



The Daily Gleaner

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Green Funding and Scholarship Programs – hurry and apply, the time is now!

Environmental awareness and action is becoming more and more evident in our schools and workplaces as it continues to gain prominence on the world stage. In 2008, it is fairly unanimous that climate change is happening and that the chance of the cause being human induced is high, thanks to scientific reports such as those from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (www.ipcc.ch).

Closer to home, organizations such as Efficiency New Brunswick (www.energycynb.ca) are providing us with practical ways we can reduce our energy consumption and save money - and even get money from them to do so! In our communities, recycling programs continue to inform and teach us how we can reduce our household waste. And groups such as the New Brunswick Environmental Network (www.nben.ca) provide us with useful resources and update us on current issues happening in our province.

Collaborations are happening all around us – as people, groups, organizations and businesses make it their primary goal to take tangible steps to mitigate or reduce their environmental impact and inform others how to do the same. As such, we are beginning to see “green” on top of the list of many organizations mandates. This is a very exciting and smart move for organizations and businesses to take as consumers are beginning to demand environmental-consciousness from the products and businesses they support.

Individuals can make a difference as well, and there are many informational resources and funding opportunities for your environmentally conscious ideas and projects. Kids and teens check out the Green Gurus button at www.greenmattersfredericton.com. And if you are working on projects in or outside of school, look into the Youth Environmental Network (www.yen-rej.org). This is a great informational resource for both individuals and groups.

And great funding opportunities for your projects and education abound! Students should check out the **TD Go Green Challenge** - at www.tdcanadatrust.com/gogreen. To participate in this challenge, a group of three or more students must be formed, along with a faculty sponsor. You must submit an essay outlining your environmental idea of no more than 4,000 words, or 20 pages. Four prizes of \$25,000 will be awarded to the teams that submit the best proposals. \$12,500 will be distributed among the team of students and the other \$12,500 will go to the university or college faculty. **Hurry – the deadline for submissions is this Friday, January 25!**

Another opportunity for students is the **Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program**. If you are currently in your graduating year or have graduated in the last two years from a Canadian high school, and are entering, in the 2008-2009 academic year, your first year in full time studies at an accredited Canadian university or college, then you need to check out www.earthday.ca/scholarship. You may be eligible for financial relief towards tuition, books, and other educational expenses (15 awards of \$5,000 each are

awarded annually). **The deadline for this application is January 31.** Click on “Application” on the above link if you wish to apply.

Going ‘green’ and tackling climate change takes money, and these progressive organizations are giving some away! Adults who are reading this column – do you have any environmentally minded youth in mind that might benefit from applying? If so, cut out this column and give it to them so they can get to work on their application! The youth in our community are the environmental stewards of our future. So adults it is time to do your part –make a decision today to be an environmental steward of the present and start leading by example!

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