

## Success Stories

Individuals, communities, governments and businesses have already started to take action to prevent further climate change – with measurable results. They are demonstrating that reducing our GHG emissions is an attainable goal.

### Halifax

A city-wide composting program now prevents organic matter from reaching landfills. This has cut methane production by the equivalent of over half a million tons of carbon dioxide per year, compared to 1995.

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/Solutions/Green\\_Leaders.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Solutions/Green_Leaders.asp)

### City of Vancouver

The city converted incandescent lights at 670 intersections to light-emitting diode (LED) lights, which use 80 to 90% less electricity and last six to 10 times longer. By doing this, the city will save \$247,500 per year in energy costs alone, plus an additional \$110,000 per year in maintenance costs.

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/Solutions/Green\\_Leaders.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Solutions/Green_Leaders.asp)

### BC's Scrap-It

The program removes from the road hundreds of older, high-polluting vehicles that do not meet AirCare standards. This program works by awarding owners with transit passes or incentives toward the purchase of a bicycle, or new or used vehicle. Between 1999 and 2001, 1732 vehicles were scrapped in BC. [http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur/Working\\_Together\\_for\\_Cleaner\\_Air-WS2D2699D9-1\\_En.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur/Working_Together_for_Cleaner_Air-WS2D2699D9-1_En.htm)

### AutoSmart

AutoSmart implemented a Student Driver Program to teach energy-efficient driving habits to novice drivers. On average, participants reported that fuel-efficient driving behaviours had increased by more than 20% for the key practices, knowledge of fuel economy improved by 13%, and key attitudes towards fuel efficient and fuel-efficient driving improved by 20%. <http://www.toolsofchange.com/English/firstsplit.asp>

### Starbucks Coffee Company

In 2006 the company purchased renewable wind energy certificates to cover 20% of the energy needed to power its stores in the USA and Canada. This equates to 56.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) has ranked Starbucks the 6th largest purchaser of renewable energy in the USA, as of April 2006.

[http://theclimategroup.org/index.php/reducing\\_emissions/case\\_study/starbucks](http://theclimategroup.org/index.php/reducing_emissions/case_study/starbucks)

### Autoshare

A car sharing company in Toronto has over 500 members and 28 cars. 40% of members reported giving up a car or not buying a new one because of their membership; 27% reported that they used public transit more than they had before joining; 25% said they cycled or in-line skated more often than they did before. For every 500 people who belong to a car share, more than 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year are diverted. <http://www.toolsofchange.com/English/firstsplit.asp>

### Project Solar School– Frontenac Secondary School

Frontenac Secondary School, near Kingston, Ontario, has installed an array of photovoltaic (solar) panels on the school roof. The panels will reduce the school's GHG

emissions by about 1 tonne per year (or 50 tonnes over the expected 50-year life of the panels). They are also an important demonstration to parents, teachers and students of the viability of solar power and a reminder of the importance of reducing GHG emissions.

The PV panels are just one part of "Project Solar School". The students have formed a Solar School Action Committee, which has planned a number of activities to take into schools across the Limestone School District. These activities include: a poster contest on climate change, a solar boat competition for elementary students, a solar car team for the secondary students, and a working scale model of their solar school.

<http://www.limestone.on.ca/ibuild/solarschool/pvpanels.html>

### **Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC)**

MEC supports sustainable transportation by:

- locating their stores near bike routes and transit lines
- providing showers and secure bike storage for employees
- not providing car parking for employees
- providing bike maintenance clinics for members
- supporting car share co-ops by allocating them space in their parking lots

By purchasing wind power for 2 Alberta stores, MEC reduced its GHG emissions by 52% (from 2003 to 2005). Between 1991 and 2000, MEC's total building space increased by over 150%. Over the same time period, overall energy consumption, spending, and emissions only increased by 45-55%. <http://www.mec.ca>

### **Salt Spring Coffee Company**

Salt Spring Coffee Company is the first carbon neutral coffee company in Canada. The company analyzed GHG emissions across its entire operation and developed an emissions reduction strategy as part of its "Carbon Cool" initiative. It offset its electricity use by purchasing BC Hydro Green Energy Certificates and the rest of its emissions by purchasing green-e certified renewable energy offsets. The company, which roasts and sells certified organic and fair trade coffee, recycles, composts its coffee grounds, uses compact fluorescent lights and delivers its coffee in biodiesel trucks.

<http://www.saltspringcoffee.com/>

### **Saanich School District/McTavish Elementary School**

In March 2007, Grade 4 and 5 students at McTavish Elementary School made a presentation to the Saanich School Board requesting a 'No Idling Zone' at schools. The School District has now adopted a no idling policy for passenger vehicles and buses in school drop-off zones. In addition, school buses run on biodiesel.

[http://www.sd63.bc.ca/physical\\_plant.asp](http://www.sd63.bc.ca/physical_plant.asp)

### **Sierra Youth Coalition High School Sustainability Assessment Framework (HSSAF)**

The [Sustainable High Schools Project](http://www.syc-cjs.org/cyap/tiki-index.php?page=Sustainable+High+Schools) is a youth-driven initiative created to support high school communities in envisioning, assessing and improving their school's level of sustainability. Students audit their school using a framework that includes about 30 indicators and then use the audit as the basis for making changes. The project, which was piloted in 10 BC high schools in 2006/2007, aims to empower students to bring together their peers, staff, administrators and parents in making their high school communities models of sustainability.

