



2020 Annual Report

The Compost Education Centre (CEC) is a project of the Victoria Compost and Conservation Education Society, which is a not-for-profit, charitable organization.

Started in 1992 by the Fernwood Community Association, the CEC provides composting and conservation education to Capital Regional District (CRD) residents with the goals of reducing waste, improving local soils, and partnering with others to make our communities more sustainable. The CEC promotes and teaches organic gardening and other sustainable living techniques as a means of restoring our bodies, food systems, ecosystems and communities to health.

Our mission: to cultivate resilient communities, which support the land and all living beings to thrive.





2020 Highlights



28 Years of Composting and Conservation!

2020 marked the Compost Education Centre’s 28th Anniversary as a composting, conservation and organic gardening resource centre.

The third consecutive year of big leadership change for the Centre, Dr. Cara Gibson joined the Centre in February of 2020, but moved on to become the Director of Swan Lake in August and we wish her well there.

Continuing to take the unexpected in stride, Chris Dufour, Kayla Siefried and Alexis Hogan resumed Management Team responsibilities. The Team was supported by Summer Interns turned permanent staff, Zoë-Blue Coates and Hannah Estabrook. In all, the CEC ended 2020 with many achievements, in spite of obstacles wrought by pandemic.



Hannah Estabrook and Zoe-Blue Coates standing in front of the freshly constructed CEC farm stand.

Connecting Through Soil Health & Food Security

Although COVID-19 affected the Compost Education Centre’s ability to host educational programs on-site and in schools, engagement from our membership and the general public reached new heights during the pandemic. One of the highlights of increased communications has been connecting many folks—people as far away as Brazil, the UK and Australia—to our climate adaptation workshops and resources through alternative means, such as Zoom and remote learning modules.

In April alone, the CEC received three times more phone calls and emails about local food security and waste diversion than normal. This increase in contact arose due to public concerns around supply chains and food access. Further, individuals sought ways to process the stress of global public health crises. Many community members turned to gardening, looking to the tangible skills & resources provided by the CEC. What we offer not only supports local food security and climate resiliency, our hands-on skill building workshops, hosted in the soothing beauty of our Teaching Gardens, often incidentally supports nervous system regulation.



Management Team, left to right: Chris, Alexis, Kayla

Growth Through the Pandemic

In 2020, the CEC reduced one barrier to accessing our workshops and resources by adding pay-what-you-can options for self-identified racialized community members. We plan to offer workshops led by and hosted only for BIPOC community members, (BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) in 2022.

The CEC also worked intimately with a group of youth from alternative school Artemis Place Secondary. Artemis serves young mothers, trans and non-binary youth and other young women for whom standardized educational systems do not serve. Education Coordinator, Chris Dufour, built a permaculture garden with their cohort at Artemis and spent the year leading youth through the intersections of land, food, reciprocity, restoration and environmental and social justice through a program Dufour designed called Cultivating Reciprocity.



Artemis students prepare soil on their permaculture site.



2020 Highlights



Healing City Soils Program Update

In 2020 (now) Executive Director, Alexis Hogan, and Healing City Soils (HCS) program creator and technical advisor, Danielle Stevenson, broadened the scope of the CEC's Healing City Soils program to include a pilot: do-it-yourself (DIY) remediation of heavy metals in backyard gardens. HCS is a program of the CEC that offers free heavy metal soil testing for gardeners or people who want to grow food through a collaboration with Royal Roads University's Bachelor of Environmental Science Program (RRU). Following the free testing, the CEC provides free follow up workshops on how to reduce risk of exposure to heavy metal contaminants in soils and how to interpret participants' lab results.

Because of COVID, the CEC was not able to collaborate with RRU in 2020 for the safety of the students, whose work on HCS often happens in a laboratory. This fallow period of the program allowed Stevenson and Hogan, with support from 2019 RRU student team member Martyna Tomczynski, to begin work addressing the removal of low-to-moderate levels of heavy metal contamination in backyards, community gardens and traditional food & medicine harvesting sites. The goal of this pilot is to develop plain language resources and entry-level skill building workshops, which support community member's DIY phyto (plant) and myco (fungi) remediation of heavy metals in low-to-moderately contaminated soils.

