

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

RE Sources

Address:

2309 Meridian Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Contact:

(360) 733-7307
<https://www.re-sources.org>

Organization's General Goals:

We mobilize people in Northwest Washington to build just and thriving communities and to protect the land, water and climate on which we all depend. Together we can recover endangered wildlife populations and maintain shellfish beds clean enough for regular harvest. We can restore and protect our rivers, lakes, beaches and the Salish Sea so there is enough clean water for all who need it. We can accelerate a just transition to renewable energy, slash pollution and waste, and build up climate-resilient communities who can work together and care for one another despite differences. A brighter future for Northwest Washington is 100% possible.

Date of Award:

2021 Q3

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from RE Sources.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, Washington 98271-9694

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

December 30th, 2022

RE: Final Report on [REDACTED] to Support Youth for the Environment & People program (YEP!) - Q3 2021 14.2

I am pleased to submit this final report on behalf of RE Sources—it describes what we were able to accomplish with your generous [REDACTED] grant awarded on November 9th, 2021. Thank you for investing in our work and for the Fund's deep commitment to improving our communities.

This past year's contribution funded the work of our Youth for the Environment and People program (YEP!) offered during the Fall semester of 2022. We recruited a total of 20 students from both Whatcom (led by RE Sources) and Skagit (led by our partners at North Cascades Institute) Counties. These two student cohorts, representing a diversity of racial and socio-economic backgrounds, developed critical leadership and civic skills, and learned to use their collective power and voices to tackle food waste by developing and carrying-out community action projects that benefited hundreds of people.

Program Updates in 2022:

We hired a new YEP! Program Coordinator earlier this year who brought fresh energy to student recruitment, learning, activities, and project development and implementation. Likewise, she prioritized a more intentional focus on the intersection between the environment and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion by including, among other things, a field trip that featured indigenous ways of knowing. Her work, moreover, resulted in better coordination between the Skagit and Whatcom cohorts so that the students really saw and understood the significant difference they were making by working collectively. It's also worth noting that we received a record number of applications for our Whatcom County cohort and heard students express a desire for more opportunities to engage in climate change actions year-round.

The generous support from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund in 2022 helped us continue to serve youth who want to both turn their climate anxiety into action to help safeguard their community, and learn how to make real change using their own voice and actions. Here is just a sampling of the impact that your grant had on our students and the community.

2022 YEP (Youth for the Environment and People) Program Activities & Outcomes:

While many of the youth in YEP! are already acutely aware of the urgent need to address climate change and eager to take action, students in this year's cohorts learned that reducing food waste is the number one solution to climate change according to [Project Drawdown](#), and that it's about more than just the scraps left on your plate. Food waste represents one of the biggest contributors to climate change, and one of the best opportunities to address hunger in our community.

Each week, students met and grew their skills in leadership, decision-making, project planning and collaboration. They not only learned how to reduce food waste, but encouraged others to act throughout their project. Students began YEP! not knowing one another. Over the weeks, they grew into a supportive, tight-knit group full of laughter, shared memories, and meaningful work.

"It was really nice to do something where you know you're making a difference and be able to do it alongside others your age. It just makes it a lot more fun and meaningful." -Dez

"My favorite thing about YEP! was being able to take action in my community in an organized way. Doing so gave me hope for my generation." -Oona



On two Saturdays, students from both cohorts woke up early to get outside together. At Larrabee State Park, they learned from park staff about local invasive plants and then got to work cutting and removing vines from native trees. At Kukutali State Park and Preserve, students learned about the local tribal history of the place and how to find some of the 'first foods' in the area from Jen Willup, an educator and member of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. As one student said, "Physically working outdoors helped us learn about the different ways to approach climate action."

