

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Saanich Students win prizes in international ‘One Planet Film Festival’**

(Saanich, BC, April 26, 2021) - A ‘One Planet Youth Summit’ was held last week to celebrate Earth Day, culminating in six Saanich students winning three team prizes for their *One Planet Film Festival* videos. The Summit was an innovative on-line collaboration between One Planet Saanich ([oneplanetsaanich.org](http://oneplanetsaanich.org)) students in Saanich, BC and their partner One Planet Community in Sonoma County, California.

For the past several years, the students at Credo High School in Sonoma County, California have organized a Youth Summit in their community, to help educate and network area youth about sustainability and ‘One Planet Living’.

With the current health regulations preventing large in-person gatherings, the students in Sonoma County decided to move their event on-line which had an unexpected benefit – the participation of One Planet students from other countries.

Their invitation to join the event found enthusiastic acceptance from Saanich area schools, particularly Reynolds and Mount Douglas high schools. From a film contest, to a ‘*Designing the School of the Future*’ seminar, to a climate change workshop from the University of Victoria Speakers Bureau - the students have had the opportunity to meet, learn and share their ideas about how to create a One Planet world.

Last Friday (23 April) the One Planet Film Festival judges awarded 2nd place prize (\$US300) to three Reynolds high school students for their film about their outdoor classes at Swan Lake. The 3rd place prize (\$US200) was split between two Reynolds students for their ‘*Planet Saanich Nature Video*’ and a Mount Douglas student, for the ‘*Biomass Energy rap*’.

Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes congratulated the Saanich students on the successful Youth Summit, and for submitting the winning entries to the *One Planet Film Festival*, saying:

*“One Planet Saanich schools have become leaders in our community as we work towards achieving our climate action objectives and our overarching aim to become a ‘One Planet Living’ Community. Our Climate Plan acknowledges that our collective success requires action from everyone in our community. The One Planet Youth Summit has helped bring together students and schools to uncover ways they can take meaningful action.”*

Reynolds Grade 10 student, Naomi Schoeck said that:

*“... (we) were inspired to participate because we are about to step into the role of primary caretakers for the Earth as we begin to become adults. As the up-and-coming leader generation, it is our duty both to care for our home and to advocate for it. Leading through doing is crucial, but even more impactful is the leader who knows to delegate and spread resources, through doing so reaching wider than they ever could have alone. We must also inspire and teach the*

*wave of leaders who will follow in our footsteps. The planet will exist long after we are gone, and every being who walks here after us has the same right to a healthy, happy, and safe life.”*

Such a successful international ‘One Planet Youth Summit’ is an encouraging sign that even in the midst of the current world, youth are finding ways to connect and imagine solutions to how they are going to build their ‘One Planet’ back better.

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**For more information or to schedule interviews, contact:**

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**Background:**

One Planet Living is a sustainability framework developed by Bioregional ([www.bioregional.com/one-planet-living](http://www.bioregional.com/one-planet-living)) a UK based NGO. Locally, [OneEarth](#) - leads One Planet Saanich as part of the global One Planet Cities initiative. The One Planet Saanich community includes a wide diversity of organizations from schools, churches, small business to commercial companies (see [www.oneplanetsaanich.org](http://www.oneplanetsaanich.org)).

**The District of Saanich is the anchor stakeholder in One Planet Saanich, and the One Planet Living Framework was used in their recent award winning [Climate Plan](#) (see [www.saanich.ca/climateplan](http://www.saanich.ca/climateplan)).**