

**Regional Centre of Expertise on
Education for Sustainable Development – Saskatchewan
(RCE Saskatchewan)
Annual Report to the UNU-IAS
April 11, 2008**

Name of RCE: **RCE Saskatchewan**

What was this questionnaire filled out?

a) **Filled out by the RCE co-coordinators (Roger Petry and Lyle Benko);**

b) Filled out by several key persons/organisations.

Please specify _____;

c) Filled out based on broad consultation with RCE stakeholders;

d) Other (Please specify) _____;

Value-added, results and achievements

1. How do you describe the state of vitality of your RCE?

In general RCE Saskatchewan is quite healthy. Different formal working groups and ad hoc groups within the RCE move with bursts of activity at various times linked to the timeliness of specific projects they are working on, the time and energy of volunteer members to contribute to projects, and the targeted resources (human, financial, and in-kind) made available from partner organizations. Members are increasingly identifying with the RCE as a resource base and formalized networking structures providing ESD opportunities.

2. As result of development of the RCE and its actions what kind of *capacity* was built by whom, with whom and for whom? Please explain and give examples.

Networking capacity: the RCE brings together several higher education institutions in the region (i.e., the University of Regina and its federated colleges including Luther College, the University of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology, and the Carlton Trail Regional College) operating in both urban and rural areas through meetings and events organized by the RCE. Government (municipal, provincial, and federal), businesses, and non-profit organizations with an interest in ESD (and specific ESD theme areas) are also included in these efforts (see item #3 below for details).

Knowledge sharing: codifiable knowledge is shared through the RCE Saskatchewan website (www.saskrce.ca) about specific upcoming events in the region, important ESD documents (from local, regional, national, and

international levels), and funding sources. These are divided in the 6 RCE ESD theme areas (see item #13 below). RCE Saskatchewan also publicizes agendas and minutes from RCE meetings that are held and reporting documentation generated by the RCE (e.g. to the UNU-IAS and project funders). The hardware for the website was donated by Luther College at the University of Regina along with funding from the Province of Saskatchewan. A doctoral student in computer science maintains the site through funding from these two sources and support of members of the RCE Technology Group.

Recognition of ESD projects: RCE Saskatchewan provides letters of support for ESD projects in the region as requested and provides an opportunity for ESD projects to be showcased and present their work at specific events including the RCE celebrations in March, 2007, and the upcoming *RCE Conference of the Americas* being hosted by RCE Saskatchewan on May 25-27, 2008 (see <http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/>) Funding has been received for an RCE awards program. This is pending completion of the RCE Saskatchewan logo and award design.

Financial and In-kind Resources: RCE Saskatchewan has been able to access and coordinate resources of partner organizations towards collaborative ESD activities. Since May, 2007, this includes \$4666 from the Government of Saskatchewan and Luther College (Student Employment Experience Program), \$70,300 from the Government of Saskatchewan's Green Initiatives Fund, \$6000 from the University of Regina, \$3200 from the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association, \$500 from the Royal Saskatchewan

Museum, and \$500 from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. In-kind resources for gatherings, meeting space, and food have been provided by higher education partners (SIAST, Luther College, U of R, U of S) and other organizations.

ESD Advocacy: RCE Saskatchewan frequently meets with government and other organizations to promote the importance of ESD at a regional level and its value in relation to the respective organization's own interests. This activity over the past year has been undertaken by RCE Co-coordinators and other RCE Facilitation Group members and seeks to build ESD awareness and resources for RCE members. Presentations at board meetings have included:

- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS)
- City of Moose Jaw Urban Environment Advisory Committee
- City of Regina Executive Committee (Mayor, City Councillors, Senior Administrators)
- Friends of Wascana Marsh Board of Directors
- Green Ribbon Climate Change Advisory Committee, City of Regina
- National ESD Expert Council (NESDEC; note for Canada)
- Saskatchewan ESD Network Steering Committee (SESDN)
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (SOEEA) Board of Directors
- SASKPOWER Power Greenhouse International (PGI) Board of Directors

3. What role has your RCE played in *bringing together* individuals and institutions into regional ESD activities and to what effect?

