

Generate Edmonton

Summary Report



Inside Education was proud to partner with the City of Edmonton Department of the Environment in the development and delivery of Generate Edmonton - a Youth Energy Literacy Conference. Building on the successful model of youth learning summits developed by Inside Education in 2011, this two-learning experience enabled

Edmonton high school students to investigate their role in Edmonton's energy future, and participate in the laudable processes of *The Way We Green*. We believe that Generate Edmonton has, indeed, affected change within our youth.

Generate At-A-Glance

Schools Participating

- EastGlen High School
- J. Percy Page High School
- Lillian Osborne High School
- M.E. LaZerte High School
- St. Francis Xavier High School
- Victoria School of the Arts

Organizations Providing Program Support

- The City of Edmonton
- The University of Alberta
- NAIT
- Solar Energy Society of Alberta
- Solstice Canada
- Encana Corporation
- Queen Elizabeth High School

Organizations Participating in the Career & Learning Exhibition

- City of Edmonton
- University of Alberta
- WorkWild - *the Alberta Forest Products Association*
- Devon Canada Energy
- Cenovus Energy
- Petroleum HR Council of Canada
- BP Canada - A+ for Energy
- Alberta is Energy
- Solar Hero Project

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Generate Edmonton Conference saw six Edmonton high schools sending student and teachers for a two-day conference - March 12 & 13, 2012. During this time, 48 students and 10 teachers were introduced to a variety of energy sources, uses and best practices related to energy efficiency and conservation.

Experts from across the 'spectrum' on energy in our City and our Province visited

with the young people to address their personal energy use, and the myriad of opportunities they have in the future to affect change.



Each team is challenged to share its learnings and to be the energy efficiency and conservation leaders in their school and in our community. It is expected that the learnings and experiences of these students will broaden significantly through the remainder of the school year and beyond.

GENERATE EDMONTON PARTICIPANTS

Eastglen High School
Kevin G.
Jon S.
Matt S.
Ryan P.
Nicole N.
Haliuna D.
Ms. Benita Peitz (Teacher)

J. Percy Page High School
Sahra M.
Maham V.
Wajeeha S.
Pavan S.
Komal P.
Inderdeep M.
Amana B.
Aniqa B.
Ruby Y.
Mr. Keir Jenkins (Teacher)

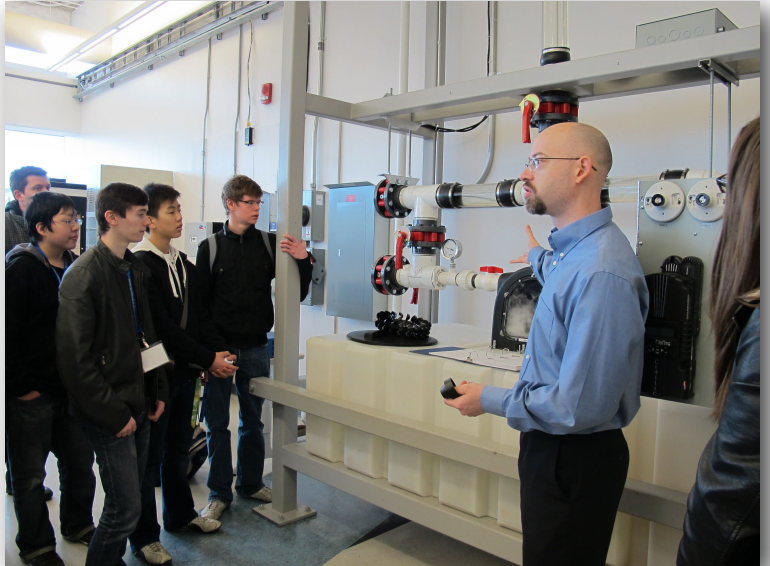
Lillian Osborne High School
Judy M.
Debora C.
Harmony E.
Camila H.
Tina O.
Kisik S.
Ryan L.
Caro V.
Austin A.
Mr. Scott Smith (Teacher)
Mrs. Michelle Stevens (Teacher)

M.E. LaZerte High School
Alex M.
Nathan F.
Jeffrey T.
Zeinab J.
Thomas C.
Jessica G.
Jeremy T.

