



Green Street Youth Leadership Challenge

Green Street's Youth Leadership Challenge is providing an innovative opportunity for youth across Canada. In partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, Green Street is offering grants to dedicated change makers who want to improve their schools and communities. Green Street is challenging youth to think critically and develop a project that meets the needs of their communities.

Youth who concoct innovative projects are often missing one important element: financial support. Therefore, Green Street is offering grants of \$750 for youth to kick-start their projects. These projects must be led by youth and must create meaningful partnerships between schools and communities. The deadline for submitting applications is **November 20**. Applications will be considered on a first come basis.

Green Street's challenge goes beyond simply giving money to youth projects. In addition to financial support, Green Street is going to be offering monthly tips and tools to ensure the on-going success of projects. The Green Street Youth Action e-newsletter will feature practical tips (and words of encouragement) for youth, teachers and community leaders embarking on Green Street's challenge. Green Street's youth voice, the Youth Advisory Committee, will also be available for mentorship and guidance. The Committee is composed of a dynamic group of youth from across Canada. These youth have a wealth of experience with projects and youth engagement. In short, financial support coupled with invaluable resources will provide youth with the necessary tools to impact their local communities.

FOR TEACHERS and CREATIVE CHANGE MAKERS

Want to get a head start on the challenges?
Teachers, here are some tips on how you can help your students embark on the change process.

ACTIVITY: Youth Action Planning (Approximately 1 hour)

MATERIALS REQUIRED Blackboard or white board (or flip charts), large pieces of poster paper and markers

GOAL Teach youth how to link their talents with a community issue or global issue of interest

STEPS

1. Write the words talent and issue on the white board, separate the words by a line.

The activity "Youth Action Planning" was developed by the Green Street Youth Advisory Committee and is part of a Youth Leadership Toolkit (in development).

2. Class discussion: ask students to share their talents with the class. Write all the talents of students under the word “talent”

TIP

Make sure that students also consider talents that might not come to mind at first. It is important for students to look beyond talents such as athletic or artistic ability. For example, ask students if they believe they are talented in the areas of organization, speaking, motivation, or writing.

3. Move onto the word issue. Asks students to share the issues (community, national, international) that they are interested in. Alternatively, ask students to state what they think the most pressing issue in the world is (ex: climate change, wars, deforestation).

TIP

Ensure that students link large-scale issues to their community.

4. This is the important step. Ask students to separate into smaller groups based on common interest and think of innovative ways to link their talents with their issue of interest. This is one way for youth to create projects based on what they are good at and enjoy doing. For example, if youth state their talent is biking and issue is climate change, an alternative transportation or bike to school day is an example of a project idea. Another could be using drama to educate youth about different forms of oppression in society.

TIP

Encourage youth to be creative! Creating projects based on interests and talents of youth is essential for a successful project. Fun is an important component of any project.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

- **September 28, 2009** → Applications for grants released—the challenge begins!
- **November 20, 2009** → Submission deadline (First come, first considered)
- **Early December** → Successful candidates notified and funds transferred
- **May 18, 2010** → Deadline to submit reporting stories and project outcomes
- **June** → Challenge winners announced and schools presented with awards

OTHER RESOURCES:

- ***The Youth Activist Guide*** – available in downloadable format through the Green Street Library or hard copies for every student can be obtained from info@green-street.ca
- ***The Youth Engagement Manual*** – available in downloadable format through the Green Street Library <http://www.green-street.ca/en/library.html>
- Taking IT Global's ***Guide to Action*** – [http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Guide to Action en.pdf](http://tig.phpwebhosting.com/guidetoaction/Guide%20to%20Action%20en.pdf)

For additional information:

Green Street, info@green-street.ca, 1-877-250-8201