RCE Saskatchewan brings individuals and institutions together through the following mechanisms:

RCE Events (see documentation on RCE Saskatchewan website for further information): RCE Saskatchewan has had the following events since its acknowledgement in January, 2007 by the UNU-IAS:

- *RCE Saskatchewan Celebrations* with events held at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (Regina), Craik Eco-centre (Craik), and Meewasin Valley Authority (Saskatoon), on March 1-2, 2007
- “From a Local to Global Perspective with the RCE Saskatchewan Model”, May 24, 2007, University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)
- *RCE Gathering*, November 23, 2007, Luther College at the University of Regina (Regina)
- *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008* “Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainability: Assessing and Adopting Beneficial Practices”, May 25-27, 2008, at the University of Regina (Regina)

Formal RCE Structures:

RCE Theme Area Working Groups (TAWGs): RCE Saskatchewan’s theme area working groups each focus on one of the RCE’s 6 ESD themes. These groups have cross-cutting membership (both organizationally and geographically) based on interest in the theme area. These meet separately in person at the call of the coordinator or co-coordinators as well as through formal scheduled times at RCE events (e.g. meeting time at the RCE Gathering). Theme area panels are also part of the *RCE Conference of the Americas*. They also organize specific events in their theme area (e.g. “Fostering a Culture of Sustainability: An interactive workshop led by Douglas Worts and Glenn Sutter”

held in Regina, Craik, and Saskatoon on October 4-5, 2007; e.g. a two-day regional fieldtrip on May 24-25, 2008)

RCE Technology Group (RTG): The group facilitates the technology needs of the RCE (e.g., by supporting the development of its website/content management system (Drupal) and the survey needs of its student researchers). It held a technology workshop for RCE members in using the RCE website prior to the *RCE Gathering* on November 23, 2007, and supervises the doctoral student in computer science from the University of Regina that maintains the website.

RCE Facilitation Group (RFG): This group acts as a clearing-house for information and resources through the RCE and maintains formal linkages with the UNU-IAS and other RCEs globally. It has broad institutional membership including higher education stakeholders in the region as well as the coordinators from each theme area. It has met formally on May 22, 2007, and on October 22, 2007. Decisions also take place through voting on the RCE website and through e-mail notifications of members.

RCE Student Researcher Meetings: Currently 7 student researchers are employed by RCE Saskatchewan. These students are supervised by their respective theme area working group with students meeting monthly at Luther College at the University of Regina (on December 14, 2007, and January 23, February 27, and March 26, 2008).

Ad Hoc Committee Meetings: These are established for specific projects. The Conference Planning Committee for the *RCE Conference of the Americas*, for

example, met regularly on December 19, January 9, January 24, February 20, and March 12, 2008, and has had 6 additional subcommittee meetings.

4. Since the beginning of operation your RCE was working towards objectives jointly outlined by RCE stakeholders,

a) how far did you advance towards these objectives;

RCE Saskatchewan has specific transformative outcomes it is seeking to achieve as outlined in its original proposal for recognition to the UNU-IAS.

These are:

- (1) literacy and access to quality basic education for all within the region;
- (2) identification of key issues of sustainability and sustainability projects in the region;
- (3) open networks for knowledge sharing;
- (4) public awareness about sustainability in the region;
- (5) ongoing opportunities for collaborative work on ESD projects;
- (6) integration of sustainability into formal education curricula;
- (7) formal linkages promoting ESD between organizations;
- (8) identification of current research in ESD and coordination of new ESD research projects;
- (9) development and incorporation of science and technology for ESD;
- (10) acknowledgement and celebration of success;
- (11) ongoing advocacy for ESD outcomes; and
- (12) ongoing measurement and evaluation of RCE initiatives.

Specific RCE activities typically address multiple objectives. For example, the *RCE Conference of the Americas* planned for May, 2008, addresses items 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12. The RCE Saskatchewan content management system/website targets items 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. The student researchers employed by

RCE Saskatchewan in each theme area are addressing items 2, 5, and 8. The ESD advocacy outlined in section #2, especially with the SK ESD Network and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education addresses items 3, 5, 6, and 11. The development of an RCE Saskatchewan logo and recognition awards targets item 10.

b) how would you demonstrate these achievements? (for instance, if your RCE has measurable milestones, please explain how your activities match against your initial goals?)

Specific milestones towards project completion are evident through the formal documentation associated with each project. For example, during the last 6 months (October, 2007) contracts have been signed with 7 student researchers, the RCE Saskatchewan logo designer, the *RCE Conference of the Americas* conference coordinator, and the conference website designer. Each of these have specific contractual deliverables for specific dates and are currently on schedule. Funded projects of RCE Saskatchewan activities by partner organizations have specific *outcome measures* associated with each project. For the \$70,300 RCE Saskatchewan has received from the Government of Saskatchewan's *Green Initiatives Fund*, the following performance measures have been set (*in italics*) with the current status of each provided to March 31, 2008:

- *Research data collected by students and written reports developed from student research activity*
7 student researcher hired by February, 2008, and 7 workplans developed.
- *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)

Not yet available (This will be available upon conference completion).

