

Human Ecology (Biol 345) Report 2014

For this third year undergraduate biology course the students researched and uploaded an ignite talk to YouTube on a topic of their choice, created or improved a Wikipedia article on a topic related to sustainability in or around Vancouver and designed and carried out an ecology or sustainability project that benefited their local community.

Ignite Talks on YouTube

Ewaste: The Unknown Impact of Electronics

Student: Alex Abundo

Focussing specifically on ewaste recycling in china, Alex discusses how the disposal of phones, computers and other electronics negatively impacts the environment and harms ewaste workers.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9hgG0ynP1I.

The Edible School Yard Project

Student: Adam Berson

Adam talks about the rise of the edible school yard project, a project that uses organic gardens to educate children how their food choices affect their health, the environment and their communities.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnvZtNFqHmQ

Radioactive Waste or The Trash That Really Doesn't Biodegrade

Student: Rentaro Burress

Rentaro weighs up the pros and cons of various methods of disposing of radioactive waste.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2K1VsRQK7U

Plague Inc.: The educationally morbid app

Student: Kayla Capiendo

Kayla investigates the educational potential of an iTunes and Android app, Plague Inc, in which players aim to create a fast spreading and deadly plague. How can this app increase awareness of public health issues?

Link: <http://youtu.be/e8jDhgXI0ol>

The Ethical Choice: Fair Trade Coffee

Student: Jinelle Chang

Jinelle focuses on the ethics of coffee production and investigates whether the fair trade coffee successfully addresses these issues.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBz8SM478gg&feature=youtu.be

Shark Finning

Student: Fabian Cheng

Fabian explores the ecological and environmental impacts of shark finning and method that can be used to reduce the sale and consumption of shark fins.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmJmjDvKDww&feature=em-upload_owner

Light Pollution and Sea Turtles

Student: Abhiram Cherukupalli

Abhiram discusses ecological light pollution, focussing on how this negatively effects the life cycle and breeding success of sea turtles.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9iJcp1W_WI&feature=youtu.be

Pylomon: Catching 'em all in our own backyard

Student: Jovy Eramela

Jovy tells us how a pokemon style trading card games is being utilized to increase ecological literacy of children.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdK7wCSmxHU

Can We Patent Nature? The Role Of Ethnobotany In Modern Medicine

Student: Laura Erwin

Laura discusses how intellectual property rights are being applied to biological organisms, specifically focussing on the impacts this has on indigenous plant knowledge.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lghUDzVyGn8>

Horse Therapy

Student: Alixandra Fredrikson

Ali informs us how horse therapy can have positive impacts on people with disabilities and mental illness.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IltKpv44ICo>

The Urban Weaver Project

Student: Paula Gill

Paula tells us about the history and impact of a project in Vancouver that uses invasive plants to make usable fibres that are used to create art works.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5cXCxWagSE

The Beef With Beef

Student: Dominique Goulet

Dominique investigates the ecological benefits of beef production and compares them to the negative aspects we always hear about.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGNLwQbxqLk

Arapaima Aquaculture

Student: Andrew Ha

Arapaima are the world's largest freshwater fish. Andrew discusses the benefits of arapaima aquaculture could give to the conservation of these immense fish and to South American food security and economy.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci7NBTNzmmQ

The Future Of Textile Dyes

Student: Robyn Halme

Robyn raises awareness of the environmental and human costs of synthetic dyes and how natural dyes could help alleviate some of these problems.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1ufcWzSt7Y

Ecological art in Vancouver

Student: Karolina Kapusta

Karolina explores the history and effects of ecological art. Using examples she explains the aims of ecological art, focussing on art in Stanley Park.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6MOVSfTFPw>

Entomophagy- Economical View

Student: Jung-Wook Kho

Jung-Wook discusses the environmental and economic benefits of farming and consuming insects as food.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=okOq9rOeKYk

Urban Coyotes

Student: Courtney Koroluk

Courtney investigates the effect on coyotes of the urbanization and fragmentation of their habitat and discusses hunting and trapping as a potential solution.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=46D2RsBnCHY

Marius the Giraffe and Zoo Practices

Student: Andy Lai

Marius the Giraffe was a young, male giraffe that was euthanized in Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark in 2014. Andy discusses why this was done and the ethical considerations of euthanizing captive animals.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MdjenuAomI

How cement production emits carbon dioxide

Student: Geoffrey James McKendry

Cement factories are an enormous source of CO₂ emissions. Geoff tells us why this is the case and possible solutions to reduce carbon emissions.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8QvBFqmkE4

Bamboo & Textiles: Consumer Education

Student: Giancarlo Reyes

Giancarlo investigates whether bamboo clothing is as environmentally friendly as we are led to believe.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCUksXCWG_Y

Bottle Water Banning. Is Vancouver next?

