

Climate Change Education Update

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 22, 2021

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Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Member of Conservation Ontario

Climate Change Education in Canada

Key Insights from Research

- The majority of Canadians believe that more time on climate change education is needed.
- Students widely believe that climate change is happening, but do not express confidence that anything can be done about it.
- Educators want to teach climate change, but they need more training to connect climate change to their courses.
- Community partners continue to play a key role in climate change education.



Our Role

Pre-2019

- Climate change embedded in existing programs in age-appropriate ways and linked to provincial curriculum

2019

- Introduced new programs
 - *Climate Escape* at the Nature Centre
 - Two sessions for teachers at Sheppard's Bush

2020

- COVID-19 posed a significant challenge in maintaining momentum



Scaling Up

Collaborated with Integrated Watershed Management team in 2020 to focus on strategy recommendations specifically related to education:

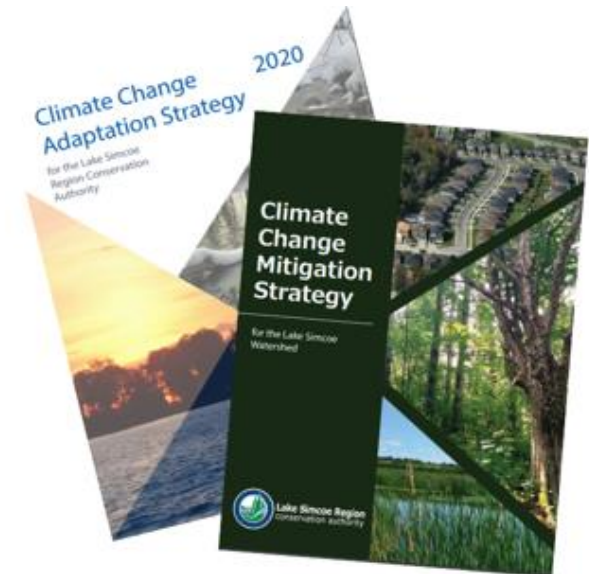
MITIGATION STRATEGY

Recommendation 8: Expand current climate change educational programming to include public workshops as well as resources and tools so watershed residents can engage in climate change mitigation/carbon sequestration efforts within their homes and communities.

Recommendation 9: Develop and provide climate change and carbon sequestration focused materials for teachers and students.

ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Recommendation 36: That LSRCA work collaboratively with its partners, providing services and resources, education and training as well as facilitating knowledge transfer, in order to maximize efficiencies and ensure a comprehensive watershed scale approach to climate change adaptation.



Effective Strategies for Climate Change Education

Make it personally relevant and local



Effective Strategies for Climate Change Education continued

Expand beyond the individual-focused solutions



Effective Strategies for Climate Change Education con't

Take an opportunities-focused approach instead of a challenge-focused approach



1. Free Climate Change Presentation for Grade 7-8 Educators

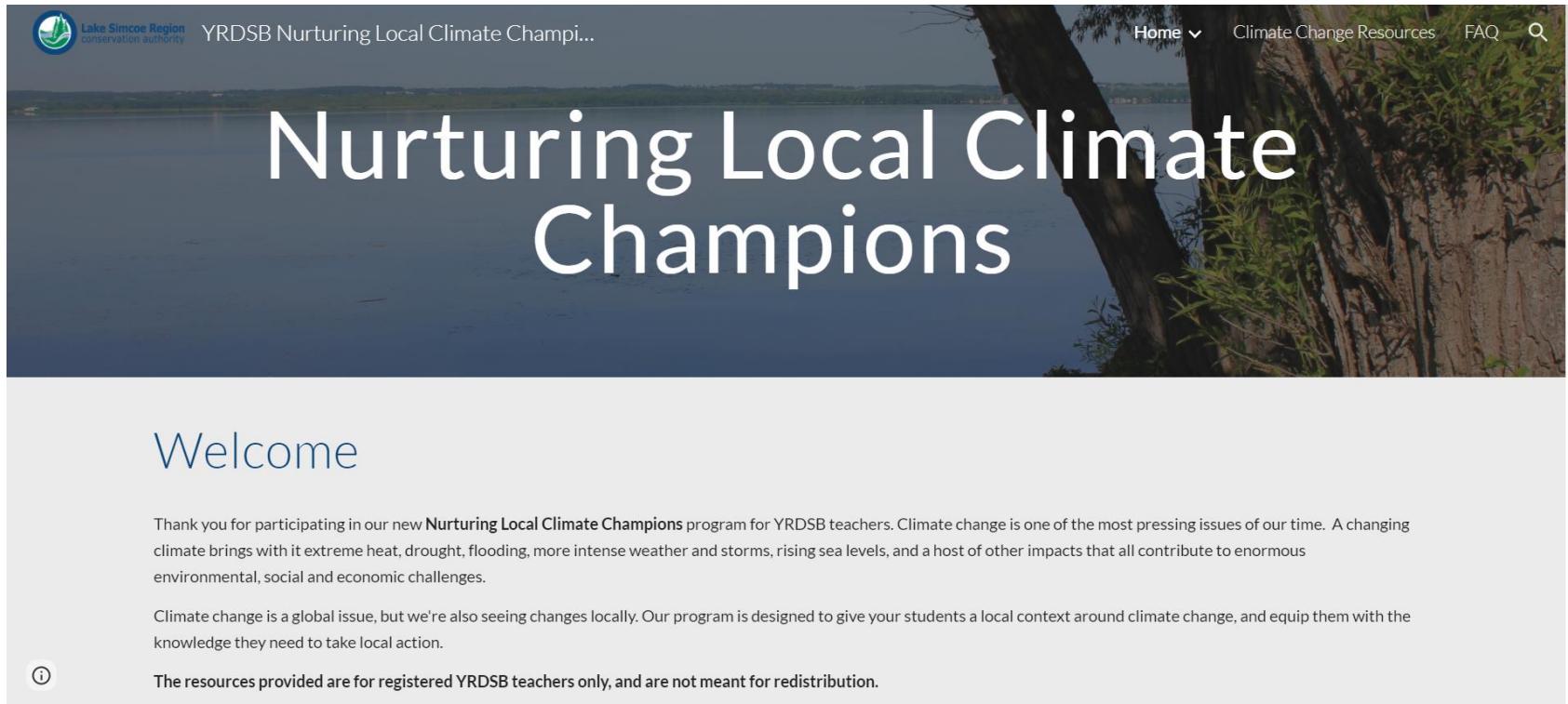
- A curriculum-linked presentation and Teacher Guide
- Easy-to-implement for teachers with minimal preparation
- Provide students with a local context to climate change and show how local agencies are responding



