatchewan was requested to lead two of 6 RCE Workshops at the *5th World Environmental Education Congress* that precedes the *4th International RCE Conference* in Montreal. These are workshops #3360: *Sustainable Livelihoods and Sustainable Consumption and Production* led by Roger Petry and workshop #3368: *Reorienting Education towards a Sustainable Future: Examples from RCEs (School and Community)* led by Lyle Benko.
- RCE Saskatchewan was one of 3 ESD projects in Canada invited to be part of the Canadian Commission of UNESCO's submission on behalf of Canada to the *2009 World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development* being held in Bonn, Germany, from March 29 to April 2, 2009. While RCE Saskatchewan did not make the final selection (in part as the UN University already had an RCE presence at the conference), our RCE SK co-coordinator, Lyle Benko, has secured a formal invitation to this conference. The conference focuses on the mid-decade evaluation of the U.N. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Mr. Benko hopes to attend the conference if he can secure funding.
- Carlton Trail Regional College formally applied and became a higher education partner of RCE Saskatchewan on July 30, 2008, following its participation in the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008*.

- *Number of participants attending UN University international meetings and number of RCEs represented at these meetings*

4 members of RCE Saskatchewan attended the *3rd International RCE Conference* in Barcelona from July 2-4, 2008. At the conference there were 49 established RCEs represented and 15 candidate RCEs (i.e. regions applying for RCE status through the United Nations University).

Financial Reporting

Appendix A provides an expenditure statement detailing how much of the funding from the Ministry of Environment has been spent and how the funds have been spent to date. The reporting format follows the breakdown of reporting requested in the earlier development of a project budget for the Sustainable Communities Grant application in September, 2007. It should be noted that Luther College, Regina has made contractual commitments with a number of organizations and individuals to advance the projects noted above. As such, the tables indicate these contractual liabilities incurred. The expenditures to February 28, 2009, total \$48,314.27 while the outstanding liabilities incurred that are payable under these contracts totals a further \$12,292.08.

Additional Attachments

The following additional attachments are provided in the order they have been mentioned in the interim report.

- RCE Saskatchewan Table of Student Hirings (updated to February 28, 2009)
- Results of RCE Saskatchewan Research Survey of ESD Projects as of January 15, 2009
- Sample page of RCE letterhead with Logo and sample business card
- RCE SK Logo Description
- RCE Saskatchewan RTG Survey Questionnaire
- *RCE Bulletin* Issue #5, "The RCE Conference of the Americas", pp 1-2
- *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008* Conference Poster
- Agenda: "Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainability", *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008*
- *Conference Evaluation: RCE Conference of the Americas 2008*
- RCE Recognition Event Application
- RCE Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Program Background
- RCE Recognition Program Sample Certificate
- RCE ESD Recognition Program 2008 Program Inductees (hardcopy only)
- Notes from RCEs of the Americas Continental Meeting, *3rd International RCE Conference*
- *3rd International RCE Conference: Conference Program*
- UN University Report on the *3rd International RCE Conference*
- Some Observations on the *3rd International Meeting of UN RCEs*
- Analysis of RCE Saskatchewan Conference Website statistics, April 1 to June 9, 2008 (hardcopy only)
- *LeaderPost*, "U of R Hosting International Event", May 27, 2008 (hardcopy only)
- *LeaderPost* UofR Update, "Sustainability Conference at the U of R to address global issues", May 21, 2008 (hardcopy only)