Student: Justin Thandi

Justin discusses the environmental consequences of bottled water and questions whether Vancouver will consider banning bottled water.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izLnpJHVd8>

Decontaminating Hong Kong Marshes

Student: Cara Tsang

Hong Kong has long been dumping toxic waste into its waterways. Cara discusses how bioremediation techniques could be used to clean this polluted water.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sjc9aVMU&feature=youtu.be

Bacteria and Asthma; the hygiene hypothesis

Student: Hayley Vanstrepen

Hayley investigates the rise of allergies and illness in western countries and how this might be caused by a too sterile environment.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn6NYentsK4

Dinosaurs Are The Key To Environmental Literacy

Student: Aaron Zwiebel

Aaron enlightens us on the importance of using dinosaurs to increase environmental literacy. By being able to put ecological time into perspective people can grasp the vast time spans that govern evolution and the climate.

Link:

www.youtube.com/watch?edit=vd&v=70R2NOMx3zA

Wikipedia Articles

Sole Food Street Farms

Students: Dominique Goulet and Rentaro Burress

A new article about an urban agriculture project in Vancouver that was founded in 2008.

Link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Dga279/sandbox

84 Express Bus

Students: Cara Tsang and Jovy Eramela

A new article detailing the route and history of the number 84 express bus in Vancouver.

Link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/84_Express

YVR Sustainability

Students: Kayla Capiendo and Karolina Kapusta

A new article about the sustainability initiative at Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

Link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/YVR_Sustainability

Lynn Canyon

Students: Andy Lai and Abhiram Cherukupalli

The expansion of an existing article about Lynn Canyon Park. New sections on the history of the park and the Lynn Canyon Park ecology centre were added.

Links:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Lynn_Canyon_Park;
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynn_Canyon_Park (to be merged)

Means of Production Community Garden

Students: Adam Berson and Robyn Halme

A new article about the Means of Production Community garden in Vancouver, a living public art piece by Oliver Kellhammer.

Link:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Adamberson510/sandbox

Mount Seymour Provincial Park

Students: Luke Kho and Alex Abundo

A large expansion to a stub article about Mount Seymour Provincial Park. Sections were added on recreation activities, invasive plants and the Mount Seymour ski resort.

Link:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Seymour_Provincial_Park

Car-free Day Vancouver

Students: Hayley Vanstrepen and Andrew Ha

A new article was created about Car-free day in Vancouver, a community festival that promotes walking and the reduced use of cars.

Link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car_Free_Day_Vancouver

Urban beekeeping

Students: Paula Gill and Jinelle Chang

A greatly extended article, with a more detailed introduction and sections expanded on beekeeping in London, New York and Vancouver.

Link:

en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Urban_beekeeping&oldid=603201074

Stream Daylighting

Students: Courtney Koroluk and Aaron Zwiebel

An extension of an existing article with a section added on the stream daylighting in various areas in Vancouver including Spanish Banks, Hastings Creek, St. George Rainway and Tatlow Creek.

Link: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylighting_\(streams\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylighting_(streams))

Stanley Park Ecological Society

Students: Justin Thandi and Alixandra Fredrikson

A new article on the Stanley Park Ecological Society, including sections on staff, facilities, animal and plant conservation and stewardship.

Link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Park_Ecology_Society

Lynn Headwaters Regional Park

Students: Laura Erwin and Giancarlo Reyes

A new page detailing the history, ecology, conservation and available hiking trails in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park, Vancouver.

Link: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynn_Valley_Regional_Park

New Brighton Park, Hastings Park and Creekway Park

Students: Geoffrey McKendry and Fabian Cheng

Three new pages detailing the history and available recreational activities in three public parks in Vancouver.

Links: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hastings_Park;
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Brighton_Park;
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creekway_Park

Community Projects

Bottle Recycling in a Community Building

Student: Alex Abundo

Alex set up a scheme in his apartment building to encourage bottle recycling. Nearly 100 bottles were recycled and the tenant who recycled the most earned a \$10 supermarket voucher. The scheme was so popular that a neighbour is continuing the project. Pictures can be seen at twitter.com/Biol_345

Community Exercise Group

Student: Adam Berson

To encourage people to get out more and enjoy nature and to minimize people's reliance on cars, Adam organized a community fitness group in his neighbourhood. By the end of the school year he had already ran eight exercise sessions. The group will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Reducing Litter at UBC

Student: Rentaro Burress

To reduce littering on UBC campus, Rentaro took photographs of areas with a large amount of litter. He displayed these photographs, with a message to encourage people to pick up after themselves.

