



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sustainable Energy
ASSOCIATION

COOL IT!
CLIMATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

**DISTRICT OF
SUMMERLAND**

Final Report

2025/26



Executive summary

The District of Summerland provided generous support to the BC Sustainable Energy Association's (BCSEA) Cool It! Climate Leadership Training Program (The Cool It! Program) enabling the delivery of the program to up 4 elementary classes in Summerland throughout the 2025/26 school year.

During 2025/26, the Cool It! Program was delivered to a total of **12 classes**. Delivery to an additional four classes was enabled through funds contributed by First Things First Okanagan and another four via BCSEA funds sourced from a separate grant stream. The program reached **271 students**. Students collectively completed **1,127 actions** focused on climate change and sustainability.

Based on feedback collected in recent years from schools and teachers, The Cool It! Program continues to offer the option of both in-person or virtual workshop delivery. As in previous years, the decision on the most appropriate delivery method for each class was left in the hands of participating teachers.

The four-week Cool It! Climate Challenge encouraged students to choose from a variety of actions that would reduce theirs and their family's carbon and ecological footprints. It also provided opportunities for further investigation and reflection about issues related to climate change and sustainability as well as highlighting avenues for participation in local community action and programs.

Qualitative and quantitative data was collected from student actions prompted by their participation in the Cool It! Climate Challenge. Through energy conserving and emissions saving actions at home, along with research and inquiry activities, we expect District of Summerland student actions to result in an estimated annual saving of a total of **38 tonnes** of carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂e) if they commit to maintain their actions for one year. Overall, students did a fantastic job, with strong participation and engagement in both the workshop and the climate challenge components of the program.

The 2025/26 program curriculum

Participation in an interactive workshop and a four-week climate challenge comprise the main components of the program.

Workshops

During 2025/26, BCSEA is offering teachers the option of participating in an in-person or virtual workshop — depending on which mode of learning best suits their class. This year, there was a 90% of workshops were delivered in-person.

In the workshops, all students learnt about the fundamentals of climate change science, debunked common climate myths and misconceptions, watched videos detailing the scientific processes of climate change, practiced evaluating the production and consumption life cycle of everyday items, explored the causes, impacts and solutions to climate change, and learnt about taking climate action with their friends and families and in their local communities.

After four weeks, a wrap-up session was held with each class to share their successes and challenges, recap the key messages and learnings from the workshop and celebrate their collective results.

Climate Challenge

After their initial workshop, students participated in the Cool It! Climate Challenge for the next four weeks.

Elementary students were given a Climate Challenge Card - an interactive PDF document containing 25 unique actions that could be used digitally or printed out and completed by hand. When an action is completed, students check-off the corresponding square on the card as well as enter additional answers and information where required. A 15-page supplementary booklet was also provided,



which offered additional information about each action, extra support to complete it, and opportunities to for optional further research and investigation alongside additional resources.

Traditionally, the Cool It! Program focuses on gathering quantitative data through the collation of completed actions and measuring outcomes (where possible) in carbon dioxide emissions savings. While some actions yielded a quantifiable emissions reduction, other actions yielded qualitative results through individual reflection, personal investigation, and research.

**The elementary Climate
Challenge Card used in
Summerland during 2025/26:**

CLIMATE CHALLENGE

First Name:

Teacher:

Parent/Guardian signature:

1. GETTING AROUND 2. FOOD CHOICES 3. HOME ENERGY 4. WASTE 5. WATER 6. NATURE 7. RESEARCH + REFLECTION

2.1 TASTY LEFTOVERS ☐ Re-use leftovers 3 times. I ate: 1. 2. 3.	1.1 CAR SMART ☐ Learn about electric cars, cargo-bikes, and active transportation and complete two of the actions in the information page below. 	6.2 BEE FRIENDLY ☐ Protect your local bee population by building a bee bath using the instructions in the information page below. 	7.1 GAMING FOR NATURE ☐ Watch two videos or play two of the games and complete the actions in the information page below. 	7.2 LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION ☐ Do some research and find out what local climate action is happening at your school and in your community. 
7.4 COMMUNITY EXPLORATION ☐ Map your community and think of ways to make it more sustainable using the instructions and actions in the information page below.	6.3 GO BIO ☐ Make a biodegradable cleaning or bath product. I made:	2.2 LOCAL FOOD ☐ Use ingredients grown in BC in meals. I used: 1. 2.	7.5 MUNICIPAL ACTION ☐ Explore your municipality's website and find out what kind of action they are taking on climate change. 	5.1 WATER WISE ☐ Learn about water conservation and calculate your household's daily water consumption. My family consumes of water per day litres 
2.4 GROW YOUR OWN ☐ Plant garden veggies, balcony or windowsill plants. I planted:	1.3 LOCAL VACATION ☐ Plan three local vacations with a small carbon footprint. Where could you and your family vacation locally?	4.1 MORE THAN RECYCLING ☐ Reuse/swap/up-cycle instead of throwing stuff away or buying new. I did: 	6.1 NATIVE TREES & PLANTS ☐ Learn about plants native to BC and if you can, plant some of your own. A native plant I planted or researched is:	3.1 EARTH HOUR ☐ Have an Earth Hour at home, with friends or at school. Use the time to do some of the other challenge actions. 
7.6 CLIMATE REFLECTION ☐ Write a short reflection on the future and complete the actions in the information page below. 	3.2 GET EFFICIENT ☐ Use the resources in the information page below to learn how to be more energy efficient at home. 	5.2 ADOPT A STORM DRAIN ☐ Clean up a storm drain in your neighborhood to prevent flooding after it rains or snows. 	1.2 TRAVEL SMART ☐ Swap the car for public transit, walking or biking. I went to: by:	2.3 LOVE VEGGIES ☐ Have one meat-free day per week or give up eating beef and lamb for one week. ☐ didn't eat beef/lamb ☐ meat-free days 
5.3 EVERY DROP COUNTS ☐ Aim for at least 4 showers of 4 minutes or less. My showers are now! minutes	7.7 YOUR OWN IDEA ☐ Create your own activity to reduce your environmental footprint. I did:	7.3 LIFE CYCLES ☐ Sketch a life cycle of a household item and complete the actions in the information page below. 	4.2 HOME WASTE ☐ Do an audit of your garbage bins at home and learn how you can start composting food waste at home. 	3.3 STAY SNUG/COOL ☐ If it is cold outside: Lower the heat in your house and close the curtains four times each week. If it is hot outside: Only run your A/C at night or during hot periods of the day



