Serving our Region through Community-Based Learning

RCE Greater Portland’s E4 Sustainability TeamWorks Team
Portland, Oregon, USA
GREATER PORTLAND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION NETWORK
A Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

Educate, Inspire, Engage
Teamworks Goals and Learning Objectives

- Explore local E4 sustainability challenges
- Identify existing sustainability initiatives
- Empower participants to make a difference in their communities
- Engage participants in service projects
- Foster citizenship
- Facilitate reflection
Improve lives, strengthen communities and advance equity by mobilizing the caring power of people across our metro area.
Introductory Session

- Explore core foundations of social problems
- Combat cynicism and thought traps
- Create Cycles of Hope
- Identify ways to participate in sustainable solutions.
EQUITY

- Preserve and share traditional knowledge
- View films on Alaskan Native response to climate change
Earth Day Presentation

- International and regional RCEs and SDGs
- E4: Education, Environment, Economy, and Equity
- Creating solutions through regional multi-sector collaboration and service
EDUCATION

Comcast Cares Day
School
Beautification
Project
ENVIRONMENT

The Rebuilding Center
Results

- 11 participants completed the TeamWorks team
- Over 575 community members engaged in events
- 152 hours of volunteer time by TeamWorks participants
- 7 local sustainability organizations benefitted from projects
- Over 600 meals served
- 75 students and community members screened Wisdom of the Elders films
- 9 TeamWorks participants and over 400 Comcast employees planted 55 trees, spread 2 tons of mulch, and scrubbed and painted school rooms and hallways at a local elementary school
- Over 100 pieces of recycled lumber were de-nailed for re-sale
- Two students joined additional TeamWorks teams
According to evaluations, participants gained:

- New skills
- New knowledge and understanding
- Sense of community
- Connection to non-profit organizations
- Opportunities to take action
- Friends
“It was fun and educational. I had a great time doing all of the different types of activities. Talking to like-minded individuals has a great effect on one’s attitude on being positive about such heavy topics.”

“Our HandsOn Teamworks team helped me learn that I can make a difference in my community.”
Core Reflections

- Community-based learning is a powerful educational tool
- Builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Partnerships between schools and organizations strengthen our communities
- Makes teaching more meaningful
- Essential to create Cycles of Hope
- Replicable model