In exploring the safe removal of heavy metals from soil using native and non-native plants, fungi and compost, the CEC began working with the PEPÁKĚNĚ HÁUTŬ Foundation, who have been actively restoring the first village site of the WŚÁNEĆ people, ŚNIDŹĚŁ. In the early 1900s settlers turned ŚNIDŹĚŁ into the site of a Portland cement factory, which contaminated the land and waters there. Although remediation has occurred in the seabed at ŚNIDŹĚŁ, contamination still exists in the soil in the form of elevated levels of heavy metals, such as lead and arsenic. As the PEPÁKĚNĚ HÁUTŬ team, their volunteers and community members frequently interact with soil in the process of restoring the ecosystem, addressing risk levels through contaminant best practices, along with remediation of the soil, offers helpful tools that might support their community and land's resiliency. We are grateful to the PEPÁKĚNĚ HÁUTŬ team for the invitation to assist their efforts in caring for ŚNIDŹĚŁ's ecosystem with the current resources the CEC has to offer to their work.

Further, the HCS team is working with a past HCS soil testing participant, a CRD homeowner, whose soil tests yielded high levels of lead contamination in their back yard due to lead paint chipping off the exterior of their home and into their garden beds. The final site in this pilot is a plot in the CEC's Demonstration Site that has expressed lead contamination from an old mechanic's shop, which used to exist close to our office and Teaching Gardens.

This new piece of HCS will take shape as a long term collaboration. The team and our partners will assess and reassess the growth of the active DIY remediation plots, their supporting educational resources, and combined, their efficacy and relevance as approachable practices intended to be shared broadly with our communities.

Neighborhood Composting Program

Another highlight from 2020 was the creation of our Neighborhood Composting Pilot Program, which takes food scraps from apartment dwellers who don't have access to curbside greenbin programs, and turns their food waste into nutrient dense, organic compost. In late 2020, both the Victoria Foundation's Investment Readiness Program (IRP) and the Synergy Foundation's Project Zero Incubator Program



Photos by Jeffrey Bodset

(PZIP) selected the CEC's Neighborhood Composting Pilot Program as an initiative deserving of mentorship and concerted project support. The goal of the IRP and the PZIP is to support the development of the Neighborhood Composting Program through mentorship from a team of industry experts and specialists.

Site Manager and Adult Education Coordinator, Kayla, introduced the Neighbourhood Composting Pilot Program to 15 households, and after introductory training residents began bringing their food scraps to the Centre for processing into compost. After contributing food scraps to the program participants had access to finished compost made from their food waste! Through this program we diverted approximately

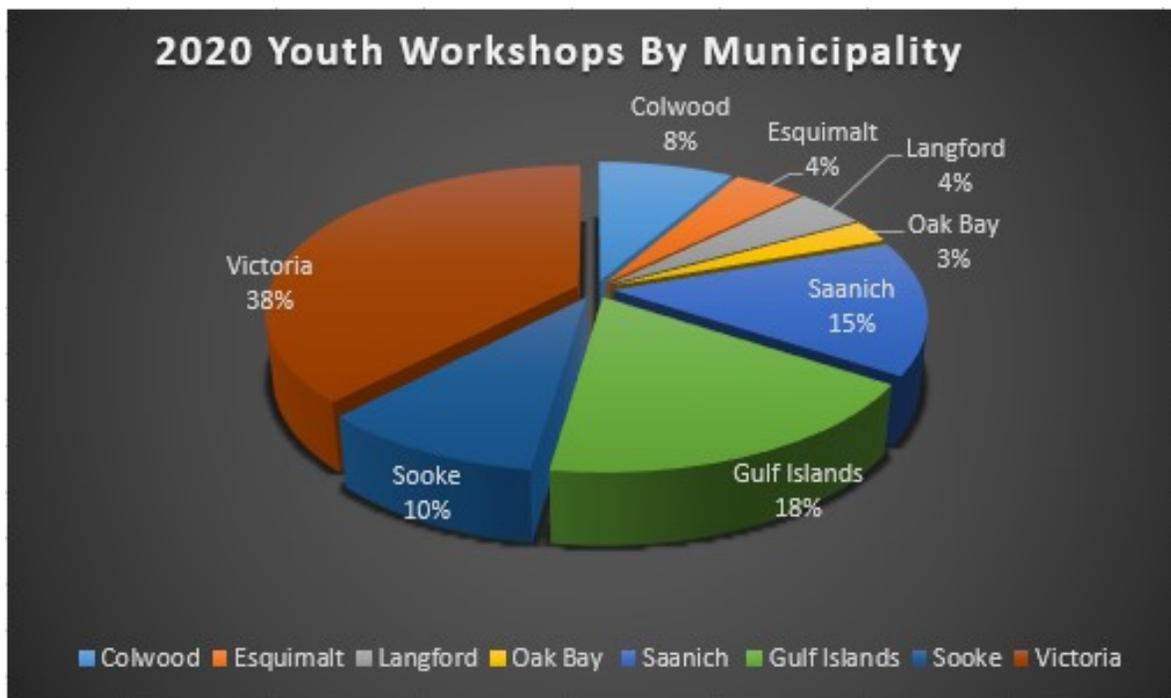
1,515 pounds of food scraps from the landfill, keeping methane from being created from these food scraps and then released into the atmosphere at our regional dump.

