

For Immediate Release

Captain Climate Hands Out Carbon-Emission Reduction Awards to Local Students'

Nelson, June 24th, 2008---Superhero Captain Climate was in schools recently, rewarding students for carbon-emission reductions. Over 650 grade five and six students throughout the Kootenay Lake and Kootenay-Columbia School Districts participated in the BC Sustainable Energy Association's Climate Change Showdown over the past year. Awards were handed to the top scoring students, to acknowledge those who most effectively adopted lifestyle habits and consumer choices that would reduce their carbon emissions.

Local environmental educator Monica Nissen is the coordinator for the program in the Kootenays. She played the role of a climate action superhero when presenting the climate change workshop to 28 classes in the region. Her idea for the superhero theme, she says, was "to empower kids, giving them positive actions they can take to reduce their emissions, rather than weighing them down with bad-news stories."

The top-scoring class was Al Defoe's grade 6 class from Glenmerry Elementary School in Trail. That school is also home to the winning student, Ricky Martin, who had the highest overall score in the showdown. Two other classes also deserve honourable mention: Jill Gingrich's class at Blewett Elementary School and Mary Larmour's class at Glenmerry.

The Climate Change Showdown, an education and outreach program developed by the BC Sustainable Energy Association, 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; after our workshop the children took the challenge home, worked with their families for four weeks, and won awards for Superhero reductions," reported Climate Change Showdown project manager Estella Bastidas.

The BCSEA offered the Climate Change Showdown presentations thanks to generous contributions from Environment Canada, Vancity, City of Vancouver, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, City of Coquitlam and City of Richmond and Epod Solar. **Local sponsors are: Fortis BC, Nelson and District Credit Union, Kootenay Association of Science and Technology (KAST), Kootenay Co-op Country Store, Paul Edney of 'We Are What We Do', the City of Creston, and RDCK Area D Director Andrew Shadrack.**

To learn more about the Climate Change Showdown Project, visit <http://www.bcsea.org/ccshowdown/> or call Monica Nissen at 352-6346.