**Downloadable Climate Change Presentation for
Grade 7-8 Educators**
From a local perspective

Confidently introduce Climate Change education in your classroom using this easy-to-follow presentation.

2. Integrated Learning Program with YRDSB




Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority YRDSB Nurturing Local Climate Champi... Home Climate Change Resources FAQ

Nurturing Local Climate Champions

Welcome

Thank you for participating in our new **Nurturing Local Climate Champions** program for YRDSB teachers. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. A changing climate brings with it extreme heat, drought, flooding, more intense weather and storms, rising sea levels, and a host of other impacts that all contribute to enormous environmental, social and economic challenges.

Climate change is a global issue, but we're also seeing changes locally. Our program is designed to give your students a local context around climate change, and equip them with the knowledge they need to take local action.

 The resources provided are for registered YRDSB teachers only, and are not meant for redistribution.

2. Integrated Learning Program with YRDSB continued

This experience has 3 components:



Minds on Lesson

An introductory lesson **led by you!** We provide you with all the resources you need to deliver the lesson and associated activities.

[Click here to get started.](#)



Live Lesson

Your class will participate in an interactive live video call **led by an LSRCA environmental educator.** We will schedule this with you for a mutually agreed upon time.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Take Action

We will provide follow-up materials for projects that will be **led by your students.** These projects can serve as an assessment of the learning that happened throughout the program.

[Click here to access the projects.](#)



2. Integrated Learning Program with YRDSB (continued)



Part 1: School Audit

The school audit is the first part of the project. The audit is a checklist for your students to complete, to help them notice areas in and around your school where there are opportunities to adapt to and/or mitigate climate change.

We suggest you assign this as a group task. Parts of the audit will require your students to do research, ask school staff, and go outside to your school yard.

Click the image above to access the audit.

