RCE SASKATCHEWAN
REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ACKNOWLEDGED BY
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News Release/Media Invitation to Attend

Event date: Friday, May 30, 2025

Celebrate Saskatchewan's Sustainability Champions

RCE Saskatchewan's 17th Annual Awards for Achievement in Education for Sustainable Development

Friday, May 30, 2025, 8:30 am – 2:00 p.m. CST, in-person and livestream.
Luther College Auditorium, University of Regina

RCE Saskatchewan's Patron, Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, will be in attendance. News media are welcome.

Join us for a unique event honouring champions in sustainability from across the province. The event will honour 45 Saskatchewan projects at a gathering focused on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We are extremely proud to be able to present several special awards. The "**Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation Education Program**" by the **Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre** will be awarded the *Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development in the Community Award*. **SaskOutdoors** will receive *the Lyle Benko Future Generations Award* for its "**Empowering Change through Climate Education and Outdoor Play**" project for outstanding Education for Sustainable Development in Kindergarten to Grade 12. **Dr Shela Hirani** of the University of Regina will receive the *Dr. Garth Pickard Award for Post-Secondary Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development* for their "**Breastfeeding Advocacy Knowledge Hub**" project.

This year's event will see the introduction of two new special awards. The **Community Governance Recognition Award** for outstanding contributions of First Nations Communities & Municipalities to the SDGs in Saskatchewan will go to **Jason Cook-Studer (Lac La Ronge Indian Band)** for their "**Pithesowiskotew Community Energy**" project. **James Whittingham**'s project, "**The Clean Energy Show Podcast,**" will receive the **Energy Innovation Recognition Award** for outstanding contributions to Renewable Energy advancement and energy innovation in Saskatchewan. After the awards ceremony, the event's co-host will provide a curated tour titled "Walking the Wascana: A Land-Based Experience."

All 45 projects being recognized educate, encourage and engage others in local action that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. All dimensions of ecological, economic, social, and cultural sustainability are represented.

This is the 17th year for the event, with more than 340 awards being presented since 2007. RCE Saskatchewan created the awards to honour Saskatchewan sustainable development leaders from businesses, towns and cities, educational institutions and community-based organizations. The RCE is a voluntary network (with founding partners including the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic), and is one of more than 190 Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development around the world that are formally recognized by the United Nations University. The event is held in a different community every year, this year being co-hosted by Luther College at the University of Regina.

RCE SK Co-Coordinator, Dr. Roger Petry is thrilled with another record number of applicants this year. "Saskatchewan has been and continues to be a global leader in sustainable development, and the positive, creative, and focused work of all our recipients is well deserving of recognition. Each has a wonderful story to tell, and our annual awards ceremony is their opportunity to shine."

The 2025 event is sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan, SaskEnergy, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, SIGA, Luther College at the University of Regina, Campion College, University of Regina, MacPherson Engineering, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, and SaskOutdoors. The event also received generous support from our partner, the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC).

Additional attendees from the public are welcome but must pre-register with the Event Coordinator at rcesk.event@gmail.com.

Event Agenda

Wednesday, May 30, 2024, Gallagher Centre, Yorkton

8:30 a.m.	Registration Desk Opens
9:00 a.m.	Networking Session (Morning Snacks) and Social Media Interviews
9:30 a.m.	MCs Start Event: Dr. Roger Petry and Margret Asmuss
9:35 a.m.	Entrance of Vice-Regal Party
9:40 a.m.	Elder Dennis Omeasoo
9:50 a.m.	Address by Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
9:55 a.m.	Greetings from Dr. Murray Knuttila, Interim President, Luther College
10:10 a.m.	Awards Ceremony
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 p.m.	Awards Ceremony Continues
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Awards Ceremony Continues
2:00 p.m.	Guided Tour of Wascana Centre Habitat Conservation Area

For more information:

- *RCE Event Organizer:* Abraham Bugre, rcesk.event@gmail.com
- *RCE Saskatchewan:* Dr. Roger Petry, roger.petry@uregina.ca; Margret Asmuss, msasmuss@sasktel.net
- *RCE Saskatchewan Background:* www.saskrce.ca; What is RCE Saskatchewan Video
- *Live Stream Event Contact:* rcesk.event@gmail.com
- *Event Co-host:* Luther College at the University of Regina
- For media interviews with recipients and organizers: Jill Forrester, text (306) 537-1809.
- Social media: Facebook; Instagram; LinkedIn; YouTube

