

Our World

Community Collective

206 members

www.ourworldcommunity.org

OWCC for the North Okanagan, believes that best way to effect change is to focus the power generated by large numbers of people to democratically identify concerns and move towards solutions which support a healthy and sustainable future.

Wicked!!!



Meetings

We meet the first and third Thursday of every month.

@6:00 P.M.

For more information, phone Darren at 542-3379.

Once again we are totally impressed with the growth and participation level of our organization. Our membership grew since our last poll from 160 to 206 members, a whopping 28 percent! Besides growth in membership, the amount of people participating in our polls is on the rise, increasing from 70 percent in the last vote to 71 percent in our most recent vote. Wicked! Let's keep those numbers climbing!



In our most recent poll on the **Underlying Root Causes of Pollution**, members voted as follows:

- * 69 people voted on hard copy ballots.
- * 66 people voted on the internet.
- * 15 people "missing in action" (not counted in the voting percentages).

53 percent more people voted online as compared to last time and 77 percent of our registered online users voted. We are aware that more members voted online than those counted in the results. Some votes did not go through due to unexplainable reasons. We recognize the need to identify the cause of the problems some voters experienced. As we evolve, your help, patience and understanding is appreciated.

Poll-ution Poll Results

For our latest poll, we invited our members to help determine the underlying root causes of Polluting of the Earth, the number one issue identified in our last vote. Sixteen people (eight percent of our members) came up with six causes, which they felt explained the root of the problem.

agree or 3-need more information. There was also room for comments. From the feedback received, we found that one important reason as to why we pollute was overlooked, which is "lack of personal responsibility." We have regardfully added it to our list as a seventh cause. Thank you for your vital feedback. Your continued participation is critical if we are to work together as a community of concerned citizens. To see the results of our latest poll, turn to the chart on page 2.

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Okanagan MS Society

Upcoming Fundraising Events
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Okanagan MS Society Walk/Run
 Polson Park
 April 24th
 10:00 am

~

Carnation Campaign
 Polson Place Mall
 Village Green Mall
 also in Lumby, Armstrong
 Locations
 May 7th

All funds raised stay in the North Okanagan area to assist people with necessary equipment and additional assistance.

Participants, helpers and pledges for teams walking needed.

Contact MS Society Office @ 542-2241

Underlying Root Causes of Polluting of the Earth

Poll Results Chart

No.	Causes	Agree	Disagree	Need More Information
1st	Lack of Awareness	83%	11%	6%
2nd	Feeling of Powerlessness	79%	17%	4%
3rd	Corporate Conduct	90%	3%	7%
4th	Media Influence	87%	9%	4%
5th	Governing Process	82%	10%	8%
6th	Monetary System	81%	5%	14%
7th	*Lack of Personal Responsibility	-	-	-

*After reviewing relevant feedback from our voters, lack of Personal Responsibility has been added to our list of causes. Feel free to contact us with comments or feedback pertaining to us adding this additional cause.

Solutions for Pollution

The Next Step

Now is the time we've all been waiting for ... the Solution Phase! As you can see, OWCC has identified some mighty huge underlying root causes of "Polluting of the Earth."

From feedback we've been receiving, our members are asking, "Now

What? We've captured an issue with its plausible reasons for being, now where do we go from here?"

Believe it Can Happen

In order to move to the next step, first we need to start believing that we can make the

world the way that we want it. Then we need to work together and make it happen. Coming Up With Solutions OWCC is now ready to brainstorm solutions to help

...the greater the participation, the greater the feat.

heal and care for our planet, using the Underlying Root Causes we identified as our guide. When we're coming up with solutions and making decisions, we need to be mindful of the effects our actions might produce.

How to Participate

Remember ... the greater the participation, the greater the feat. To participate, you can attend our bi-monthly meetings, mail in your ideas, or

contact us by email or by phone. You can also log onto our forum (located in the member's area) @ [www.ourworld-](http://www.ourworld-community.org)

[community.org](http://www.ourworld-community.org) 24 hours a day. All information gathered is regularly posted on our forum and all the feedback we receive is taken to our meetings for discussion.



...
Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Power in Numbers

Last year OWCC was building the groundwork for expansion, designing a website with an interactive forum, setting up a voting system and publishing a newsletter. This year one of our main focuses is to increase OWCC membership so that when we come up with solutions our voices will have a greater effect. One way to build membership is by word-of-mouth. If each of our current 206

The minimum we require is for you to read the newsletter and vote. It's that easy and absolutely free!

members can attract 2-5 people, by the end of this

year we could have 618-1236 members! Impressive! OWCC is looking to attract anyone who is concerned with the current state of the world. If you would like to see anything in the world

change for the better, OWCC needs your voice. If you are not yet an OWCC member and would like to be, we have made it simple for you to be involved.