Education Programs

Our ability to deliver educational programs to children, youth and adults was impacted by COVID-19 in 2020. However, we made the best of our circumstances by offering workshops online via Zoom, offering take-home resources for children and youth, and by providing new exciting workshops like 'Fermenting Vegetables' and 'Regenerative Agriculture for the Home Garden' on-site *and* online when PHO's allowed. Kayla, Site Manager and Community Education Coordinator, filmed a number of comprehensive videos for the collective that formed because of pandemic interest in gardening: **Growing Together**. You can view her videos here: <https://www.growingfood-together.com/>

During her time as an intern CEC's (now) Communications Coordinator, Zoe-Blue Coates, produced 3 publications under the title of **BioDiversity: Faces of Ecological Stewardship**. Featuring ecological stewards left out of dominant agricultural and environmental history who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour, these publications have earned acclaim from the local community as many people continue to learn about systemic and individual racism and grow in their awareness of the important contributions of BIPOC land stewards to environmental, food and social justice. So far, the CEC has distributed **670** copies of these publications. Coates also created educational videos about soil health, worm composting, and ecological stewards in collaboration with CRFAIR and the Greater Victoria Public Libraries. These videos reached **844** people and counting.

The Schools Program earned **\$6800** in revenue and the Adult Education Program, nearly **\$11,100**. In 2020 CEC taught or connected with **9,318** adults in **81** workshops and community outreach learning events. We also presented **63** school programs to **967** students and **158** teachers, parents, and/or guardians.



Educator Testimonials About Our Programs:

"GVPL has been partnering with CEC for over five years to deliver programming for all ages. CEC programs are not only educational but also engaging and fun. We are particularly impressed by CEC's ability to quickly pivot toward virtual programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the high quality of their virtual workshops and the enthusiasm of the presenters and support staff.

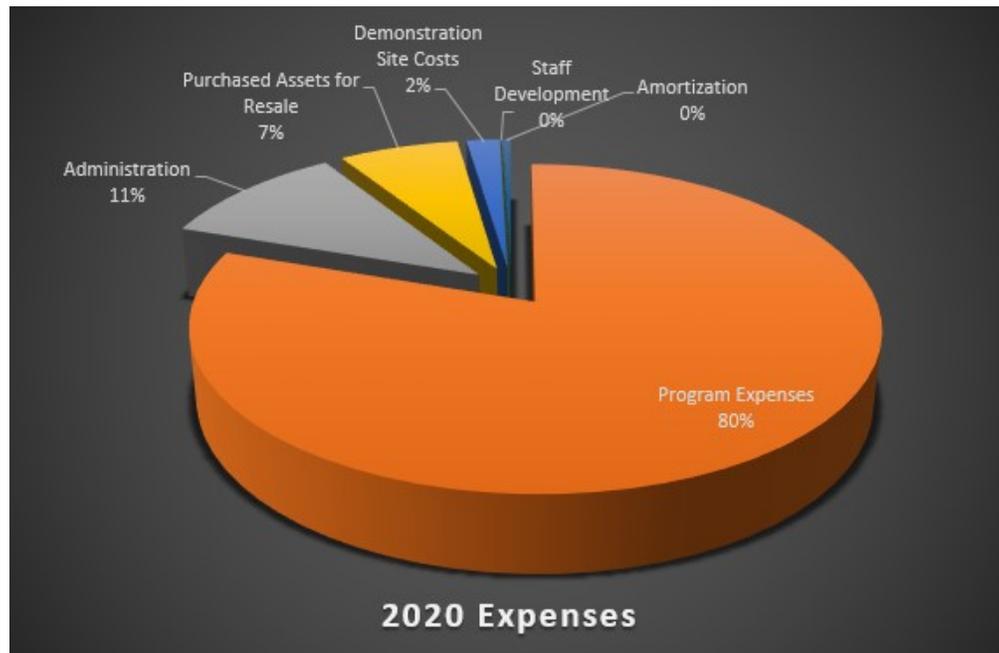
Since the pandemic, Hannah Estabrook and Zoe-Blue Coates had created virtual workshops on organic gardening, worm composting, and composting basics for GVPL during 2020 fall Pro-D day and 2021 Spring Break programming periods. Hannah and Zoe-Blue are creative instructors, and their virtual workshops are surprisingly intimate. They brought the concepts of composting and conservation to life in unique and engaging ways and taught children and adults about soil, waste diversion and organic gardening. We feel fortunate to work with CEC to build community connections and support the development of a healthy community. We look forward to continuing to work closely with CEC to provide quality educational programs for library patrons and community members." -Aiyang Ma, Public Services Librarian, Greater Victoria Public Library, April 2021