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

Meeting Description	Number of Attendees	Length of Meeting in Hours	Total In-kind Hours Contributed	Value/ Hour Contributed	Value of In-kind contribution in dollars
	(a)	(b)	(= a X b)	(c)	(= a X b X c)
RCE Gathering Nov. 23, 2007	35	3.5	122.5	\$25.00	\$3062.50
Conference Planning Dec. 19, 2007	16	2.5	40	\$25.00	\$1000.00
Conference Planning Jan. 9, 2008	7	2	14	\$25.00	\$350.00
Conference Planning Jan. 24, 2008	13	2	26	\$25.00	\$650.00
Conference Planning Feb. 20, 2008	14	1.5	21	\$25.00	\$525.00
Conference Planning Mar. 12, 2008	8	1.5	12	\$25.00	\$300.00
Conference Planning Subcommittees (8 meetings)	32 (4 people X 8 meetings) *estimate	1.5 *estimate	48	\$25.00	\$1200.00
International RCE (Nov. 13, 2007; Jan. 17 & Feb. 7, 2008)	24 (8 people X 3 meetings) *estimate	1.5 *estimate	36	\$25.00	\$900.00
Total			319.5 hours		\$7987.50

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

39 organizations have been involved to date in the planning for this event through participation of their representatives in the meetings listed above (a list of organizations is available on request)

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

Not yet available.

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

The conference website has been created (see <http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/>). Tracking mechanisms for usage have been implemented.

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

Not yet available. This will be available following the public keynote address on Sunday, March 25, 2008.

- *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 RCE Gathering on November 23, 2007, 5 conference planning committee meetings, and 4 student researcher meetings 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.

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

In-person meetings of Theme Area Working Groups and RCE Technology Group at a regional level occurred at the RCE Gathering on November 23, 2007, at which 35 people were in attendance. Additional meetings will occur following the RCE Saskatchewan Conference in May; Working Group members have been directly involved in organizing the RCE Saskatchewan conference and working with RCE Saskatchewan student researchers (included in volunteer hours above).

- *Number of initiatives and new partnerships identified by RCE working groups*

Not yet available.

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

These meetings are occurring in Barcelona in July of 2008. At least 2

RCE Saskatchewan members will be attending.

- c) If planned activities have not yet happened, could you please explain why, and what measures you took/are taking to overcome the obstacles.

Currently the development of RCE Saskatchewan awards has been delayed pending completion of the RCE Saskatchewan logo that will be unveiled at the RCE Saskatchewan conference in May, 2008. The logo is intended to be incorporated into the RCE award design. A separate awards event is anticipated for the Fall of 2008. RCE Saskatchewan Theme Area Working Groups will also build their capacity through the inventory of ESD projects being undertaken by their respective student researchers.

5. What is the value-added of your RCE? What is its contribution to the partners inside and outside the region?

The RCE focuses organizational and individual activity on pressing ESD themes identified in the region. It provides an avenue for bringing together a critical capacity of researchers within higher education organizations in the region and between regions to conduct projects that might not otherwise exist within each organization alone. It brings together orders of government (that are sometimes in tension due to jurisdictional disputes) in collaborative ways as the RCE region corresponds to no particular level of government and ESD crosses departmental boundaries. It links formally with the SK ESD Network, a provincial ESD network.

6. Could your RCE activity be described as innovative in the context of region? If

so, why? If not, why not?

RCE Saskatchewan intentionally links rural communities in the corridor between Regina and Saskatoon, along with these two largest urban centres in the province. The region follows the busiest highway in the province, has a substantial portion of the province's population, and has its major higher education organizations. It mirrors the Mixed Moist Grassland Eco-region boundaries and corresponding livelihoods tied to this ecosystem. Its two flagship projects: "Engineering Education for Sustainability Initiative" and "YouthBuild Saskatchewan" have components in both urban and rural centres. The RCE Saskatchewan region follows no existing jurisdictional boundaries and is innovative in this regard.

