



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sustainable Energy
ASSOCIATION

COOL IT!
CLIMATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Naramata Community Fund Final Report

2025/26



Executive summary

The Naramata Community Fund 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 **2 classes** at Naramata Elementary School during the 2025/26 school year. The program reached **40 students**. Students collectively completed **196 actions** focused on climate change and sustainability.

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 Naramata Community Fund student actions to result in an estimated annual saving of a total of **5.2 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

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 Naramata 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



Naramata Community Fund classes

Naramata Community Fund and FTFO funding enabled BCSEA to work with 2 classes and 40 students in 2025/26. Students' actions through their participation in the Cool It! Climate Challenge resulted in an estimated total reduction of 5.2 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e).



2 classes



40 students



196 actions



5.2 GHG savings (tCO₂e)

Student engagement at Naramata Elementary was very encouraging for our first attempt at delivery at the school. The Climate Challenge return rate among all participating students (the proportion of students who returned a completed climate challenge form was 65% which is in-line with our program-wide average. Overall, 2025/26 represents an encouraging start to what is hopefully a long-term presence in the region.

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
Naramata Elementary	Courtney Wheeler	3/4	20	12	60%	92	2.3
Naramata Elementary	Coral Ruttan	5/6	20	14	70%	104	2.9
Totals			40	26	65%	196	5.2

* % of students who returned a completed Climate Challenge Card



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 Naramata Community Fund's sponsorship and support

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

- Presenters acknowledged the support of the Naramata Community Fund during workshops and wrap-up sessions.
- Outreach emails to teachers and schools acknowledged the Naramata Community Fund's support.

The BCSEA would like to thank the Naramata Community Fund for its 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!

