

Regional Waste Reduction Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

April 8th, 2010: Students Test Environmental Smarts in Honor of Earth Day!

In honor of Earth Day, local school teams will be testing their knowledge of environmental issues Saturday, April 17th at Orchard Park Shopping Centre for the 11th annual Terasen Gas Environmental Mind Grind Challenge.

You're invited to match wits with the students between 9:30am and 3:30pm at Sky Court and cheer on your favorite school. The challenge will be hosted by Mike Roberts of CHBC TV and Stuntman Steve of 103.9 the Juice and promises fast paced fun for all ages.

Mind Grind is a game show style trivia contest that brings together students from elementary, middle and high schools and promotes environmental stewardship. Teams of students from Grades 4 to 12 sign up in January and work with their teachers learning from specially prepared study packages covering many topics: including waste reduction, energy conservation, air quality, transportation demand management, forestry health, species and spaces, water conservation and watershed health.

Richard Marsden with City of Kelowna Community and Media Relations says, "Students and teachers rave how Mind Grind makes learning about environmental issues so much fun. We've got 26 schools and 36 teams signed up this year, and it seems the popularity of Mind Grind just keeps on growing!"

This challenge is not only being hosted in Kelowna, but also in Vernon, Penticton, Kamloops, and Nanaimo. On May 7th the winners from all regions will face off in Lake Country to see who the B.C. champs will be. In addition to bragging rights, the winning teams each win \$1000 cash for their schools, and special prizes for themselves.

Plus, thanks to title sponsor Terasen Gas, each member of the winning high school team will earn a \$1000 bursary for their post secondary education. Members of the runner up high school team will each receive a \$300 bursary.

Partners in Environmental Education organizing this year's Terasen Gas Environmental Mind Grind event include the Regional Waste Reduction Office, the City of Kelowna Regional Services and Community and Media Relations Departments, Regional Parks and Recreation Services, the Council of Forest Industries and Water Smart.

Proud sponsors of this year's challenge include Terasen Gas, OK Environmental Waste, Fortis and the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

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For more information call: Rae Stewart, Waste Reduction Facilitator, 469-6258 cell 212-1576

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