7. Are the results and outcomes of researches, projects, etc. of your RCE made public in any form? Where appropriate, give references.
 - a) Through the use of advertisement;
 - i. The RCE Saskatchewan Award initiative has targeted funding for advertising.
 - ii. A poster was designed for the *RCE Conference of the Americas* with copies distributed for public display and e-mailing (see <http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/>)
 - b) Through the use of the mass media;
 - i. Significant media attention was paid to the RCE Saskatchewan Celebrations in March, 2007.
 - ii. Media releases are being coordinated for the *RCE Conference of the Americas 2008*, specifically around the keynote speaker (Severn Cullis-Suzuki) and dignitaries in attendance (e.g., the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan).
 - c) Through the use of internet;
 - i. RCE Saskatchewan uses the Drupal content management

systems and Ubuntu server as the open source basis of its website (www.saskrce.ca). Documentation of the RCE's activities and ESD events in the region are posted by a diversity of RCE members on this site. RCE student researchers intend to use a survey module available with Drupal in creating their inventory of regional ESD initiatives.

- ii. RCE Saskatchewan has designed its own *RCE Conference of the Americas* website (<http://www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/>)
- d) Through the use of schools;
- e) Through the use of governmental institutions;
 - i. RCE Saskatchewan and work of its ESD partners have been identified in formal reports of the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment.
- f) Other (please specify): RCE Saskatchewan has participated in developing 1 chapter article and 2 pending articles (1 journal and 1 chapter) about the RCE's activities.

8. Do you believe that the RCE has met so far the overall expectations of the stakeholders? Please briefly explain.

Many RCE Saskatchewan partners, including post secondary and government supporters, have been very impressed with the rapid growth of the work of the RCE over the short time period since its creation. In particular, government has noted the ability of the RCE to leverage significant resources and deliver significant accomplishments in relation to funding received. The RCE content management system has allowed a robust basis for regional networking. Some individuals and stakeholders are still seeking to find their place in the structure; this is understandable as the RCE's structures (such as the theme area working groups) are still in the process of taking shape and are not yet regularized. Challenges also exist for ensuring more complete regional participation (likely to be addressed by further use of meeting technologies and altering meeting

venues).

Organisation and governance

9. How is the organisation of your RCE currently set up (teams, etc.)?

The structures of the RCE include the 6 RCE Theme Area Working Groups (TAWGs), the RCE Technology Group (RTG), the RCE Facilitation Group (RFG), the RCE Student Researcher group, and ad hoc committees such as the RCE Conference Planning Committee (see descriptions in section #3). The RCE is not, as yet, an incorporated entity. Funding targeted for RCE Saskatchewan projects has been administered by specific RCE partners (such as the University of Regina or Luther College) on behalf of the RCE to minimize administrative costs and make use of these further in-kind contributions.

10. What are governance¹ principles of your RCE?

RCE Saskatchewan has the following governance principles/outcomes set out in its founding application to the UNU-IAS (see RCE Saskatchewan website "RCE Project Documents/IntroDocs") and built into its structure:

(1) transparency; (2) accountability and stewardship; (3) flexibility; (4) facilitation; (5) autonomy and self-determination; (6) democracy; (7) human justice; (8) leadership; (9) participation; (10) strategic planning and timely decision-making; (11) reflection and discernment; and (12) decentralized/grass-roots decision-making (Section 5.2; these are each elaborated in Appendix C).

11. Please explain how (if) the management structure and governance principles have changed since inception.

¹ Governance is defined as *"rules, processes and behaviour that affect the way in which powers are exercised.... particularly as regards openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence"* (European Commission, European Governance - A White Paper, 2001).

The formation of Ad hoc committees were provided for in the initial RCE application to the UNU-IAS though these have developed more rapidly in light of specific funded projects needing to be administered (e.g. RCE student researcher funding and RCE conference of the Americas funding). The RCE Technology Group has currently narrowed its membership for the purposes of testing technologies in a more controlled setting. Considerable contractual consultation has had to occur with RCE partners as they are administering funds on behalf of the RCE. This has led to contracts with greater clarity and rigour.

12. How effective are the current management and governance structures in fulfilling the objectives and challenges?

To date the structures seem to be working well. Responsibilities are well delineated with respective working groups understanding their roles. Theme Area Working Groups are developing gradually as they identify specific projects of interest to their members.