RCE Saskatchewan 2025 Award Recipients

Recipients of Main ESD Awards	
Sage Creek Prairie School	Kristen Simonson; Sage Creek
Calling Lake Ecomuseum 2500 Seedling Tree Campaign	Calling Lakes Ecomuseum
Saskatoon Zoo Society's Volunteer Coordinator 2024	Saskatoon Zoo Society
Cree Dictionary of Mathematical Terms with Sound	Arzu Sardarli, Ida Swan, Ting Zhou and Kelly Daniels, supported by First Nations University of Canada
Women's Outdoor Weekend	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Library of Things YXE	Library of Things YXE
The Growing Nonprofits Series	Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Studies Network, Luther College, U of R, and South Saskatchewan Community Foundation
Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation Education Program	Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre
One School, One Farm Shelterbelt Project	One School, One Farm (OSOF)
Info Session on the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)	Abraham Bugre; Gender, Environment and Social Inequity Research Lab (GEnSIL), University of Regina
Shiza Hirani's Youth MentorNet Café	Shiza Hirani; University of Regina

Meewasin Ecology Programs	Meewasin
Wetlands Fest	Michela Sisti; Biology Graduate and Undergraduate Student Society (BUGS)
Where nature, creativity, and community shape the future	Kimberly Weiss and Sara Joy Zimmerman; Prairie Sky School
Sustainable Waste Reduction and Diversion Education	Prince Sobere George; The Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
Empowering Change through Climate Education and Outdoor Play	Leah Japp; SaskOutdoors
Saskatchewan Sexuality, Women and Gender Studies 30	Kassidy Nielsen
SCIC Reading Circle for Educators	Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC)
Wetlands For Tomorrow	Group of Organizations
Craik's Edible Gardening Project	Gwen Eyre, Craik Communities in Bloom
GOLDEN: Growing Older, Living Dynamically, Exercising, Nurturing	Kit Stern, Shannon Forrester, Jason Weber and Bart Arnold - College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan
Breastfeeding Advocacy Knowledge Hub	Dr Shela Hirani, Associate Professor at the University of Regina
Thomson Community School's mamawi kakaskihtânânaw	Jeff Cappo; Regina Public Schools
Smart Cooking: Use What You Have	Catherine Beaudoin; Avana AI
SCIC GCE Classroom Workshop	SCIC- Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation
Saskatchewan Polytechnic Geographic Information Science	Ryan Galbraith; Saskatchewan Polytechnic
Mother Teresa Middle School	Mother Teresa Middle School, Regina
Pithesowiskotew Community Energy	Jason Cook-Studer; Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)
Data Accelerator Program	Ryan Tessier, Luther College, U of Regina
Saskatchewan-Ternopil Oblast English Language E&T Program	Nadia Prokopchuk and Megan Fillatre, USask and SEIU

The Clean Energy Show Podcast	James Whittingham; The Clean Energy Show
SCIC InSight Classroom Workshop	SCIC- Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation
InspirED	InspirED Group of Individuals
Initiative Insights: SDG Navigator	Brooklyn Coulson

Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development in the Community Award	
Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation Education Program	Salthaven West Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre
Lyle Benko Future Generations Award (Excellence in K-12 Education for Sustainable Development	
Empowering Change through Climate Education and Outdoor Play	Leah Japp; SaskOutdoors
Dr. Garth Pickard Award for Post-Secondary Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development	
Breastfeeding Advocacy Knowledge Hub	Dr Shela Hirani, University of Regina
Community Governance Recognition Award	
Pithesowiskotew Community Energy	Jason Cook-Studer; Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)
Energy Innovation Recognition Award	
The Clean Energy Show Podcast	James Whittingham; The Clean Energy Show
Honorable Mention Awards	
Design of a Green Infrastructure Pilot Project	Emma Grimsrud, Nicole Kistanov and Dr. Kelvin Tsun Wai Ng, Faculty of Engineering, University of Regina
Achieving climate resilient affordable housing	Anna Elliott; City of Saskatoon & School of Environment and Sustainability (USask)
Treatment Technologies for Airport De-icing Fluid Runoff	Rifat Rahman
To Bee Frank	Colin Whitfield; University of Saskatchewan
Sustainable Practices for Textile Waste Management	Sharmin Jahan Mim and Dr. Kelvin Tsun Wai Ng, Faculty of Engineering, University of Regina

Alternative Water Sources for Urban Irrigation	Cole Steiner, University of Regina
Sustainability assessment of Canadian agri-waste practices	Rumpa Chowdhury and Dr. Kelvin Tsun Wai Ng, Faculty of Engineering, University of Regina
Factors affecting the survival Walleye Fry in Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Polytechnic School of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Sustainability
Geometrical shape effects on landfill thermal heterogeneity	Arash Gitifar and Dr. Kelvin Tsun Wai Ng, Faculty of Engineering, University of Regina
SustainHub	Yash Jadav, Jay Panchal and Dinesh Dalip; University of Regina
Functionality of Fungal Biomass in Wastewater Treatment	Parnian Mojahednia, University of Regina

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