

Here's how you can help us CARE for kids and climate!

To kick-start the fourth round of [Climate Action Ripple Effect](#) next spring, CARE planners are on the hunt for community-minded folks from all sectors, ages, and cultures to help small groups of high-school students tackle local climate change.



“If you care about kids and climate, we should connect,” says Jo de Vries, CARE facilitator and Fresh Outlook Foundation CEO. CARE is a pioneering climate education program that’s mobilizing student and community climate action in Vernon and beyond. Local program collaborators include School District 22, City of Vernon, Regional District of North Okanagan, UBC Okanagan, and Community Foundation of North Okanagan, with support from the nonprofit and business sectors.

“You don’t have to be an expert to be a great mentor,” explains de Vries. “We’re looking for people with insights, ideas, and the passion to help students create solutions for local climate challenges.” Past mentors have used their imaginations to help teams explore links between climate and nature, agriculture, energy, waste, transportation, human health, and culture.

“We know everyone’s busy,” de Vries adds, “but CARE doesn’t have to be a big time commitment. You can invest between 8 and 40 hours from next February to May, depending on your availability before the CARE Expo on May 29th at the Vernon Curling Club. You could also be a one-off project advisor to support students during their research and project design phases.”

As reported in the [CARE 2024 Feedback Outcomes](#) report, the vast majority of students surveyed said CARE helped them build diverse educational and personal skills, the most helpful being confidence and agency. Mentors surveyed said CARE enhances existing climate networks and collaborations, while fostering broader awareness and future action by individuals, families, organizations, and whole communities.

Mentors reported being more hopeful for the future and better connected with fellow climate advocates. As one mentor said, “If you’re wondering whether the next generation is on track to mitigate the effects of climate change, become a mentor and prepare to be impressed!”

For more information, check out the [CARE Mentor Opportunities](#) handout. If you’re interested in joining the growing CARE movement as a mentor or sponsor, connect with kasey@freshoutlookfoundation.org.

Photo & Caption:



Last spring, School District 22 high-school students worked with Men's Shed Vernon members to craft shelves and step stools from recycled wood. Key to CARE's success is this type of community engagement and intergenerational collaboration.

Pull-Outs:

“If you’re wondering whether the next generation is on track to mitigate the effects of climate change, become a mentor and prepare to be impressed!”

"We're looking for people with insights, ideas, and passion to help students create innovative solutions for local climate challenges."

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