Current issues and projects

13. What issues is your RCE currently working on? *Why* and *how* have you chosen these specific issues?

Issues	Explanation/Reason (Why and How?)
1. Climate change	Why Chosen: (1) reflect historical regional strengths; (2) a challenges of significance to the region (e.g. prairie region in Canada is the most affected by climate change after the arctic); (3) an area with existing ESD projects in region and/or of interest to RCE participants How Chosen: Through an analysis of existing ESD projects of those attending formative meetings of RCE Saskatchewan in November, 2005.
2. Health and healthy lifestyles	As above.
3. Farming and local food production, consumption, and waste minimization	As above.
4. Reconnecting to Natural Prairie Ecosystems	As above.
5. Supporting and Bridging Cultures for Sustainable Living and Community Building	As above.
6. Sustainable Infrastructure Including Water and Energy	As above.
Cross-Cutting Themes: A) Sustaining rural communities B) Educational approaches for regional ESD	As above. The two cross-cutting themes are applicable to all 6 theme areas identified.

14. Did the focus of your RCE shift between the time of mobilisation/launching and now? If yes, how?

Some theme areas have been further developed. "Health" is now "Health and healthy lifestyles". "Sustaining rural communities" has greater emphasis on "sustaining rural livelihoods".

15. How do you address these selected issues listed above (i.e. publishing journals/newsletters, provision of educational programme)?

- Each issue area has a dedicated theme area working group (TAWG). Cross-cutting themes are the responsibility of all TAWGs and the RCE Facilitation Group.
- Each of the 6 issue areas has a dedicated student researcher with 1 student researcher dedicated to the two cross-cutting themes. These students are charged with doing an initial inventory of ESD projects in their theme area.
- The RCE Saskatchewan website is structured so that postings and e-mailing can be directed at each individual theme area or multiple theme areas where appropriate. Significant content has been posted in this way (e.g., documents, upcoming events, etc.)
- RCE events such as the RCE Gathering in November, 2007, and the RCE Conference of the Americas in May, 2008, have distinct agenda time for presentations and networking around the theme areas.
- Individual theme area working groups have organized distinct events such as speakers and regional tours appropriate to their theme.

16. Briefly explain how (and if) your RCEs has been involved in activities related to:

a) access to quality basic education

Not as yet, though this is a goal of RCE Saskatchewan and is likely a goal of specific ESD projects in the region.

b) transformative education

Sustainable livelihoods was identified as a central dimension of RCE

Saskatchewan in its founding documents. RCE Saskatchewan provided a formal presentation on the sustainable livelihoods concept at *Toward a Sustainable Future Sustainability Symposium* held in Regina on April 19-20, 2007. The two flagship projects of Saskatchewan are specifically focused on transformative education. For example, YouthBuild Saskatchewan educates youth and provides an innovative way to build green houses while filling a gap in the labour market.

c) training for different sectors of the society

RCE Saskatchewan has been actively working to promote the participation of Saskatchewan school trustees, educators, government, and university officials in the Sustainable Education Academy (SEdA) being held in Toronto in May 4-7 and Winnipeg in November 23-26, 2008. RCE Saskatchewan's second flagship project, the Engineering Education for Sustainability Initiative (EESI) is seeking to provide opportunities for training in the use of alternative energy technologies, specifically Vertical Axis Wind Technology (VAWT), and provision of technical support training in Regional Laboratory Centres (RLCs). The University of Regina is moving forward with the purchase and installation of one of Cleanfield Energy Corporation of Ontario's VAWTs for research purposes. The Faculties of Education and Engineering at the U of R are working together on this project with Engineering focusing on on the research component and Adult Education/Human Resources Development considering educational practice to address the link to alternative energy technologies.

d) awareness about ESD

RCE Saskatchewan promotes awareness about ESD through its RCE events (the RCE Celebration, RCE Gathering, and RCE Conference of the Americas detailed in item #3). The RCE Celebrations were open to the public and the RCE Conference of the Americas keynote speaker event is also open to the public. RCE Saskatchewan also advocates on behalf of ESD in the region with a diversity of organizational stakeholders (including government and higher education organizations) detailed in item #2 above. The RCE seeks to provide recognition and exposure of ESD projects in the region through the RCE Conference and other public events having a showcase component, through letters of support for ESD projects (see item #2), and a planned awards event for which it has received Government of Saskatchewan funding. ESD events and other opportunities are promoted through the RCE Saskatchewan website (www.saskrce.ca). The RCE also promotes itself through the development of an RCE Saskatchewan logo (completed) based on member input at its November 2007, RCE Gathering, and the development of business cards and stationary incorporating the UNU RCE logo (and, in the future, the RCE Saskatchewan logo) for RCE working group coordinators and student researchers.

