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Climate Change Education Program in Trail and Castlegar

Kootenay-Columbia area school classes join thousands of students across BC, participating in an innovative contest involving taking action against climate change. The BC Sustainable Energy Association's (BCSEA) **Climate Change Showdown** is a fun and informative classroom presentation for Grade 5 and 6 students. Offered free to students in School District 20, the presentations teach students about climate change and how they can reduce their impact in their homes and at school. A follow-up contest pits each class against their peers throughout the region to see who can reduce their carbon footprint the most.

Local environmental educator and climate action superhero, Captain Climate, is a BCSEA member and program presenter. "The idea is to empower kids, giving them positive actions they can take to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions- that is, to reduce their environmental impact". The contest, she explains is a fun way of giving the students incentive.

On hand last Friday at St. Michael's Elementary School was Blair Weston from FortisBC, one of the project's local sponsors. Weston joined a group of grade five and six students in "Climate Superhero Training," and offered some free compact fluorescent light bulbs to get the kids started in saving energy at home.

The Climate Change Showdown will deliver the message of action on climate change to 500 classes and 15,000 families across the province by the end of the 2008 school year. It is estimated that the Climate Change Showdown will reduce target community greenhouse gas emissions (by approximately 7,500 tonnes annually) and improve air quality through the actions of participating students and their families.

Here in the Kootenays, there are still spots available on Captain Climate's booking roster, but they are going fast. Interested teachers are asked to e-mail captainclimate@telus.net, or call Monica Nissen at 352-6346 for more information.

The BCSEA is able to offer the Climate Change Showdown presentations 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. **Local sponsors include: Fortis BC, Nelson and District Credit Union, Kootenay Co-op Country Store and Paul Edney of 'We Are What We Do.'**

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To learn more about the Climate Change Showdown Project, visit www.bcsea.org/activities/ccgame/