

Students display increased environmental awareness— Several projects underway to ease human impacts

Paul Galinski | reporter@prpeak.com

Brook Secondary School's students for environmental awareness (SEA) are working to create a greener existence.

Speaking to School District 47 Board of Education, students **Charlotte Bowes** and **Chloe Langmaid** outlined some of the directions their group is taking this year, and the growth and interest being shown for the environment at the school.

"The SEA students are a group of environmentally conscious students from the school," said Charlotte. "We meet on Mondays for 45 minutes or an hour and we talk about what we can do in our school to help out in the environment. We came to talk to you today about what we are doing and the opportunities that are out there for us."

Chloe said the group is doing a project for **BC Green Games**, a new contest for kindergarten to grade 12 students developed by Science World and the ministry of education. She said that entrants can write in a submission, send a film or a PowerPoint presentation. The Brooks students have chosen a small film about a biodiesel environmental project they are conducting.

"We went to McDonald's and A&W [restaurants] to talk about the vegetable oil and both were very happy to give that out," Chloe said. "We got three gallons of vegetable oil from A&W to get that going."

Charlotte said another of the projects they wanted to outline was as a result of teachers **Ryan Barfoot** and **Karin Westland** travelling to South America and wanting to offset their carbon footprint from the trip. She said they presented the SEA students with a large solar panel.

"We are aware that carbon neutrality is on the horizon," she said. "We think this is a great opportunity to get onboard with it. For example, with the clubhouse that is being planned to be built above our school, it would be good to accentuate its energy consumption with wind and/or solar power."

Chloe said another way to create environmental awareness at the school is to demonstrate running computers in the computer lab on solar power.

"Kids can see it is possible and hopefully it will influence them to come out to SEA and get involved," she said.

Jay Yule, superintendent of schools, asked the students about the plan for using the biodiesel.

Chloe said the plan is to operate a truck. "I think Mr. Barfoot has a diesel truck and we want to have, as part of our video, a sign on it that says it's running on biodiesel," she said. "We'll drive it around town and have it as part of our film. One of the students is very interested in biodiesel and will be ordering everything needed to create the biodiesel."

Yule then asked how many students are regularly attending the SEA sessions. Charlotte said usually there are about 30 students. "Last year, on a good day, 10 or 11 students would turn out. It's really growing quickly," she said.
