

Thursday, May 17, 2018

# 'Local solutions to global challenges'

## *SEEDS earns high marks in recent 'Drawdown EcoChallenge'*

REGION – Local nonprofit SEEDS and its supporters came together last month as Team EcoSEEDS to participate in the international Drawdown EcoChallenge, taking actions on solutions to climate change. The team placed 30th out of more than 750 teams worldwide.

The Drawdown EcoChallenge took place April 4-25 and was based on the number-one bestselling environmental book of 2017, "Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming," edited by Paul Hawken, which maps, measures, models and describes the 100 most substantive solutions to global warming. The Drawdown EcoChallenge allowed participants to earn points by completing actions based on the 100 solutions.

"All of life is comprised of self-organizing systems and the Drawdown EcoChallenge is exactly that – people coming together to share, learn, support, imagine and innovate for a better world," said Hawken.

During the three-week challenge with 767 teams participating from 65 countries, the 40 members of Team EcoSEEDS practiced carpooling, bike-commuting, eating locally, reducing waste, and more

– saving over 250 pounds of carbon dioxide and more than 400 gallons of water as compared to business-as-usual.

"This was such a fun way to literally engage in local solutions to global challenges," said SEEDS Executive Director Sara Salzman, "Working together as a team among a global group of teams reminds us of how seemingly small actions can add up to profound impact. Plus it was fun to see our small community rank 30th and make a global splash!"

Salzman said the Drawdown EcoChallenge was a perfect fit for SEEDS as the organization focuses on the local solutions researched and highlighted in "Drawdown" and has adopted a zero-waste policy for all of its projects.

SEEDS supports the City of Traverse City in reaching its clean energy goals. SEEDS also provides daily environmental education with a variety of local partners including K-12 schools in Kalkaska, Grand Traverse and Manistee counties.

To find out more, visit [ecoseeds.org](http://ecoseeds.org) or search SEEDSTC on Facebook and Twitter. For additional information about the book and recent event, visit [drawdown.org](http://drawdown.org) or [drawdown.ecochallenge.org/](http://drawdown.ecochallenge.org/).