2020 Financials

2020 TOTAL REVENUE \$320,022



2020 TOTAL EXPENSES \$291,413



2020 TOTAL SURPLUS \$28,609

To request a full copy of the CEC's unaudited financial statements please email info@compost.bc.ca

Fundraising and Donor Recognition

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from our funders, community partners, volunteers and membership base who help us deliver quality educational programming within the Capital Regional District. While the Capital Regional District and City of Victoria provide ongoing essential support for the Centre, we are able to do all we do only through the generosity of all those who have given:

Funders

- All One Fund
- Capital Regional District
- Canada Summer Jobs
- City of Victoria
- Province of British Columbia (Gaming)
- 1% For The Planet Foundation
- Horne Coupar Law
- Hummingbird Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment
- Telus Friendly Futures
- Victoria Foundation
- WorkBC

Additional Revenue

- Spring and Fall Organic Plant Sales
- Retail Sales
- Event Fundraising
- School programs
- Community workshops
- Memberships
- Donations

Cash and In-kind Donations

- Borden Mercantile
- Cold Comfort
- Dig This
- Fernwood NRG
- Fernwood Community Association
- Garden Works
- Heart & Hands
- Hoyne Brewery
- MB Labs
- Metchosin Farms
- Mason Street City Farm
- Royal Roads University
- Saanich Native Plants
- The Soap Exchange
- Van Isle Water Systems
- West Coast Refill
- & many more!

Summary of Programs and Services

In 2020 the Compost Education Centre (CEC) celebrated 28 years of reaching over **1,941,405** CRD residents with information about composting, waste diversion & reduction, ecological gardening practices and ecological conservation. Through a contract with the CRD, the CEC offers presentations, workshops, and educational demonstrations both at our on-site gardens and throughout the community.

The CEC engages an active team of volunteers, publishes a monthly e-newsletter and fact sheets that range from an introduction to the benefits of backyard composting to critical mitigation of heavy metal soil contaminants. The CEC also maintains a website, and a telephone hotline, and social media channels that offer on-demand information and support.

Approximately **9,318** residents visited the CEC's demonstration site or participated in an educational community event, while over **536,282** CRD residents communicated with the CEC online, by phone, or in person. The centre began to develop tools and resources for further addressing soil degradation in the CRD via the Healing City Soils program, and initiated the Neighborhood Composting Pilot Program, which aims to divert food scraps from landfills and reduce usage of resource intensive collection programs.

2020 Staff

Management Team, HCS &

Office Manager: Alexis Hogan

Management Team & Site

Manager: Kayla Siefried

Management Team & Edu-

cation Coordinator: Chris Dufour

Summer Education & Site

Assistants: Zoe-Blue Coates, Hannah Estabrooke



2020 Board of

Directors

Chair: Jelena Putnik, Lisette Chevalier

Vice Chair: Tamara Chirovsky, Olivia Bradbury



Treasurer: Janeen Sam

Secretary: Lisette Chevalier, Megan Chan

Members At Large: Avril Gilmour Ford, Inanna Sokill, Abby Maxwell



Message from the Executive Director

What a year! By working with 15 apartment-dwelling households since April 2020, the CEC diverted **1,515** pounds of food scraps from landfill or resource intensive collection programs. Approximately **260L** of finished compost has been taken home by participants to nourish their gardens, and plenty more has been used on the CEC demonstration gardens and remediation plots. In 2020 CEC distributed over **300** composters and food waste digesters to residents of the CRD, diverting over **97,000** kg of waste from the landfill—think 97 baby humpback whales worth of waste. This waste would otherwise significantly contribute to the production of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, if it ended up at a regional dump.

