



**CHARITABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**

**RE Sources**

**Mailing Address:**

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Bellingham, WA 98225

**Contact:**

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<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.

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**Date of Award:**

2022 Q3

**Level:**

\$2,501 to \$5,000

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

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

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

September 12, 2023

RE: Final Report on \$4K Grant to Green Teams Network- Q3 2022 14.2

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

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 30, 2022. Thank you for investing in our work and for the Fund's deep commitment to improving our communities.



*Lummi Nation Middle School beach clean up at Stommish Grounds*

RE Sources' Green Teams program offers curriculum and expert support to facilitate student-led sustainability action projects focused on water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction—each topic central to addressing climate change, mitigating its impacts, and building resilient communities. This letter highlights what we were able to accomplish with the Foundation's award.

Even with the pandemic ebbing, the 2022-2023 school year proved to be another hard one for teachers. They were struggling with pandemic-related student behavioral issues and meeting established learning goals after three years away from traditional classroom teaching. These challenges meant teachers did not have the capacity to take on anything perceived as extra work but it didn't stop them from voicing an interest in getting their students to establish a Green Team when they had the bandwidth to support the Team's endeavors. In the interim, they've committed to helping their students, in smaller ways, take action to make their schools more environmentally sustainable.

When it was clear that our original vision for the Green Teams program was not going to come to fruition as expected, we re-focused our efforts and began to work more closely with students at Bellingham Public Schools (BPS) to reduce and prevent food waste. This shift also allowed us to develop a partnership with the BPS Sustainability Task Force which led to a shared decision to begin working with the District's Facilities, Food Service, and Teaching and Learning Departments to develop a pilot variation of our Green Teams program that focused on food waste and recovery, and concluded with an action project.

In advance of launching the pilot program, we met with leadership at BPS to discuss the possibility of having 5th grade classes at all elementary schools designated as the school's Green Team. Our plan was for these classes to complete waste and recycling audits and to

subsequently implement an action project to reduce food waste, increase recycling, and recover food for the food insecure. Our ability to pivot to a different Green Teams model and to do so in conjunction with BPS decision-makers meant that we ended the 2022-2023 school year on a high note—three schools representing a total of six classes and 120 students participated in the program.



The teachers and classrooms that participated all:

- Performed a waste investigation for their entire school (left: 5th graders from Lowell Elementary doing a waste audit)
- Had teachers use Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned curriculum developed by RE Sources
- Conducted a cafeteria waste audit
- Implemented a student led action project to improve their school's waste reduction practices.

With the support of RE Sources, the students both installed educational signage to minimize the contamination of recycling bins and made a presentation to younger students on why it was important to do this. Teachers also looked into getting milk dispensers and water bottle refilling stations for their schools to move the needle on sustainability.

Looking ahead, future plans call for expanding the Green Teams program with Bellingham Public Schools so more teachers and students can learn about food waste, its impacts and the solutions that can be implemented to overcome those impacts. At the same time, we plan to continue reaching out to other Whatcom County schools to increase Green Team participation and completion of meaningful action projects. With busy schedules dominating the lives of teachers, we see it as our job to come up with other ways to help schools, teachers, and students learn about sustainability, especially in this era of climate change. This is crucial and there are actions that can be taken both at school and at home right now.

Thank you for partnering with us to successfully advance our Green Teams program. The ripple effect of our educational work on sustainability is going beyond teachers and students and is in fact, changing behaviors at home and in the larger community. This would not have been possible without your generous support. Thank you!

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Kunkel-Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rachel Kunkel-Patterson  
Development Manager  
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