Simon C.
Mrs. Shelley Kofluk (Teacher)

St. Francis Xavier High School
Nikki P.
Emily M.
Audrey G.
Brennon K.
Michale L.
Denise M.
Mrs. Kathy Boulton (Teacher)

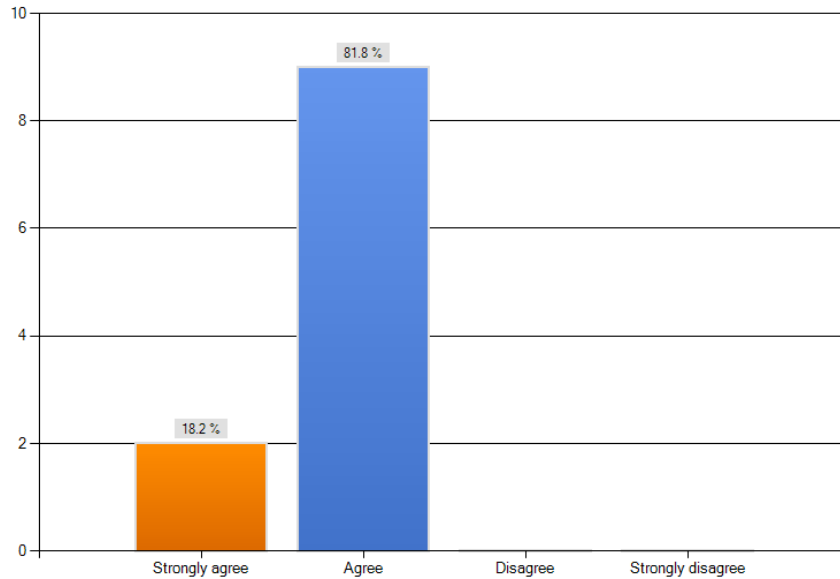
Victoria School of the Arts
Emma K.
Phoebe D.
Amara S.
Justin D.
Skye H.
Naomi M.
Mr. Jon Paul Cooper (Teacher)



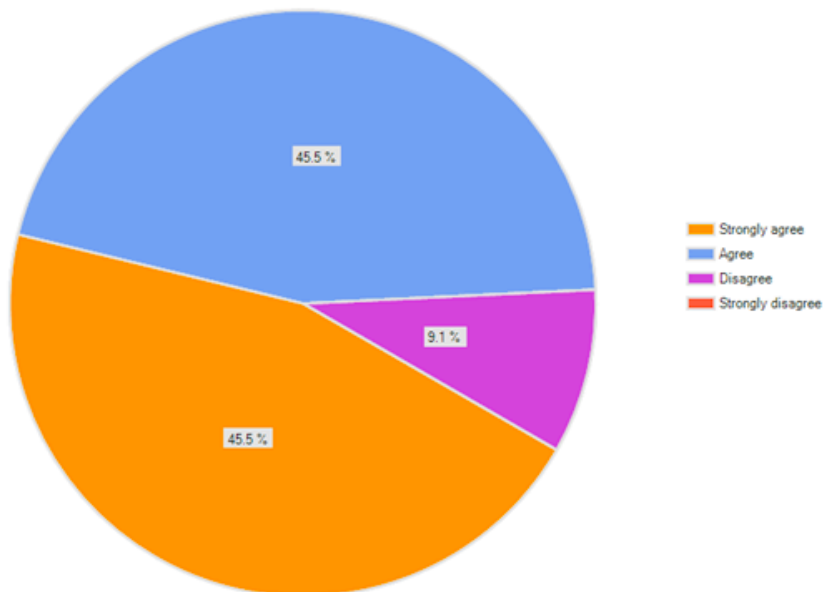
PROGRAM EVALUATION

Inside Education believes in continuous improvement of our education programming. As such we seek out input from the *experts* - the students and teachers who participate in our youth learning summits. Evaluations are done in two ways - immediate anecdotal feedback in the form of testimonials, and in more formal surveys completed several days after the program has been completed. We are pleased to share the exemplary results below.

