

Terasen Gas



Environmental Mind Grind Backgrounder

The Environmental Mind Grind competition began in Kelowna in 2000. Since then, over 350 teams have participated in Mind Grinds across the BC Interior.

1. Background on “Environmental Mind Grind”

- “Environmental Mind Grind” is an academic challenge that tests BC students’ knowledge of local environmental issues. The contest is a celebration of Earth Day.
- Teachers are supplied study packages shortly after they register so students may prepare themselves for the contest. Environmental issues addressed include air quality, transportation demand management, energy conservation, forestry health, species and spaces, waste reduction, water conservation and watershed health. Schools can request in-class presentations on any of the topics to supplement the study package.



2. Game Format

- A mandatory prep meeting will be held in early April to familiarize everyone with the game format.
- The competition is based on games of seven questions. After a question is asked, the team to first buzz in has an opportunity to answer. If the team answers correctly, they receive a point, if the team answers incorrectly; one person from the opposing team has the opportunity to answer. If they answer correctly, their team receives a point, if they answer incorrectly, no points are given and the game proceeds to the next question. The team with the most points at the end of seven questions advances to the next round.
- Each participating team is guaranteed to play a minimum of 2 games at the event. The games will be played “double knock-out” style.
- First and second place elementary and middle school teams and ALL high school teams are invited to play at the “BC Playoffs” against teams from other EMG communities.

3. Eligible Contestants

- Any school (public and private) may enter one team for each school category. A team is comprised of three student contestants, one alternate student (optional), and a support teacher.
- There are three categories: elementary (grades 4 - 6), middle (grades 7 - 9) and high (grades 10 – 12).
- Students from the North Okanagan, the South Okanagan-Similkameen, Kamloops and Quesnel will also compete in the Environmental Mind Grind.



4. The EMG Living Greener Pledge

- The EMG organizers challenge everyone in your school to become good stewards of our environment and make a difference by taking the Living Greener Challenge. To participate students must pledge to do three things that will either help conserve water, reduce waste, clean up our streams and parks, improve air quality or reduce traffic congestion.
- All pledges will be entered into a draw for a “Family Night at the Movies” and the school with the highest percentage of participants will win an ice cream party for the entire school.

5. Event Date

- The contest will be held on April 19th in honor of Earth Day for elementary and middle school teams. High School teams and the winners from the April 19th competition will attend the BC Play-offs in Kelowna, BC on May 3rd.

6. Event Prizing

- Each participating student and teacher receives an EMG t-shirt and a goodie-bag filled with promotional items provided by sponsors like water bottles and pen and ruler sets.
- The **first place** winning team receives fleece vests, \$500 for their school and an invitation to participate in the BC Interior play-offs. Note the first place winning team at the high school level only will receive \$1,000 per team member towards post secondary education)
- The **second place** prizes are trendy hats/caps, \$100 for their school and an invitation to participate in the BC Interior play-offs. Note: the second place team at the high school level only will receive \$300 per team member.
- The **most enthusiastic school** receives ice cream party for the entire school.
- The Elementary and Middle School BC Interior play-off winners receive \$1000 cash for each of their schools. High school prizes are described above.



7. Why should your school participate in the Environmental Mind Grind?

Here's what teachers had to say about previous events...

- “Good information related to the curriculum. Great enthusiasm/attitude by people putting it on”
- “Very well organized, motivating and fun for students, fits well with curriculum outcomes, appropriate prizes”
- “It involves young people in a very pressing issue that their generation will be dealing with”
- “The students learned a lot about being environmentally friendly in a fun exciting way. They were motivated to learn”
- “It was very well organized in terms of information packets, guest speakers to support the contest and enthusiastic organizers”
- “Study booklets are informative, but not long-winded.”
- “Gets everyone thinking and learning about our environment including all aspects of the environment not just recycling”
- “The fact that students learned a lot about the environment and were eager to do so”
- “The questions were from the study packages – no surprises, it was not too long and not too short, loved the judges panel”
- “Gets kids excited about learning something they don't have to get marks for”
- “Provided a challenging out-of-school learning experience for my students, the event itself was fun and exciting”
- “Students were excited about the game show format”