



DRS EARTHWISE

"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"

MEDIA RELEASE

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Earthwise Community Program meets Climate Change Challenge

The Earthwise Society challenges the residents of Delta to become part of the solution to global warming by transforming their front yards to ecologically-friendly "earthwise™" gardens. Funded by Environment Canada's EcoAction Initiative, the Earthwise Community Program will provide landscape consultation and design services to residents who pledge to an earthwise™ garden makeover. The Earthwise Society's horticultural professionals will provide workshops and guide participants in the skills needed to transform and maintain their new ecologically-friendly landscapes.

Participants in the front-yard makeover project will receive a sign to display and may enter their new garden into a community-wide Earthwise Gardens Contest and Tour, funded in part by the Delta Foundation, which is planned for the second year of the initiative. The entire community will have an opportunity to get involved either as a contestant or as a judge. Everyone will be encouraged to participate by touring the finished gardens then voting for their favourites.

The Earthwise Community Project is Delta's opportunity to enhance our sustainability by reducing global warming, promoting clean air, improving water quality and reducing the loss of native habitats. "In a very real way caring for the Earth begins in our gardens", says Patricia Fleming, Executive Director of DRS Earthwise Society. "The way we choose to garden has a major impact on the environment, which we will ultimately demonstrate with the Earthwise Garden Contest and Tour."

"It is very difficult for homeowners to measure the impacts that their individual choices have on the environment. This project will do just that, as each participant will take part in an ecological impact assessment before and after their garden makeover", says Christine Cummings, Program Manager of DRS Earthwise Society. "People often feel powerless when facing global warming and water degradation issues", adds Cummings. "By measuring gardening practices such as the use of gas mowers, fertilizers, pesticides and excessive water consumption, we hope to demonstrate genuine measurable benefits. This data will be a powerful learning tool and inspiration for all to take even the smallest steps towards a sustainable, ecologically friendly landscape."

If you would like to learn more about this exciting earth-friendly program, please call Christine at 604-946-9828.

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