e) research and development

Members of the RCE Facilitation Group and Theme Area Working Groups are working on a number of publications regarding the work of RCE Saskatchewan. Lyle Benko, co-coordinator of RCE Saskatchewan, authored chapter 7 of *Municipal World*, published by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and edited by David Noble focusing on ESD and the role of RCEs. In addition RCE

members are working on two forthcoming scholarly publications regarding the RCE's work (an article and book chapter). The theme of the *RCE Conference of the Americas* emphasize research, specifically “Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainability: Assessing Beneficial Practices” (see the *conference agenda* on the conference website for topics being examined including research in the 6 theme areas and innovation in networking at regional and inter-regional levels through the RCE network (www.saskrce.ca/conference2008/). RCE Saskatchewan has been invited to participate in developing an evaluation/self-assessment/peer-assessment tool for RCEs and is incorporating this as a workshop topic at the RCE Conference of the Americas in May, 2008.

Please give examples and results for each of the activities.

17. Please list collaborative projects and programs undertaken or planned by more than one RCE partner.

Collaborative Projects	Stage (Planning/on-going)	Partners
1.RCE Conference of the Americas, May 25-27, 2008.	Nearing completion.	RCE Curitiba-Parana, RCE Grand Rapids, RCE Greater Sudbury, RCE Montreal, RCE North Texas, RCE Saskatchewan, RCE Toronto, RCE Western Jalisco

18. Are there collaborative activities for funding and resource mobilization? Please give examples.

Collaborative Projects	Funding Sources	Stage (Planning/on-going)	Partners
1. \$4000 funding to support participation of RCEs in the Americas to attend the <i>RCE Conference of the Americas</i>	Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment: <i>Green Initiatives Fund.</i>	Funding to be received on April 20, 2008, and a portion of the funding remitted to each RCE participating (to be determined after the closing date of registration.)	Government of Saskatchewan; RCEs in the Americas attending the conference.
2. Conference Calls of RCEs in the Americas	Environment Canada supports costs of the calls and coordinates the agenda for the calls	Ongoing. Conference calls have been held on Nov. 13, 2007, and Jan. 17 and Feb. 7, 2008	Environment Canada and RCEs in the Americas available for the call.

19. How do you identify partners for the projects and activities?

Previous collaboration between RCEs in the Americas has been determined by geographic location in South, Central, or North America. RCE Student Researchers of RCE Saskatchewan theme area working groups will examine activities of other RCEs in their respective theme areas for possible linkages with RCE Saskatchewan once the regional inventory of initiatives in RCE Saskatchewan is completed.

Links and networking

20. What is the level of interaction among the partners within the RCE and in what form is it happening? Please explain (i.e. frequency and types of meetings, teleconference, etc.).

The following summarizes material captured in item #3:

- RCE Events (in person with teleconference option; 3 times/year): 4
- RCE Facilitation Group (in person with teleconference; twice/year): 2 meetings
- 6 RCE Theme Area Working Groups (in person; included in RCE Fall Gathering and RCE Conference events; twice/year): 2 meetings (average)
- RCE Technology Group (problems generally addressed electronically; twice/year): 2 meetings
- RCE Student Researchers (meeting monthly starting Dec. 2007): 4 meetings
- RCE Conference Planning Committee (meeting every 3 weeks, starting Dec. 2007): 6 meetings + subcommittee meetings

21. Did the establishment of RCE facilitate the development of connections / partnerships with:

a) UN institutions? (Please give examples)

David Walden, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, participated in the RCE Saskatchewan celebrations on March 1 and 2, 2007. RCE Saskatchewan co-coordinator, Lyle Benko, presented at the U.N. headquarters in New York on May 4 and 7, 2007, at two side meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 15). Lyle Benko updated the Canadian Commission of UNESCO regarding

accomplishments and future opportunities for RCE Saskatchewan in Ottawa and Gatineau on July 23, 2007.

- b) Other RCEs? (Please give examples)

See item #18.2 regarding periodic conference call meetings of RCEs in the Americas.

- c) International experts and expert organizations at the national, regional and global levels? (please give examples)

RCE Saskatchewan works closely with the Saskatchewan ESD Network (SESDN), a provincial body mirroring provincial ESD working groups in other Canadian provinces. Lyle Benko, co-coordinator of RCE Saskatchewan sits on the steering committee of the SESDN and is also part of the National ESD Expert Council (NESDEC). RCE Saskatchewan also works with representatives of Environment Canada having specific national research and reporting responsibilities related to ESD.

- d) Others (please specify) _____