

Blue River Community Story

By Lee Onslow

I would like to express my gratitude to the Tamarack Institute for their support of the Community Association, Garden and the Blue River Elementary School.

Thanks to the Transforming Youth Climate Grief program community projects, Blue River Elementary School was able to efficiently compost lunchroom waste using a countertop composter. The students learned how to create nutrient-rich compost from their food



waste. They also learned about worms and worm castings with their newly acquired worm farm. The resulting compost and worm castings were then added to the indoor garden soil, providing an ideal environment for planting seeds. The school's indoor garden serves as a valuable learning space for children to explore plant health and productivity and

the garden is used for many learning opportunities. Additionally, the students set up a seedling market, honing their advertising, marketing and cash management skills while taking pride in their accomplishments.

The Blue River Community Garden also benefited from the program's support. Garden members replaced a large, unwieldy composter with three smaller ones, making community composting more accessible. We eagerly anticipate the rewards of our composting efforts in the future. Furthermore, decorative and food – producing vines now adorn the chain-link fence surrounding the garden, while three large flower boxes have been filled, enhancing the visitor experience.

Lastly, the Blue River Community Association proudly owns the Gip Grow Indoor Tower. Come fall 2024, we anticipate a bountiful harvest of leafy greens to share with our community members. Thank you, Tamarack Institute!

Lee Onslow

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