National Philanthropy Day is November 8 this year, and Vancouver Island will host a special event to recognize some of the people – kids and adults - who make a massive difference in our communities.

Clean Tech

Vancouver Island Resilient and Green Opportunities: Economic Development for the Future Using local data and international best practices examples, a team of UVic researchers has created a roadmap for stakeholders, including industry, non-profit, communities, government, and academia, to help the greater Victoria region capitalize on its resources and create a solid “green” economic development plan for the future. Please join the researchers and community leaders for a presentation and discussion at 3:30 p.m. October 30th 2012 at VIATeC, 2nd floor 2659 Douglas St., Victoria.

Producers taking responsibility

Mushroom roots grow through waste cotton hulls, rice hulls or wheat chaff, creating compostable packing material that looks and acts like Styrofoam – only without all those toxic downstream effects. This is one of Dell’s pilot projects and only one example of many in the 2012 “Design for Environment” report of Electronic Products Stewardship Canada, which also includes info on urban mining, low-energy TVs and PVC-free computers. The fascinating (seriously) document is in CSSI’s SharePoint repository.

Carbon markets

Reports suggest that the governments of both Thailand and Vietnam are considering official carbon trading schemes.

Clean energy investment

The $56.6bn that was invested in clean energy from July to September was down five per cent from the previous quarter and 20 per cent lower than the same period last year. Bloomberg New Energy Finance predicts that 2012 will probably fall short of 2011’s record $280bn, marking the first down-year in global investment in eight years.

Operations

“Getting smart about green data makes money,” according to this Harvard Business Review blog by Andrew Winston. Winston describes a PepsiCo-Columbia University project that’s creating algorithms so the company can get a realistic picture of its carbon footprint and therefore reduce its costs and increase profits.

International Business with Canadian First Nations

Judith Sayers, National Aboriginal Economic Development Chair, writes about why First Nations should be concerned about the Canada/China Investment Treaty.