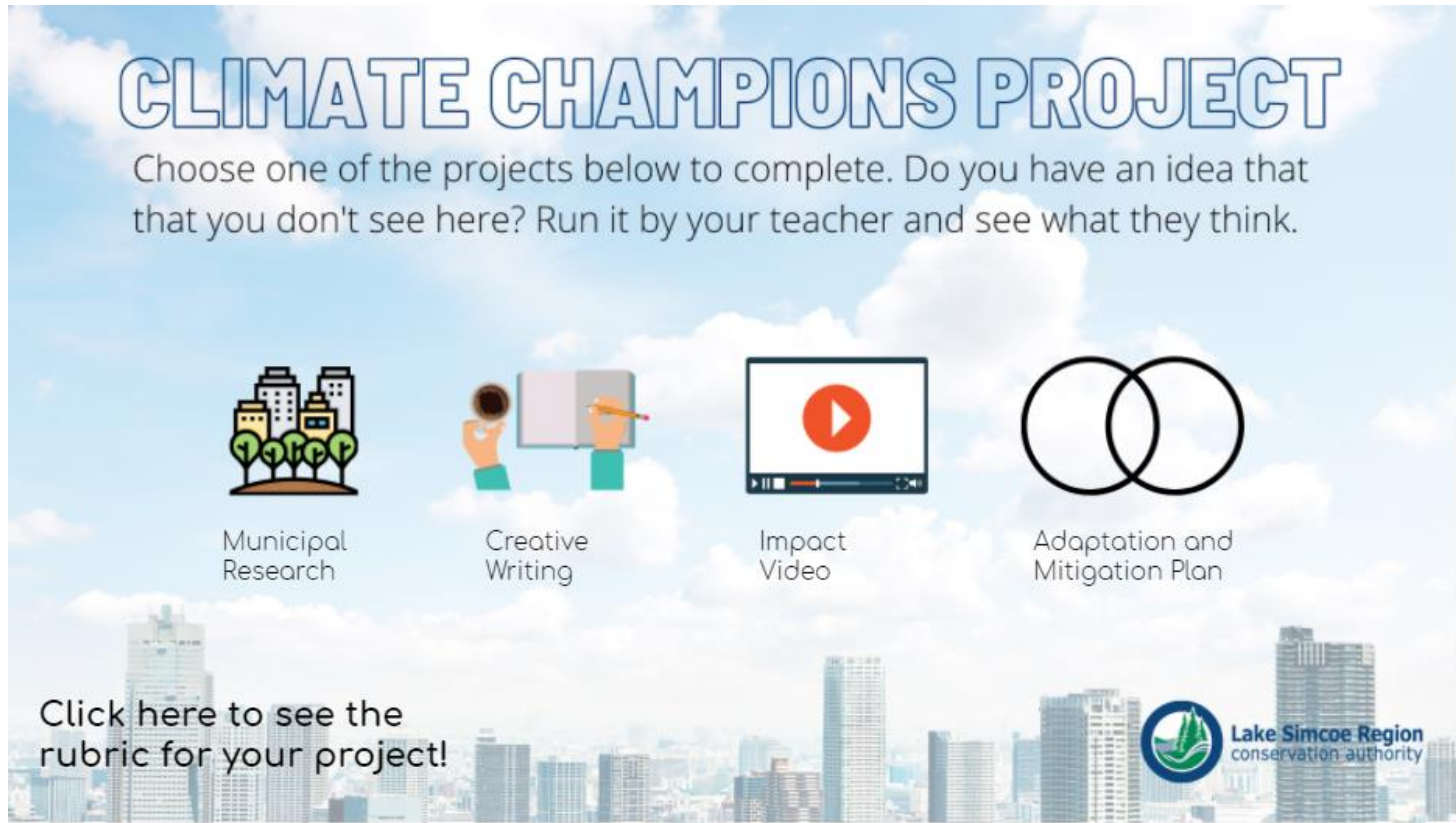


Part 2: Climate Champion Projects

Once the school audit is complete, your students will choose a project to showcase their learning. The choice board linked above contains four different project options, so your students can choose a project that is best aligned with their interests and skills. All of the projects will require students to reflect on climate change from a local perspective, and the importance of adapting to, and mitigating climate change.





Click the image above to access the choice board.

2. Integrated Learning Program with YRDSB con't




CLIMATE CHAMPIONS PROJECT

Choose one of the projects below to complete. Do you have an idea that that you don't see here? Run it by your teacher and see what they think.

- 
Municipal Research
- 
Creative Writing
- 
Impact Video
- 
Adaptation and Mitigation Plan

Click here to see the rubric for your project!



3. Free Guided Hikes

2021 Climate Change Guided Hikes

Hike with us as we explore the local impacts of climate change.

Climate change is happening, and we're already seeing the impacts all around us. Join us for fun, FREE and informative guided-hiking experiences.



Earth Day Hike

Wednesday, September 1
10 am - 11:30 am
Scanlon Creek
Conservation Area

The earth's climate has changed throughout history. We'll introduce climate change and how it is affecting us right now, here in the Lake Simcoe Watershed. Learn how to use technology to enhance your hiking experience!

Forests of the Future

Wednesday, September 15
10 am - 11:30 am
Scanlon Creek
Conservation Area

Our forests are already changing in response to climate change. "Spruce" up your tree identification skills and learn what you can expect to see in our forests 30 years from now.

Nature Knows Best

Saturday, September 18
10 am - 11:30 am
Rogers Reservoir
Conservation Area

Admire our meadow restoration in progress and the new wetland ecosystems at the Rogers Reservoir Conservation Area. Learn about how these projects sequester carbon, and are proven solutions in mitigating climate change.

Go with the Flow

Wednesday, September 29
10 am - 11:30 am
Sheppard's Bush
Conservation Area

Learn about our H2O. With changing temperatures and weather patterns, we expect to see changes in the water cycle in our watershed. Learn more about how sensitive our water systems are and see firsthand how our scientists are working to restore our waterways.

Nature Nurtures

Saturday, October 16
10 am - 11:30 am
Scanlon Creek
Conservation Area

Nature plays an important role in human health. Learn about how climate change and human health are linked, and explore how nature and your local conservation areas can be used to enhance your overall wellness and wellbeing.

www.LSRCA.on.ca/hikes



Thank you RBC
Foundation for your
generous support



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Conservation
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Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



3. Free Guided Hikes continued

“We were a group coming from multiple different backgrounds, and it was great to unite with a specific interest in climate change and its local effects”



4. Lake Simcoe Sessions Podcast

Our Lake. Our Future.



- A listenable learning journey
- Five episodes, launched this month
- Available on Spotify, Apple, Google Podcasts, etc

Next Steps

- Analyze various initiatives
- Remain responsive
- Plan for 2022
- Stay focussed on final design of new Nature Centre as a teaching tool and demonstration site

