



WOOD BUFFALO STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT (S3) FALL 2018 REPORT



S3 2018 participants at the YMM airport

Second Round for Inside Education Regional Summits in Wood Buffalo

The Wood Buffalo Sustainability Summit (S3) was the first of Inside Education’s four regional summits this fall. S3 2018 took place in Fort McMurray on Wednesday November 7th, and allowed local students to explore climate change and sustainability topics in the region.

Inside Education’s suite of regional summits started in Edmonton with E3 in 2012, followed by C3 in Calgary in 2016 and S3 in Wood Buffalo in 2017. New in 2018 is the Southern Alberta Awareness to Action (A3), which is taking place in Medicine Hat in December 2018!

The regional summits allow students to examine local sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives. Local climate change related topics are also examined, which are then tied into the Alberta climate change story. Having these summits take place in multiple regions of the province allows Inside Education to reach a wide range of students and examine the local topics that need to be addressed as youth develop their sense of stewardship for their communities and the environment.

Students and teachers from 3 different schools in the Fort McMurray region had the opportunity to explore the sustainability initiatives at the municipal airport, learn about local climate adaptation strategies, and discuss big climate change related topics with local experts from various fields.

Inside Education believes that these experiences are paramount for students to feel connected to their community, and be empowered to take steps towards sustainability and environmental stewardship in their own lives and communities.

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Program Overview

33 students and 5 teachers from 3 schools from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) participated in the 2018 S3 Program. The program ran as follows:

S3 2018 Program

Program Start: 9:00 AM
Welcome and Introduction to Energy, Climate and Sustainability <i>How are energy, climate change and sustainability connected?</i>
Effects of Climate Change on our Municipality <i>Extreme weather events are one of the effects of climate change that we witness in our municipality. What does this mean here in the RMWB? What is being done about it?</i> Christine Poulsen, RMWB
Energy Innovation Tour <i>Hop aboard a bus for a tour of the Fort McMurray Airport and the initiatives that went into the design of the building</i>
Lunch - Provided by Inside Education
Building Blocks of Sustainability Roundtable Workshop <i>Work with local experts and your peers to determine the pieces that need to come together to build a sustainable community.</i> Lindsey Pearson, RMWB Lolita Ladouceur, Fort McKay Sustainability Danna Schock, Keyano College Emma Kniel, Work Wild Cleo Reece, Keepers of the Athabasca
Youth Leadership <i>Hear the story of an Alberta youth tackling energy and sustainability in his community</i> Cory Beaver, Student Energy - Mount Royal University
Program End: 3:30 PM

S3 2018 Numbers

33 Students

5 Teachers

3 Schools

Program Goals

1. Showcase local sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives in the RMWB
2. Connect personal action, climate change and sustainability
3. Inspire students to initiate projects surrounding sustainability and energy efficiency in their school communities that will inspire environmental stewardship

