

October 2009

### October: Planning for a Carbon Neutral Public Sector!

We are all facing tough economic times while at the same time getting more information about the urgent need to reduce and prepare for climate change – globally and locally.

Can we cut costs and carbon at the same time, while ensuring our school communities are meaningful, healthy, and supportive learning environments? See the attached resource for home grown solutions!

## Opportunities

**BC Green Games** is a province-wide competition for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, designed to motivate action, enable sharing and reward and celebrate the green efforts of schools in BC. Design and document a creative and innovative solution to an environmental challenge in your school or community this year that measures changes in behaviour of students or community members as a result of your action. **Register your school team anytime between October and end of February when final submissions are due:** [www.bcgreengames.ca](http://www.bcgreengames.ca) or contact [info@bcgreengames.ca](mailto:info@bcgreengames.ca) or 1-800-363-1611.

**Sustainability and the Co-operative Economy Forum: Fri Oct. 16, 11am-6pm @ UVic** features tables and speakers on green jobs, community-economic development, indigenous models of sustainable economy, food and energy security, participatory economics, affordable housing, credit unions and sustainable finance. **Planning 10 Teachers** are invited to come or bring their classes for ideas and materials to **apply a green lens to career planning**. Info: [kalwani@uvic.ca](mailto:kalwani@uvic.ca) or [emenzies@crd.bc.ca](mailto:emenzies@crd.bc.ca)

**FutureFest Victoria:** 350 parts per million is the level of carbon scientists say we need to keep our climate stable, so people around the world are organizing “350” events on **Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: Bring your bike** (Prize draw!) **to Centennial Square, 12-4pm** for music, flash mob dancing, kids’ corner, community tables, local food and art-based community visioning of a post-carbon future. Finish the evening with a **screening of “A Sea Change” at UVic @7pm**. For posters & more info: [www.victoria350.org](http://www.victoria350.org), or [info@victoria350.org](mailto:info@victoria350.org)

**Canada to Copenhagen:** A new international climate treaty is being negotiated in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 7-18. Will Canada support or stand in the way of the world setting **ambitious, fair and binding** targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

- **Learn More:** *Canadian Youth Climate Coalition* offers news and great resources at their action center: [www.ourclimate.ca](http://www.ourclimate.ca)
- **Have Your Say:** Join over 1million global citizens telling world leaders time is running out for our climate. <http://tckctck.org>
- **Get Involved:** *Power Shift* is educating 1000 Canadian youth leaders in Ottawa, Oct 23-26. <http://powershiftcanada.org>

**Climate Change Adaptation 101:** Professionals from local government and public sector organizations are invited by the CRD to explore **Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Taking Action:** **Thurs, Nov 19, 9am – 12:30 pm UVic - Cadboro Commons Building**

**Victoria Transition Initiative:** Victoria has recently become one of hundreds of Transition Towns using a common flexible approach to engage whole communities in responding and adapting to the pressures of climate change, increased fossil fuel costs and increasing economic instability. Learn how to help your family, neighbourhood and region build a resilient future! Register for the **Training for Transition October 23 & 25th, 2009** with Michelle: [mcolussi@telus.net](mailto:mcolussi@telus.net). Info: [www.cedworks.com/transition.html](http://www.cedworks.com/transition.html)

**GreenHeart:** Education for sustainability makes sense to you because you don't want to teach for UNsustainability...but where to start? Right here! You'll find answers, ideas, support for greening your teaching: [www.greenhearted.org](http://www.greenhearted.org) offers educators professional development online - a starting place and a **simple yet transformative model of education for sustainability**.

*Want to sign up for this E-newsletter? Do you have a resource or opportunity to share? Do you need help?*

Take the CRD Youth Climate Leadership Alliance **SURVEY:** [www.sureforms.net/emilymenzies.form](http://www.sureforms.net/emilymenzies.form)

Contact me with requests and solutions at [emenzies@crd.bc.ca](mailto:emenzies@crd.bc.ca) or 250-361-8437

# Getting to Carbon Neutral Together: Cutting Costs AND Carbon at the same time!!!

## *A guide for students, teachers, administrators and district facilities staff*

**Carbon Neutral Public Sector:** What do school districts, universities and colleges need to do to help BC lead Canada in climate action through meeting our 2010 target for reducing green house gas emissions? (GHGs)

Step 1: Calculate – How do districts/campuses measure emissions? [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools)

**SMARTtool** calculator Q&A's: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools/pdfs/climate\\_action\\_qa.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools/pdfs/climate_action_qa.pdf)

Step 2: Report - How we are doing so far?

