



Fresh Outlook Foundation is collaborating with School District 22 and other local supporters to engage teachers and students in **Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE)** projects that support the City of Vernon's Climate Action Plan and United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Last year, almost 300 students from all Vernon high schools worked with more than 50 community mentors to create 74 projects in six categories (Nature & Biodiversity, Agriculture & Food, Energy & Buildings, Waste Reduction, Active Transportation, and Community Resilience). Projects were displayed and judged at CARE Summits in May and December.

Whatever your area of expertise or passion, you could work with a small group of high-school students next spring to help build their knowledge and skills, and to foster intergenerational communication and collaboration. Examples of topic areas and projects are as follows:

- ◆ **Science** (research and present an aspect of climate science related to one of the six topic categories)
- ◆ **Social Science** (research and present an aspect of climate justice, mental health impacts of climate change, or impacts on marginalized groups)
- ◆ **Engineering/Innovation** (develop a new way of addressing a climate challenge)
- ◆ **Culture** (foster climate education and/or behaviour change through art or a skit, song/rap, short story, poem, etc.)
- ◆ **Entrepreneurship** (create and market a new climate-friendly service or product)
- ◆ **Policy/Planning** (collaborate with City staff or municipal consultants to create local solutions)
- ◆ **Construction** (build a solar-powered device or other climate-related project)
- ◆ **Community education/engagement** (provide elementary instruction, public workshop/event, survey, social media campaign, documentary)

MENTOR OPPORTUNITIES



PASSION FOR FASHION: 1st-place winners last fall were Ruby Kaltiainen (left) and Olivia Thompson from Seaton. With mentor Nicole Kohnert from Sperling & Hansen, they created reusable bags from waste-bound denim and other fabrics. Proceeds from selling the bags help provide grad attire for area students.

STUDENT BENEFITS!

Multi-curricular projects will teach students about:

- ◆ Climate change, climate anxiety, and various forms of climate action
- ◆ Project/event design, planning, implementation, and presentation

As reported by last year's participants, students will also build confidence, improve communication and collaboration skills, and develop a strong sense of agency using their own voices, skills, and interests.

CARE Mentor Investment & Support

- ◆ Mentors will work with their student groups from February to May 2024
- ◆ Time commitments vary from 25-40 hours over the four months
- ◆ Tasks include sharing knowledge, providing local context, guiding project research and development, and helping with display creation
- ◆ To ensure a meaningful and productive mentoring experience, Fresh Outlook Foundation will provide orientation to clearly outline expectations, mentor roles, tasks, timelines, and time commitments

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More 2022 CARE winners



UNDERSTANDING ECO-ANXIETY IN YOUTH: Third- place winners were Brooke Sjoberg (left), Senna Entner, Danica Cowley, and Brooke Hansen from Seaton. They also won first place in the Community Resilience category for teaching students in grades 4 and 7 about climate change, and then conducting a survey of those same students to determine their levels of eco-anxiety. We're hoping the outcomes will provide data for a follow-up project in spring 2024.



CARE BOTANICALS were crafted by Fulton students Victoria Rush (left), Camryn Mackiewich, and Evangeline Schiehl. With mentor Norbert Maertens (North Okanagan Naturalists Club), they harvested invasive plants to make healing salves and teas that were showcased at the CARE Summit. They won 1st in the Nature & Biodiversity category and the Students' Choice Award.

Mentor Investment & Support (cont.)

As a mentor, you are encouraged to attend:

- ◆ An orientation session in November
- ◆ A mentor/teacher orientation in January to share knowledge and interests
- ◆ The CARE Kick-Off in February to “pitch” your mentorship skills and passions to students
- ◆ The CARE Summit in May, at which your team’s project will be displayed and judged

As a mentor, you will have access to:

- ◆ CARE planners and teachers
- ◆ CARE student coaching resources (PowerPoints, student workbook, links to ideas for potential projects)
- ◆ Information about other student projects

We care about CARE!

Here’s what participants say about CARE:

“Mentoring students gave me a renewed sense of hope, but also gave them a sense of meaning and purpose in a time of confusion and superficiality.” (CARE BOTANICALS)

Norbert Maertens, North Okanagan Naturalists Club

“It was inspiring to participate as a judge and mentor for CARE in 2022. The events were very engaging and well organized. The creative student project ideas and presentations showed that there are many ways to make positive contributions to address climate change, many of which are fun and deeply rewarding!”

Darren Murray, P.Ag., RDNO

“I’ve had the privilege of participating in two CARE summits that support and showcase climate learning and innovation among SD22 students. The event is a wonderful expression of the City’s Climate Action Plan goals, which seek to inspire and engage the whole community in creatively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming more resilient to a changing climate. The City is incredibly proud of its collaboration with SD22, Fresh Outlook Foundation, and all community partners for making this possible.”

Barbara Everdene, RPP, MCIP, City of Vernon

“When my teacher announced we were doing CARE, I groaned and put my head in my hands. I didn’t need this on my plate and wasn’t certain I could even make a difference. After all, I was a teenager who’d been told the problem we’re facing is too complex for us to understand.

I never expected to make the change I did, or that adults would bound over to talk to me at the summit. Or that I could respectfully argue for sustainable development.

CARE taught me how to use my voice and how to advocate for our environment and our younger generation. It changed the way I look at past, present, and future problems. I no longer see them as unsolvable, but rather problems waiting for the right people to fix them.”

Brooke Sjoberg, Seaton Secondary

For more info about being a CARE mentor, contact jo@freshoutlookfoundation.org