CEC Staff and Board of Directors ended 2020 coming together on a positive note: planning for the future of the organization by centering our common goals, values and visions. Staff and Board engaged in Strategic Planning by assessing the CEC's Mission, Vision and Values, and setting manageable objectives for the next three years, which focus on organizational resiliency and revenue diversification.

Though we are saying goodbye to beloved staff Chris Dufour and Hannah Estabrook and Member at Large Inanna Sokill in 2021, we remain hopeful about the possibilities and opportunities our future holds and are looking forward to embracing new people in our shared work.



The Compost Education Centre is located on unceded and occupied Indigenous territories, specifically the land of the Lekwungen speaking people—the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. These nations are two of many, made up of individuals who have lived within the porous boundaries of what is considered Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Kwakwa'wakw Territory (Vancouver Island) since time immemorial. At the CEC we seek to respect, honour and continually grow our own understandings of Indigenous rights and history, and to fulfill our responsibilities as settlers, who live and work directly with the land and its complex, vital ecologies and our diverse, evolving communities.

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2020

(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

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Year Ended December 31, 2020

(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)

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NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the Statement Of Financial Position of Victoria Compost & Conservation Education Society as at December 31, 2020 and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance for the year then ended.

We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, we express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Green Horwood & Co LLP

Victoria, British Columbia

GREEN HORWOOD & CO LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

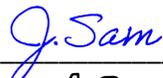
Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2020

(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 215,677	\$ 110,599
Accounts receivable	869	5,441
Inventory	<u>12,303</u>	<u>17,179</u>
	228,849	133,219
FURNITURE (Note 3)	<u>3,014</u>	<u>1,876</u>
	<u>\$ 231,863</u>	<u>\$ 135,095</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 15,027	\$ 13,970
Deferred income	<u>92,102</u>	<u>25,000</u>
	107,129	38,970
FUND BALANCE	<u>124,734</u>	<u>96,125</u>
	<u>\$ 231,863</u>	<u>\$ 135,095</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


 _____ Director

 _____ Director

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance

Year Ended December 31, 2020

(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)

	2020	2019
RECEIPTS		
Capital Regional District Base	\$ 96,244	\$ 92,786
Project income	64,250	52,458
WorkBC Community Workforce Response Grant	49,818	-
Items for resale	26,838	20,635
Casino funds	25,000	25,000
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation	14,850	-
Victoria Foundation	13,622	-
City of Victoria	8,800	6,000
Canada emergency wage subsidy	8,699	-
Memberships	7,632	6,851
Fundraising - Donations	2,763	5,056
Interest and other income	1,506	1,783
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	-	18,603
	320,022	229,172
DISBURSEMENTS		
Wages and benefits	173,005	136,358
Project expenses	60,704	17,413
Administration costs	31,222	30,946
Purchases for resale	19,678	16,264
Site costs	5,468	6,158
Amortization	1,271	1,043
Staff development	65	1,258
	291,413	209,440
NET EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	28,609	19,732
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	96,125	76,393
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	\$ 124,734	\$ 96,125

VICTORIA COMPOST & CONSERVATION EDUCATION SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2020

(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)

1. GENERAL

Victoria Compost and Conservation Education Society was incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia on April 12, 1995. Its purpose is to encourage composting and conservation by providing public education programs and by establishing a demonstration site.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Furniture

Furniture is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Furniture is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates:

Equipment	20%
Computer equipment	55%

In the year of acquisition, furniture is amortized at one-half of the annual rate.

3. FURNITURE

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2020 Net book value	2019 Net book value
Equipment	\$ 12,077	\$ 10,149	\$ 1,928	\$ 1,287
Computer equipment	8,991	7,905	1,086	589
	<u>\$ 21,068</u>	<u>\$ 18,054</u>	<u>\$ 3,014</u>	<u>\$ 1,876</u>

4. CRD CAPITAL GRANT

The CRD Capital Grant was disbursed in its entirety during 2011 on the building located at 1216 North Park Street, Victoria, BC. The building is not listed as an asset of the Compost Society as the terms of the CRD Funding Agreement specify that the building reverts back to the CRD upon the Society vacating the premises.