District of Summerland classes

District of Summerland and FTFO funding enabled BCSEA to work with 12 classes and 271 students in 2025/26. Students' actions through their participation in the Cool It! Climate Challenge resulted in an estimated total reduction of 38 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e).



12 classes



271 students



1,127 actions



38 GHG savings (tCO₂e)

Student engagement in Summerland was very strong across 2025/26. The Climate Challenge return rate among all participating students (the proportion of students who returned a completed climate challenge form was 70% - above our program-wide average of ~65%.

Six participating classes completed over 100 cumulative actions each and the winning class, Magi Lee's grade 5 group, completed more than 200. Overall, 2025/26 represents an encouraging increase in both teacher interest in the program and student engagement in our materials.

Detailed, class-by-class results are provided below.



Elementary class details

School name	Teacher name	Grade	Class size	# Cards returned	Return Rate (%)*	Total actions completed	GHG totals per class
Summerland Elementary	Kristina Persson	3	21	13	62%	78	1.9
Summerland Elementary	Dana Balfour	3	21	16	76%	109	4.5
Summerland Elementary	Robyn Service	3	20	15	75%	102	3.3
Summerland Elementary	Rebecca Brady	3	22	11	50%	72	2.2
Summerland Secondary	Richa Thorpe	7	25	13	52%	107	3.1
Summerland Secondary	Monique Porter	7	26	22	85%	181	7.4
Summerland Secondary	Michael Luccisano	7	25	20	80%	111	4.3
Summerland Secondary	Traci Steves	7	25	14	56%	84	1.8
Summerland Elementary	Shawna Douthwright	6	22	16	73%	71	2.8
Summerland Elementary	Magi Lee	5	21	19	90%	212	6.8
Summerland Elementary	Anna Blackwell	6	21	N/A			
Summerland Elementary	Julia Jaschke	5	22	N/A			
Totals			271	159	70%	1,127	38.0

* % of students who returned a completed Climate Challenge Card

Participated in workshop component of program only

2025/26 class winner

Summary of elementary student actions

1.1 Car Smart	1.2 Travel Smart	1.3 Local Vacation	2.1 Tasty Leftovers	2.2 Local Food
42	76	59	95	72
2.3 Love Veggies	2.4 Grow Your Own	3.1 Earth Hour	3.2 Get Efficient	3.3 Stay Snug
57	62	29	44	44
4.1 More than Recycling	4.2 Home Waste	5.1 Water Wise	5.2 Adopt a Storm Drain	5.3 Every Drop Counts
51	46	45	46	79
6.1 Native Trees and Plants	6.2 Bee Friendly	6.3 Go Bio	7.1 Gaming for Nature	7.2 Local Climate Action
37	36	39	30	46
7.3 Life Cycles	7.4 Community Exploration	7.5 Community Action	7.6 Climate Reflections	7.7 Your Own Idea
22	17	26	14	13
TOTAL ACTIONS				1,127

1. Getting Around

2. Food Choices

3. Home Energy

4. Waste

5. Water

6. Go Green

7. Research + Reflection



Student and Teacher Recognition and Rewards

BCSEA rewarded the hard work and dedication of students and teachers who did their best to complete the four-week program. We rewarded top performing students and classes with e-gift cards. We also offered random prize draws to encourage students to submit their cards no matter how many activities they completed. We are also sending personal thank you notes to all teachers who achieved over 75% return rate, or who filled in our teacher survey.

Acknowledgement of the District of Summerland's sponsorship and support

BCSEA is grateful for the continued support from funders like the District of Summerland who have made climate change education programming possible in their community. The District of Summerland was acknowledged for their support of the Cool It! Program in the following ways:

- The District of Summerland and logo was featured on the Climate Change Card.
- District of Summerland suggested actions were incorporated into the Climate Challenge Card – including links to specific District materials and resources.
- The District of Summerland logo is featured on the sponsor section of the Cool It! webpage <http://www.bcsea.org/cool-it>.
- Presenters acknowledged the support of the District of Summerland during workshops and wrap-up sessions.
- Outreach emails to teachers and schools acknowledged the District of Summerland's support.

The BCSEA would like to thank the District of Summerland for its ongoing support and partnership in achieving our shared goals of promoting of climate change science, increasing awareness of local climate action and community support, and empowering students and their families to make tangible behaviour changes towards more sustainable lifestyles.

From our entire team, thank you for your continued support!