Gener8 Edmonton enhanced my knowledge and understanding of energy and energy efficiency in Edmonton and beyond.

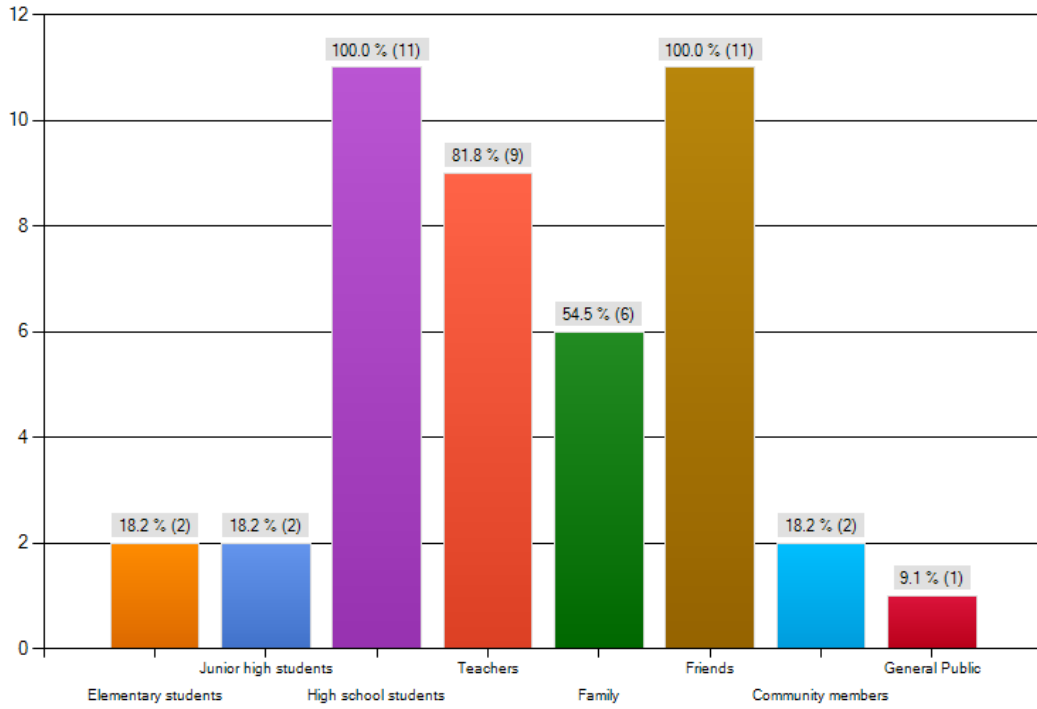


Gener8 Edmonton increased my awareness of the multiple perspectives related to energy and energy efficiency.