Recycling in Sorority Chapter Room

Student: Kayla Capiendo

Kayla installed a recycling container in the common room of her sorority chapter house. By the end of the school year she had collected 46 bottles and plans to use the money she earns from recycling bottles to buy environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Nike Reuse a Shoe Drive

Student: Jinelle Chang

Jinelle collected 20 pairs of shoes to donate to the Nike Reuse a shoe project, a project in which Nike use old shoes to make new sports surfaces.

The Upcycle Project

Student: Fabian Cheng

Fabian collaborated with his former high school. He got pupils to recycle old clothes by using them to make new clothes. As the students really enjoyed the new clothes making new clothes, the school hopes to make this project an annual event.

Community Book Drive

Student: Abhiram Cherukupalli

Abhiram collected 135 books from residents in his neighborhood, his local elementary school and community centre. He donated these books to the charity The Reading Tree, an organization that promotes child literacy.

Discovery Box at Vancouver Science World

Student: Jovy Eramela

Jovy is in the process of creating a discovery box (a multi-drawer exhibit) for Science World, that will educate young people on the environmental cost of trash and the importance of recycling consumer packaging.

Community Book Swap Event

Student: Laura Erwin

Laura organized a community book swap event for friends and members of her community.

Recycling at an Industrial Construction Site

Student: Alixandra Fredrikson

Ali started a bottle recycling programme on the construction site where she works. As an incentive, she used the money she received from two months bottle collections to give the employees a free lunch of barbequed sausages.

Neighbourhood Dog-Waste Disposal Centre

Student: Paula Gill

To reduce the harmful effects of dog feces on the environment, Paula created a small dog waste disposal bin in her neighbourhood and is working with the City of Vancouver to install a more permanent disposal bin.

How to Eat Bugs

Student: Dominique Goulet

In order to raise awareness of the environmental and nutritional benefits of entomophagy (insect eating), Dominique organized a workshop and gave out samples to demonstrate how people could purchase, farm and cook insects themselves. As it was so popular he is planning on running the same workshop at the Richmond Food Security Centre.

Children's Book Drive

Student: Andrew Ha

To help encourage child literary and reduce the number of new books produced, Andrew collected 347 books from his local community and donated them to Discover Books.

Solar Illumination of Shared Patio

Student: Robyn Halme

To provide a sustainable method for lighting a shared patio in her building, Robyn has made and installed solar powered lights.

Composting in a Community Building

Student: Karolina Kapusta

Karolina started a compost collection scheme in her apartment building, educated her neighbours about what can be composted and organized for the City to collect the compost weekly.

Let's Get Along With Racoons

Student: Jung-Wook Kho

Jung-Wook conducted a survey of UBC students to find out the misconceptions people hold about racoons. To dispel these myths, he produced and uploaded a well-researched and entertaining video to YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzf-P6C33lc&

[feature=share](#)). By the end of the school year 400 people had viewed this video

Ashtrays on UBC Campus

Student: Courtney Koroluk

As she was concerned at the large accumulation of cigarette butts around UBC campus buildings, Courtney contacted UBC building operations to lobby for more ashtrays around the Biological Sciences building.

Porch Garden

Student: Andy Lai

In order to encourage people to grow their own vegetables at home, Andy started to grow vegetables on his porch and created a blog about his progress <http://andy2513.shawwebspaces.ca>

Bike To School Project

Student: Geoffrey James McKendry

To encourage staff and students to cycle to UBC, Geoff created an excellent website (blogs.ubc.ca/the4weekbiketoschoolproject) that details 6 different bike routes to UBC as well on campus facilities for cyclists.

Clothing Swap

Student: Giancarlo Reyes

Giancarlo organized a clothes swap event for UBC students. 38 students donated clothes, with around 150 items of clothes being swapped.

Hockey Arena Recycling

Student: Justin Thandi

By helping to allay concerns his local hockey rink had that the installation of recycling bins in the dressing rooms would increase alcohol consumption, Justin got the rink to agree to have bottle and can recycling bins in the dressing rooms on a trial basis. The trial got very positive reviews and he hopes it will get the approval to become permanent.

Vertical Garden

Student: Cara Tsang

Cara made a vertical garden on her landlord fence using recycled materials. Her aim was to demonstrate to her neighbours the benefits of gardens in urban areas, so she produced and distributed leaflets about her garden.

Urban Gardening in Vancouver (Backyardening)

Student: Hayley Vanstrepen

Hayley started growing vegetables in her back yard and blogging about her experience. By the end of the school year her extremely engaging website (backyardenvancouver.tumblr.com) had attracted nearly 300 views and over 20 followers.

10th Avenue Bike Lane Clean-Up

Student: Aaron Zwiebel

In order to encourage people to cycle to UBC and to improve cycle safety, Aaron gathered a group of his friends and took brooms and shovels to the 10th Avenue bike route to UBC. They cleared the old leaves, gravel and branches from the cycle lane as well as clearing any clogged drains.