

## Washington State Conservation Commission and PEI Share Complementary Statewide Goals

The [Washington State Conservation Commission](#) (WSCC) and PEI have something in common. Both are statewide organizations with regional impacts, but it is their complementary goals that make the partnership so effective, according to Director of Policy and Inter-governmental Relations Ron Schultz.

The WSCC supports 45 conservation districts around Washington State, many of which have education programs serving schools in their areas. Connections between community groups and school districts at the regional and local levels are a core component of PEI’s FieldSTEM model. “Conservation district staff work with local schools on programs to get kids outside,” Schultz explains. “Some of our conservation districts implement resources and curriculum through PEI.”



Chris Towe, Pierce Conservation District working with students.

PEI currently has strong relationships with [Foster Creek Conservation District](#), [Franklin County Conservation District](#), [Grays Harbor Conservation District](#), [Kittitas Conservation District](#), [Mason Conservation District](#), [Pierce Conservation District](#), [Snohomish Conservation District](#), [Spokane Conservation District](#), [Stevens County Conservation District](#), [Thurston Conservation District](#) and more.



Ron Schultz, WSCC

Aside from his role at WSCC, Schultz also serves as PEI’s Board President. “Being on the board helps the Commission by engaging with PEI at that level and helping to support the work PEI does,” he says. “By extension, that supports our work in different regions as these programs filter down to the districts.”

Having a partner like the WSCC is highly beneficial for PEI, enabling us to connect educators and their students with real-world, locally relevant science opportunities and important career connections.