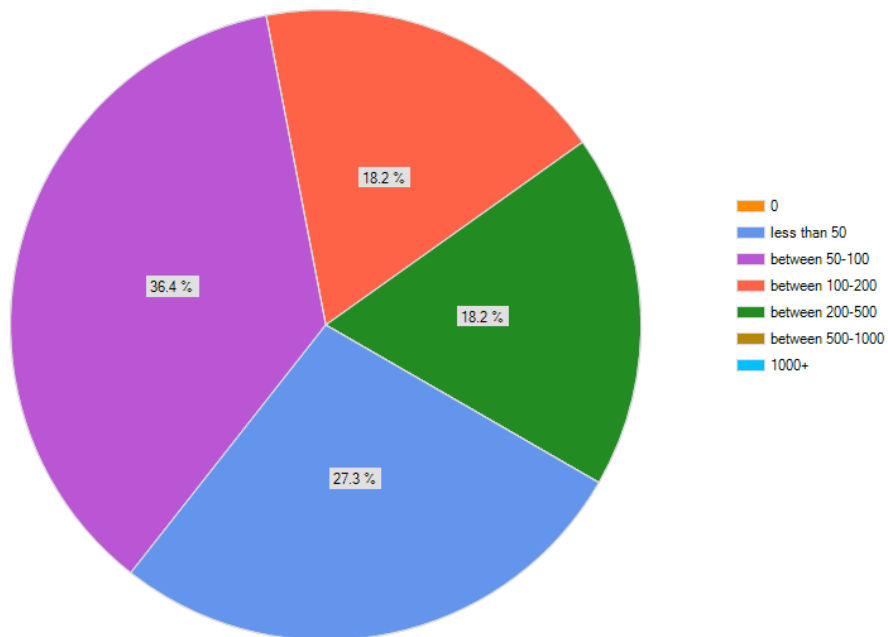


GENERATE EDMONTON - PROGRAM REACH

Who do you plan to share your knowledge and experience with (you can select more than 1 answer)



How many people do you expect to share your knowledge and experience with over the next year?



PROGRAM EVALUATION

Inside Education is very pleased with the outcomes of the Generate Edmonton Conference. Bringing together young people from disparate backgrounds and from a variety of schools across Edmonton - all of whom with an interest in, and passion for energy and the environment - made for a very robust learning experience.

In anecdotal feedback, and in the formal surveys completed, the students were extremely grateful to be valued as young adults, and to have a 'real' conference experience, with a wide variety of experts excited to share their knowledge with the students. We believe there was an excellent balance of experts, and useful combination of presentation styles. As expected, feedback from the students indicated that the more engaging, interactive components of the conference were the best (Energy Olympics, off-site tours, keynote presentation on the Antarctica trip). At the same time, students understood that there are some topics and knowledge transfer than can best be communicated through formal presentation.

As one of the important outcomes of Generate Edmonton was the development and implementation of the 'Energy Literacy and Action Plan' on the part of the students upon returning to their high schools, we endeavored to connect each presentation and activity to this long-term plan. As this was a pilot program, there likely were opportunities to do this in more detail, however, the results, we believe are excellent. Further, the fact that so many young people were interested in participation in the program clearly demonstrates an interest on the part of tomorrow's energy and environmental stewards in making a difference.

Some specific program elements merit consideration:

Program Highlights

- Hands-on and interactive program components:
 - *Energy Olympics*
 - Self-assessment of energy use
 - City of Edmonton Energy Futures
- Keynote presentation on Antarctica journey
- Offsite tours of NAIT Alternative Energy Lab; University of Alberta Sustainability projects; *Belgravia Green* NetZero project

Areas for Improvement

- Career and Learning Exhibition was not as effective as hoped
- Tuesday morning (brief) after-breakfast presentation was poorly connected to theme and poorly delivered
- Integrating more interactive components
- More dedicated post-conference project planning could have been incorporated

Suggestions for the Future

- Incorporate a 'quiz' approach to assist in interactivity of Career & Learning Exhibition (an important component)
- Consider holding two off-site tours and allowing all students/teachers to participate in both (i.e. deliver each tour twice)
- Provide a formal template for follow up project planning
- Consider overnight component to program - makes the event more "special" for the students
- Provide opportunities for other program partners



COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Immediately at the end of the Generate Conference, we asked students and teachers for their feedback as to the quality of the program, the meaning of the program for their learning and opportunities to share with their classmates. What follows is a sampling of comments:

- Thank you very much for the informative two days. I loved how inspiring the speakers were and how much my students want to take the ideas back to our school. All of us enjoyed our field trips – it would have been great to be able to do all three or at least two of the three. I also liked that there was an opportunity to speak to people that are with groups that supply grants. Thank you again!

Kathy Boulton, St. Francis Xavier High School

- I found your event very pleasurable, and hardcore. It was very informative. I now want to help out saving energy at home and at school. I may consider obtaining an occupation as a person within the energy sector. I am excited to implement our plan. It's going to be an exciting venture.

Matthew – Eastglen High School

- This conference has shown me a balanced viewpoint on energy production and consumption in Alberta. It gave me the opportunity to not only hear what the city and organizations within the province are doing for cleaner energy, but also what students can do within schools.

