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## **Climate Change Education Program in Nelson and Area**

Nelson and area school classes are joining 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 Districts 8 and 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.

One of the local sponsors of the project is the Nelson and District Credit Union. Tom Atkins, Credit Union representative, joined a presentation held recently at Rosemont Elementary School and had this to say: "We saw financial support for the Climate Change Showdown as a great fit with our principles and are excited to be supporting it financially with funds from our Community Investment Program which has seen over \$1.5 million invested back into our communities since 2000."

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](mailto: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/](http://www.bcsea.org/activities/ccgame/)