



# Environmental Mind Grind Background Information

The Environmental Mind Grind competition began in Kelowna in 2000. Since then, over 400 teams have participated in Mind Grinds across the BC Interior.

## 1. Background on Environmental Mind Grind

- Environmental Mind Grind is an academic challenge that tests BC student's knowledge of local environmental issues. The contest is held as a celebration and remembrance of Earth Day.
- Teachers are supplied study packages shortly after registration to prepare students for the contest. Environmental issues addressed include air quality, watershed health, waste reduction, water conservation, endangered species, forestry, transportation and energy conservation.



## 2. Game Format

- The competition is based on games of seven questions. After a question is asked, the team to first buzz in has an opportunity to answer. If the team answers correctly, they receive a point, if the team answers incorrectly; one person from the opposing team has the opportunity to answer. If the opposing team answers correctly, they receive a point. If they answer incorrectly, no points are given and the game proceeds to the next question. The team with the most points at the end of seven questions advances to the next round.
- Each participating team is guaranteed to play a minimum of 2 games at the event. The games will be played "double knock-out" style.
- The top four teams (elementary and middle school level) and all high school teams (two per school) are invited to play at the BC Wide Play-Offs against teams from other EMG communities.

## 3. Eligible Contestants

- For the BC Wide Play-Offs, a team is comprised of three student contestants, one alternate student (optional), and a support teacher or volunteer.
- There are three categories: elementary (grades 4 - 6) and middle (grades 7 - 9) and high school (grades 10-12). The North Okanagan can enter the top two elementary and top two middle school teams, and two teams per high school.
- Students from the North and Central Okanagan, the South Okanagan-Similkameen, Kootenay Boundary, Kamloops, and Nanaimo will compete in the Environmental Mind Grind.



#### 4. Event Date

- Teachers are encouraged to hold a mini Environmental Mind Grind at any time during the year. If assistance is required to run a mini competition in the classroom or school, please contact the Waste Reduction Coordinator at 250-550-3743.
- The BC Wide Play-Off is held on **Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2009** at George Elliot Secondary in **Lake Country**. Please download a registration form or contact the Waste Reduction Coordinator for more information.

#### 5. Event Prizing

- The BC Interior Play-Off winners receive cash prizes for their schools!

#### 6. Why should your school participate in the Environmental Mind Grind? Here's what teachers had to say about previous events...

- “Good information related to the curriculum. Great enthusiasm/attitude by people putting it on”
- “Very well organized, motivating and fun for students, fits well with curriculum outcomes, appropriate prizes”
- “It involves young people in a very pressing issue that their generation will be dealing with”
- “The students learned a lot about being environmentally friendly in a fun exciting way. They were motivated to learn”
- “It was very well organized in terms of information packets, guest speakers to support the contest and enthusiastic organizers”
- “Study booklets are informative, but not long-winded.
- “Gets everyone thinking and learning about our environment including all aspects of the environment not just recycling”
- “The fact that students learned a lot about the environment and were eager to do so”
- “The questions were from the study packages – no surprises, it was not too long and not too short, loved the judges panel”
- “Gets kids excited about learning something they don't have to get marks for”
- “Provided a challenging out-of-school learning experience for my students, the event itself was fun and exciting”
- “Students were excited about the game show format”