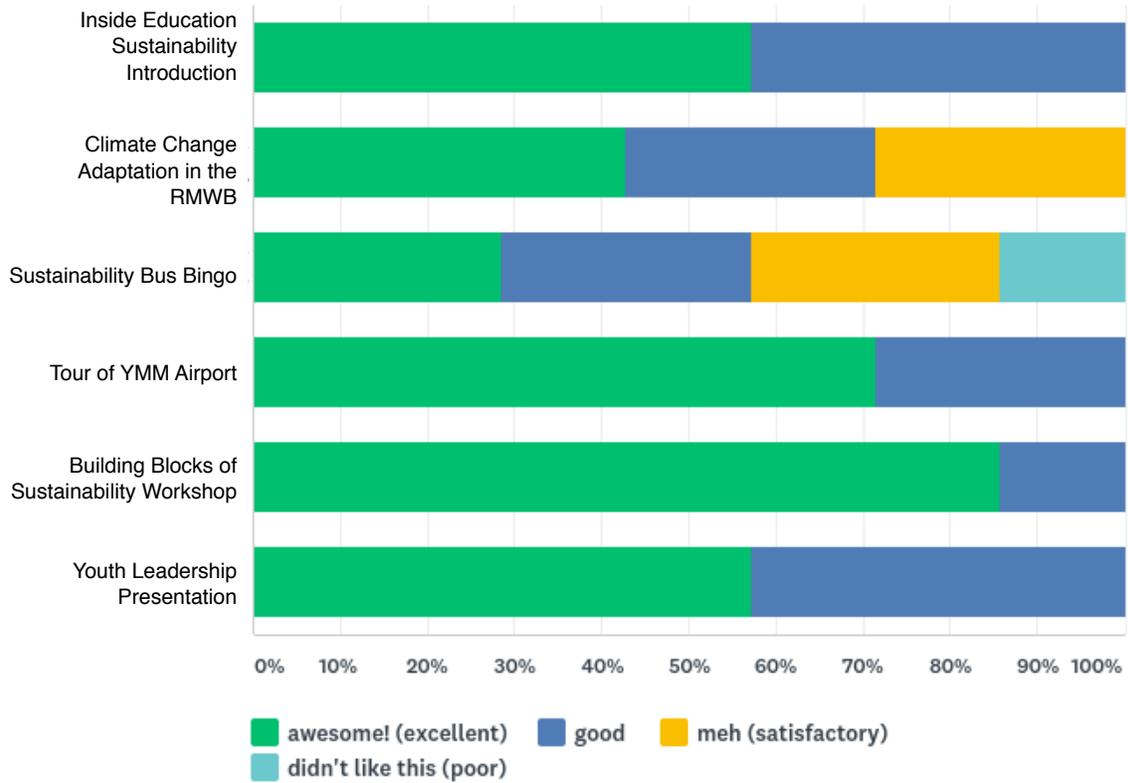
Thank you to these generous partners who made S3 possible, as well as the individuals and organizations who provided in-kind support by sharing their time and expertise!



Program Evaluation

Teachers and students were given the opportunity to evaluate the 2018 Wood Buffalo Student Sustainability Summit through an online survey. This information is of utmost value as we continually develop and improve our youth summits.

Respondent ratings of the different components of S3



100% of respondents **would recommend S3** to other teachers and students

100% of respondents were **empowered by S3** to get involved in sustainability initiatives in their schools

80% of respondents have ideas for **leadership projects** to take back to their school



Students from Fort McMurray Islamic School explore the CARE kit for ideas on how to bring sustainability and climate change education back to their own school.

Teacher and Student Feedback

"For us this is the beginning. I believe that in order to enact change you have to shake people and sometimes shock them out of their comfort level. Ignorance is easy, education takes effort, many are still very ignorant to the implications and consequences of our lack of sustainability efforts, our school is no exception."

Tom MacIsaac, Teacher, Father Patrick Mercredi High School

"The event was an engaging and inspiring introduction to climate change and energy initiatives in my community."

Saptarshi, Student, Westwood Community High School

"The sustainability workshops were great! I got to learn even more about sustainability. The live chat with Cory Beaver taught me a lot about where he started to learn about sustainability, and that the youth today can make a major difference."

Anaya, Student, Fort McMurray Islamic School

Program Summary

The 2018 Wood Buffalo Student Sustainability Summit was a tremendous success for Inside Education in the Fort McMurray region. The second year of S3 engaged over thirty students from the RMWB in conversations about the importance of sustainability and climate change adaptation in the region through a mix of speakers, tours and conversations with experts. This allowed students to think critically about the various perspectives and begin developing their own role in natural resource stewardship.

The value of the program to participants was measured through a post-program survey (results on page 3). All survey respondents would recommend S3 to others, and felt empowered by the program to get involved in sustainability and climate change initiatives in their school/community. Therefore, the reach of S3 will continue beyond the summit itself as students and teachers find ways to be active in stewardship and climate change action.

Inside Education will build on the success of S3 in both 2017 and 2018 by continuing to support junior and senior high schools in the region. Many schools in the region either already have, or are interested in having environmental projects in the works, and the knowledge gained and connections made at programs such as S3 are incredibly valuable in growing the potential for such projects in the region.

For further information please contact

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Participant Schools

Father Mercredi, Fort McMurray

Fort McMurray Islamic School, Fort McMurray

Westwood Community High, Fort McMurray

Successes:

- Attendance by a mix of new and returning schools from S3 2017
- Established relationships with attending schools to better support student-lead environmental projects
- Developed partnerships with various organizations within the RMWB

Next Steps

- Engage rural RMWB schools and support them to attend program
- Continue developing relationship with organizations in the region for