**Climate Action Reports** by sector: [www.livesmartbc.ca/government/neutral\\_action\\_reports.html](http://www.livesmartbc.ca/government/neutral_action_reports.html)

Step 3: Reduce - How can we reduce our impact?

**Conservation, Policies, Retrofits, Design: the focus for this year!! See below for ideas...**

Step 4: Offset – how can we stop causing climate change at the lowest cost?

**Pacific Carbon Trust** verifies offsets for the public sector so we know our money is really cutting carbon in BC:  
[www.livesmartbc.ca/government/trust.html](http://www.livesmartbc.ca/government/trust.html)

### Funding opportunities, guides and resources available for financing reductions

- BC Hydro Links to guides, resources, incentives: [www.bchydro.com/powersmart/resources.html](http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/resources.html)
- BC Hydro tips: Lighting, Buildings, Office equipment, Refrigeration, Systems (**October is PowerSmart month!**)  
[www.bchydro.com/powersmart/technology\\_tips/power\\_smart\\_tips.html?WT.mc\\_id=PSbusiness\\_tips fla](http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/technology_tips/power_smart_tips.html?WT.mc_id=PSbusiness_tips fla)
- Community Energy Association's guide to **Funding Your Community Energy Initiatives (1<sup>st</sup> 2 pages)**  
[www.communityenergy.bc.ca/news/funding-your-community-energy-and-climate-change-initiatives](http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/news/funding-your-community-energy-and-climate-change-initiatives)
- NRCanada: [www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/commercial/financial-assistance/existing/retrofits/index.cfm?attr=0](http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/commercial/financial-assistance/existing/retrofits/index.cfm?attr=0)

### Climate Education Programs which help districts, classes and clubs reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Energy Ambassadors: [www.bchydro.com/community/youth\\_education/energy\\_reviews.html](http://www.bchydro.com/community/youth_education/energy_reviews.html)
- Sustainable High Schools: [www.sustainablehighschools.ca](http://www.sustainablehighschools.ca)
- Destination Conservation: [www.dcplanet.ca/index.php?s=program](http://www.dcplanet.ca/index.php?s=program)
- WildBC: [www.wildbc.org/programs-workshops/climate-change-program.php](http://www.wildbc.org/programs-workshops/climate-change-program.php)
- Green Learning: [www.greenlearning.ca](http://www.greenlearning.ca)
- Climate Change Showdown: [www.bcsea.org/learn/resources-for-educators](http://www.bcsea.org/learn/resources-for-educators)

### Top 10 Suggested Actions for Schools to cut costs and carbon at the same time:

1. **Celebrate and support** green champions in your school –a thank you or offer of help goes a long way!
2. Review policies and practices to ensure **lights and appliances are off** after school and on weekends
3. **Reduce temperature** of school & water; encourage students & staff to wear “climate friendly clothing”
4. Support student-led campaigns and social marketing to **change behaviour** of staff and students. Eg:
  1. "Be Bright, Turn off the Lights" light switch cover stickers
  2. "Heading Out? Power Out!" stickers for computer monitors
  3. School wide competitions for which class has lights off when unused, uses daylight etc
  4. “An Action a Day keeps Climate Change at Bay” class chart to track & reward student action
5. Create district/school “Green Team” of students, staff and admin to plan, **coordinate action** together
6. **Showcase energy/heat/paper efficient teaching strategies** such as hands-on activities, teaching outside, using natural light etc, and try to **reduce overuse of projectors and handouts** as teaching aids
7. Facilities staff and administration can support teachers in designing **problem based learning** units, to teach students how to research and develop a project while helping schools cut costs and carbon
8. Have **students calculate emissions** and design school reduction projects: [www.climatechallenge.ca](http://www.climatechallenge.ca)
9. **Submit great energy saving projects** to: [www.BCGreenGames.ca](http://www.BCGreenGames.ca) & [www.Inventthefuture.ca](http://www.Inventthefuture.ca)
10. **Rally school wide morale** to improve commitment to becoming carbon neutral and share successful engagement techniques & climate friendly messaging with other schools via: [emenzies@crd.bc.ca](mailto:emenzies@crd.bc.ca)