<http://syc-cjs.org/cyap/tiki-index.php?page=Sustainable+High+Schools>

<http://www.syc-cjs.org>

### **The Otesha Project**

The Otesha Project is a youth-run organization that mobilizes young people to create local and global change through their daily consumer choices. Otesha uses theatre, inspirational stories and multimedia to engage audiences, draw attention to how our own daily consumer choices are already changing the world, and inspire action on environmental and social issues. In the past four years Otesha has trained over 200 youth to deliver Otesha's message to 60 000 people in communities across Canada. The Otesha Projects's initiatives include bike tours, presentations, a resource book ("The Otesha Book") and "Triple H" teams of high school students who are trained to perform for their peers. <http://www.otesha.ca>

### **Youth Environmental Network**

YEN works to empower youth to influence policy. In 2005 YEN mentored 150 youth and facilitated their participation at the UN Climate Change Negotiations in Montreal, as well as a number of other forums including: the Youth Caucus of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Youth Caucus of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, and the UNEP Youth Advisory Council.

<http://www.yen-rej.org/modules/content/index.php?id=6>

### **Youth Environmental Network – National Micro-Grants Initiative**

YEN's National Micro-Grants Initiative has created five regional networks and one national network of YENGOs working on climate change issues. Creative Leadership in Climate Change Solutions (CLICCS) promotes action based community projects driven by YOUTH.

Here are a few of the projects funded by micro-grants in the past 3 years. For more ideas go to <http://www.yen-rej.org/modules/content/index.php?id=5>.

*FoodShare Urban Agriculture Food on Focus Interns:* Taught peer youth groups within Toronto area about the impact of food choices and food disposal on climate change and how to reduce impacts, organized and facilitated peer youth Food and Kyoto Workshops, and encouraged the setting up of five composting systems in Toronto schools.

*University of Manitoba Cyclists Association (UMCA):* Created and maintained a bike repair space/cyclist meeting space to provide student cyclists with the skills for maintaining self-sufficient, pollution free transportation. UMCA also fixed up a fleet of 20 donated bikes for rental on campus by anyone who needs a bike.

*The Student Sustainable Living Initiative:* Provided participants with the hands-on knowledge to build, from scratch, projects such as a wind turbine, solar collector, solar heater, biogas chamber, and greenhouse or roof-top garden.

### **Strengthening the Kyoto Generation (YEN and SYC)**

The YEN and Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC) are working with youth and student groups across Ontario to develop energy plans that will measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario. The goal is to encourage and support at least 10 climate change action projects by YENGOs and student groups, while building skills youth need to lead and implement successful projects.

<http://www.yen-rej.org/modules/content/index.php?id=5>

## **David Suzuki Foundation**

Going Carbon Neutral: The David Suzuki Foundation has committed to going carbon neutral. Using a guide published by the WorldWatch Institute ([http://www.wri.org/climate/pubs\\_description.cfm?pid=3756](http://www.wri.org/climate/pubs_description.cfm?pid=3756)), staff identified the Foundation's major sources of GHG emissions and took steps to reduce them. At the end of each fiscal year, the Foundation purchases Renewable Energy Certificates to offset 100% of its annual electricity consumption. For all other emission sources the Foundation purchases high quality carbon offsets. Here are some of the actions the Foundation takes to reduce its GHG emissions:

- the office is heated and cooled by a geothermal heat pump
- most lights are either compact fluorescent or fluorescent
- uses low-energy LCD computer monitors and an extremely energy-efficient photocopier
- uses 100% post-consumer recycled paper in its photocopier and printers (all of which have duplexing units), as well as in most publications
- chooses a courier company that uses some hybrid electric vehicles for their deliveries
- the office is located on one of Vancouver's best-served transit corridors, so the majority of employees travel by transit. Most other employees either bike or walk to work.

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/What\\_You\\_Can\\_Do/carbon\\_neutral\\_office.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/carbon_neutral_office.asp)

Air Travel: As part of its plan to go carbon neutral, the David Suzuki Foundation looks for ways to reduce its air travel. It uses phone conferences for many meetings, recently purchased videoconferencing equipment, and looks for ways to minimize travel to conferences, training sessions and other functions. It currently purchases high quality carbon offsets for all Foundation air travel.

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/What\\_You\\_Can\\_Do/air\\_travel.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/air_travel.asp)

"Play It Cool" Campaign: A number of well-known winter sport athletes, including skiers Beckie Scott, Sarah Renner and Thomas Grandi, are challenging themselves and others to go carbon neutral. [http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/play\\_it\\_cool.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/play_it_cool.asp)

### **Did you know?**

It is estimated that for every thousand kilowatt-hours of green energy generated, a tonne of carbon dioxide is saved from not burning fossil fuels.

### **Doing the math...**

A single 100W lightbulb burning for 10 hours uses one kilowatt-hour of energy. How many lightbulbs are turned on each day at your school? For how many hours each day? Each year? How much total energy does your school use each year on lightbulbs alone?

## **Sources and Useful Links**

These sites include more case studies, as well as information on actions that individuals, governments and businesses can take to reduce GHG emissions.

David Suzuki Foundation:

[http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate\\_Change/Solutions/Green\\_Leaders.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Solutions/Green_Leaders.asp)

Environment Canada: [http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur/Working_Together_for_Cleaner_Air-WS2D2699D9-1_En.htm)

[airpur/Working Together for Cleaner Air-WS2D2699D9-1\\_En.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur/Working_Together_for_Cleaner_Air-WS2D2699D9-1_En.htm)

The Climate Group: <http://www.theclimategroup.org/index.php?pid=454>

Youth Environmental Network: <http://www.yen-rej.org>