The minimum we require is for you to read the newsletter and vote. It's that easy and absolutely free! ***Our only cause is to improve conditions in the world.*** Join today to be part of a large group of concerned people. Let's make the world the way that "we" want it!



~ created by Chris Stempak, Grade 10, Fulton student.

OWCC would like to introduce our newest member, Gunther. One of OWCC's busy members says that he puts his newsletter in the washroom to read. Gunther thinks that's a great idea!



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People Taking Back Their Power

In other countries conditions are so bad that people put themselves in harm's way in order to create change. An example of this is in Bolivia, the second poorest country in Latin America. El Goni, the past president of Bolivia, was a faithful servant of the market who, influenced by the World Bank and the IMF, tried to privatize Bolivia's natural resources. Bolivians wanted to defend their country from such measures which would open their basic resources to external involvement. They succeeded with two victories. In 2000, in the town of Cochabamba, a mass movement of small farmers, market traders, workers and indigenous community groups reversed a government decision to sell off the regional water supply to Bechtel. And in 2003, 500,000 people marched throughout the country to defend national economic control over Bolivia's scant natural resources. In the process, four civilians were killed. The following month, 31 more people were killed on a march over the same cause. As a result, these groups of protesters succeeded in replacing El Goni with a new leader, Carlos Mesa, who represented himself as a voice of national consensus. Today the movement of popular resistance continues as a direct and frontal challenge to unfavourable economic strategies.

OWCC Newsletter Expansion

OWCC would like to expand our newsletter publication. The following is a list of possible categories:

- Alternative Energy
- Environment
- Food Security
- Health
- Monetary Reform
- Corporate Conduct

We are in the process of putting together teams of people who are interested in working on specific categories to help inform and empower our organization. If you are interested in participating in a particular interest group, contact us.

To help expand our newsletter and pay for printing costs, we are looking for sustainable businesses or businesses who are moving towards sustainability to advertise in our publication. Also, donations can be made at Vernon & District Credit Union under Our World Community Collective.

Affordable Professional Web Design
~
Erynn Watson
558-3671
www.watsonweb.com

A big Thanks to Erynn for designing and hosting OWCC's web site!



North Okanagan Community Challenge – Update

The North Okanagan Community Challenge (NOCC) offers you a great opportunity to get involved in promoting healthy, sustainable, climate-friendly living. Our goal is to register as many North Okanagan residents as possible before this pilot project ends in March 2006.

What happens if you register with the NOCC? First, you'll take the Federal One-Tonne Challenge (OTC). If you do this on-line, you'll be able to use "the Calculator" to determine your baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and you'll be able to compare your profile to that of other Canadians and other British Columbians. Then, you'll use the OTC Handbook, or the OTC online tool, to make a reduction plan. If you don't have access to the internet, you can register with the NOCC by calling 545-5072, and you can obtain a Handbook by calling 1-800-662-6232.

Once you've completed the Federal Challenge the fun begins! The North Okanagan Community Challenge comes next. We have compiled a list of commitment options, over 70, that are relevant to our area. With this huge selection of climate-friendly options to choose from, you will personalize your reduction plan according to your location, lifestyle, interests, and pocketbook. You'll probably pick six or so activities from the options provided. These will most likely be things that you've been putting off, such as: recycling and composting more, maintaining proper tire pressure for your vehicle, walking to work one or two days per week, switching to low-energy light bulbs and conserving water. You'll be asked to submit your results to the NOCC after three or four weeks, once you've had an opportunity to determine which commitments you are able to follow through on. The project will be publishing these results in local papers on an ongoing basis, so your successes will likely encourage others to get involved.

You will most likely enjoy health and financial benefits, and you will also help Canada achieve its Kyoto targets, but there is more! Tremendous support for the NOCC has been provided by local businesses, individuals and organizations, and there are numerous incentives available to participants, everything from: information on local climate-friendly goods and services, to transit passes, low-flow shower heads, pedometers, workshops, and a chance to win valuable prizes. In addition, when you submit your final results, not only will your results be added to those of your fellow participants, you will also be eligible to receive an NOCC Rewards Card. This card entitles you to numerous discounts on goods and service and will encourage you to continue to incorporate climate-friendly actions into your life.

You are welcome to register as an individual, but we are also encouraging businesses and organizations to challenge others to get involved in friendly competitions. We can provide you with speakers, and other supports to help you get the momentum going. And, workshops are being offered on a regular basis for "Challenge Champions". If you'd like to help family, friends, and co-workers get involved, come and join us for a low-impact "Learning Lunch". You'll find out about the One-Tonne Challenge, the North Okanagan Community Challenge and how to get others involved. Workshops are offered on Mondays from 11:00 til 2:00, two times per month. Why not register for one today? You can get started now by visiting nocc.ca or by calling 545-5072.

Our World Community

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Published
Bi-Monthly

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*** OWCC ***
is a "Challenge Champion" for the One Tonne Challenge. When OWCC members sign up, we will be your Challenge Champion.