

## **CSLP receives EcoAction Grant – February 2009**

Two members from the Craik Sustainable Living Project steering committee received a grant from Environment Canada's Eco-Action Community Funding program in April 2008. The program will run until March 2009.

Bridget Haworth and Crystal Stinson have been working to implement the project entitled "Local Food Production" since they received word that the grant proposal had been accepted.

There are three main components to this grant which aims to increase local food production in Craik and the local area.

The first component is a workshop series that focuses on greenhouses. A design and build workshop was held on August 25-26, with 14 participants learning about the benefits of using a greenhouse in our climate, and how to build a low-cost greenhouse for their own use. Lynn Oliphant led this course. The second workshop was held on Sept 20-21 at the Craik Eco-Centre. Patricia Hanbidge taught the 15 participants about the best ways to use a greenhouse to extend the growing season and to provide your family with healthy organic food. The third workshop, on October 18-19, also led by Hanbidge, looked at using greenhouses on a commercial level without the use of pesticides. Fifteen participants from around the province attended this workshop.



In addition to the three workshops on greenhouses, an evening workshop on vermi-composting was held at the Craik branch of the Palliser Regional library on January 6. Eight composting bins were started during this workshop. On January 15, two more bins were set up at the Craik School for the 2/3 and 4/5 classes. We found that during all of these events the participants to be eager to learn about vermi-composting and to start bins of their own.



The second component of the Eco-Action grant was an “ecological footprint” survey of the town of Craik. We aimed to talk to 50 households in the town to collect data on such things as water use, energy use, transportation, buying practices, gardening practices and waste. The survey will serve the purpose of creating a baseline database of information so that the success of future projects can be measured accurately. Once these surveys are complete and the information consolidated, we will post the results here.

The third component will be a series of articles written for the local newspapers which talk about subjects such as making and using compost, alternatives to pesticides, using greenhouses, and buying from local food producers. Look for articles in the local newspaper. We will also provide links to the articles on the CSLP website [www.craikecovillage.ca](http://www.craikecovillage.ca).

This project would not be possible without the in-kind and cash contributions from local organizations. Thank you to the Craik Sustainable Living Project for supporting Bridget and Crystal’s application, the Craik branch of the Palliser Regional Library, the Town of Craik, Carlton Trail Regional College, and boilingfrog.ca.