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British Columbia Students in Showdown to save Climate

Vancouver, BC—Thousands of students across BC will participate this year in an innovative contest about taking action on climate change. The program was launched in Vancouver this week, during the first days of the 2007/8 school year, and will come to Vancouver Island, the Kootenays and other communities.

The BC Sustainable Energy Association's (BCSEA) **Climate Change Showdown** project is a fun and informative workshop for Grade 5/6 students. These free classroom workshops teach students about climate change and how they can reduce their impact, and provides them with an incentive to carry out actions in their homes and family lifestyles.

The Climate Change Showdown will deliver the message of action on climate change to 500 classes and 15,000 families across the province during the upcoming 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.

The inaugural Climate Change Showdown workshop was delivered this week at Vancouver's Lord Roberts Elementary School to enthusiastic response.

"It is extremely difficult to book extra-curricular activities during the first week of the school year," remarked Climate Change Showdown project manager Estella Bastidas. "We are delighted with the initial positive response from teachers, such as Rita Ringdahl, grade 5 teacher at Lord Roberts, who commented: "I am thrilled that you are able to engage my students, early in the school year, in a topic so essential to the survival of the planet. The information presented is providing a framework for activities and discussion throughout the school year. Activities are designed in such a way that students become a cohesive social group. I felt confident in booking this workshop because of the clarity and completeness of the materials provided."

"This is an excellent opportunity for both teachers and students to enter the Climate Change Showdown contest taking the fun learning to the next step of real lasting behaviour change and tangible action," said BCSEA vice-president Scott Sinclair.

The BCSEA is able to offer the Climate Change Showdown workshops thanks to generous contributions from Environment Canada, Vancity, City of Vancouver, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, City of Coquitlam and City of Richmond.

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

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