Many of these new experiences didn't feel like work to this energetic bunch, and the same held true for the culminating experience of YEP!: planning and implementing their action project which delivered real value and benefit to the community. Here's what they did:

Whatcom Cohort:

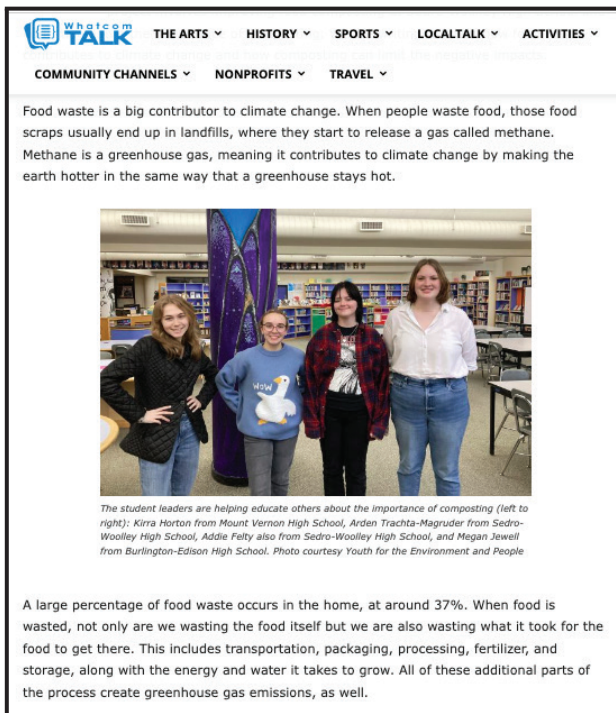
As students explored the theme of food waste, they became passionate about its connection to food justice and chose a project that addressed both (and took advantage of their artistic talents!).

First, they connected with the Bellingham Farmers Market to set up a booth one chilly Saturday to educate the public about food waste—equipped with compelling DIY trivia wheel, hand-made signs, and brochures. Then, students hand-painted 36 ceramic bowls with the help of CreativiTea, requested donated coupons from local restaurants to put in each bowl, and sold the bowls to raise money for the Bellingham Food Bank. On their last Saturday together, students stood in front of The RE Store, bowls in hand, told their story, and raised almost \$1,000 for the food bank. Afterwards, a student reflected that "doing so gave me hope for our generation."



Skagit Cohort:

For their action project, the Skagit cohort focused initially on improving composting at more than one school, as well as educating the local community about the importance of composting and its effect on reducing climate change. After investigating possible composting options at three schools in the area, they determined that using the pre-existing composting operation at Sedro-Woolley High School would have the greatest impact, especially if they enhanced and strengthened educational materials and signage.



To improve food waste recycling systems already in place at the high school, students created prompts to increase composting waste and minimize the number of wrong items entering into the compost waste stream. This critical aspect of food waste recycling is often overlooked or not on the radar of school staff. Students created six customized signs that are now posted above the compost bins.

Additionally, the students wrote an article about the importance of composting to inspire students to act and to help them understand that their individual actions, when taken together, make a big difference when it comes to food waste. Through the YEP! program, students learned and practiced how to research the issues of food waste and composting, and how best to relay information in a digestible format to others. They also learned some tips about media outreach by contacting local news sources to publicize their article—their hard work resulted in the article being published in four places! [See their article here.](#)

Empowering youth to develop and use their voice benefits everyone. This is one step in the process of becoming a thoughtful, engaged community member. The YEP! program provides youth with real-life skills, climate justice education, place-based learning, and a real-world glimpse into the issues of the community they live in.

And perhaps the most telling outcome of the program can be understood through the results of one particular pre and post-evaluation question. When asked to rate whether they “feel hopeful that we as a society can address climate change and create a positive future,” 50% of students somewhat or strongly agreed with this statement before the YEP! Sessions; at the end of the program, 94% agreed. Indeed, YEP! provides a vital outlet for youth to learn about ways to address climate change that have lasting impact, take meaningful action, and find hope in being part of building a more sustainable future.

I trust the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund will be pleased with the program’s success and outcomes and again, I want to express our appreciation for bringing these achievements to fruition. It is our hope that we will have the opportunity to partner again with the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund in championing our ongoing educational programs.

With Gratitude,



Mary Humphries, RE Sources Development Director