

For Immediate Release

Superhero Winners in celebration for saving Energy

Victoria, June 17, 2008—Celebrations rewarding local Energy Superheroes have begun this week, acknowledging students who most effectively carried out actions in their homes and changed their family lifestyles to reduce energy consumption. Over 3000 Grade 5 and 6 students in the Victoria area spent this school year participating in this innovative contest to take action against global warming.

The Climate Change Showdown, an educational and outreach program created by the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), delivered over 550 free workshops in elementary school classrooms across the province, reaching over 14,000 households, and stimulating greenhouse gas reductions of over 7,500 tonnes.

“We found a successful way to influence household behaviour and reduce carbon emissions,” reported Climate Change Showdown project manager Estella Bastidas. “After our workshop the school children took the challenge home, worked with their parents for four weeks to reduce their emissions, and won prizes for becoming Superheroes.”

Our Superheroes who scored the maximum points are Haroop Mand from Strawberry Vale Elementary and Tanner Hess from Glanford Middle School. Tied for second place are Catalina Roberts from Rogers Elementary and Branden Le from Lake Hill Elementary. Ryan Allen’s grade 6 class from Lansdowne Middle School scored the most combined points along with Tanya Foster’s class at Doncaster Elementary School.

Alyssa Westfall, a student in Ryan Allen’s winning class, wrote: “Doing this contest was fun because I got to find out ways to help save energy and the planet. Some of the things we did were kind of tricky because I had to replace all of my light bulbs with energy saving bulbs. This contest was very fun and I hope I can find more ways to save energy.”

The BCSEA offered the Climate Change Showdown workshops thanks to generous contributions from Environment Canada, Vancity, City of Vancouver, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, City of Coquitlam, City of Richmond and Epod Solar, and a huge thank you to the National Geographic IMAX Theatre, the Joint Pizzeria, and Science Works for their generous donations.

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