I have gained more knowledge about what my fellow classmates and I can accomplish within our schools, but also what I can do when I leave high school next year. The info booths were very helpful for me to discover the faculty of the U of A I wish to pursue and also the role my degree will play in jobs within energy production companies within Alberta.

I appreciate all the work put in to these two fabulous days and thank all Inside Education staff for their dedication to teaching students and teachers across the province in these important fields.

Emma - Victoria School of the Arts

- All of the presentations were quite amusing and interesting. I really enjoyed the Antarctica presentation from the two lovely ladies. It really captured my attention and kept me hooked throughout the entire presentation. I also really enjoyed all the activities on the first and second day. They were all really fun and interactive. And finally I would like to thank you guys for this awesome opportunity.

Komalpreet, J. Percy Page High School



GENERATE EDMONTON IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

One of the important outcomes of the Generate Edmonton Conference was tasking each of the 'Energy Literacy Teams' representing the six Edmonton high schools to develop Action Plans for their return to school. While specific outcomes of these plans were left to the students and teachers themselves, Inside Education provide guidance as to the structure and format of these plans.

Further, as a component of the Career and Learning Exhibition, we made sure to include the participation of BP Canada and Devon Canada Energy Corporation. Both of these companies provide grants to energy-related programming in Alberta classrooms and schools.

Inside Education asked that each school develop their plan and keep us involved as plans unfolded. As expected for events like these, especially at a program pilot, we did not receive plans from ALL schools represented, but what follows in an outline of the plans currently underway. It is notable that the extended number of students to be impacted by the participation of the six Teams, will be well into the hundreds of Edmonton high school students.

J. Percy Page High School

Development of an Earth-awareness day - potentially in cooperation with Earth Day activities within the school.

Earth Day will be incorporated into activities throughout April and into May (especially because April 22 is a Sunday this year).

An awareness campaign will be developed regarding personal and industrial burning of hydrocarbons - how is it used? How can we reduce our personal use?

Lillian Osborne High School

Our Team has created a renewed interest in our recycling program within the school - we do recycle, but it has become less visible.

Students have started a earth hour advertising project and are working on earth day, every month where they will present one topic (like water or renewable resources) and have activities based on that topic for the rest of the student body.

St. Francis Xavier High School

The students participating in Generate Edmonton are now developing a school-based Environment Club.

We will be applying for an A+ for Energy Grant for either installing roof-top solar panels or a roof-top greenhouse.

NEXT STEPS

Inside Education will work alongside the six schools represented at Generate Edmonton to help facilitate and further expand the learning on the part of the students gathered as well as the rest of the student body. Upon completion - or during the ongoing implementation of these plans, Inside Education will select an exemplary team and project. This team will be invited to participate in our 2013 Provincial **Generate Summit** - March 14-17, 2013 at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis.

Inside Education has also acted as a liaison and will continue to liaise between the City of Edmonton Office of the Environment and the schools in question. We have provided information and promotional materials with respect to Earth Hour (per request) and the Capital City Clean-up (information shared on our own).

Finally, we would expect to discuss a revised Generate Edmonton model conference ongoing through 2012 and 2013 with an eye to holding a second program during the 2013-14 school year. It would be the hope to have significantly more Edmonton (and potentially surrounding community) participation in subsequent programs.



GENERATE EDMONTON PROGRAM

Monday, March 12

Welcome Luncheon & Introductions

Energy 101

In introduction to energy in Alberta – where does it come from? How do we use it? Where does it fit in your life?

Presenter: *Steve McIsaac*, Inside Education

City of Edmonton's The Way We Green

Presenter: *Heather Wheeliker*, City of Edmonton

Energy in My Life

- TED-talk style presentations on:
 - Natural Gas – *Ryan Kwasniewski*, Encana
 - Transportation – *Howaida Hassan*, City of Edmonton

Energy Activities & Information Booths

- Students were divided into two groups – half participated in hands-on interactive energy activities, the other visited with a variety of information and career-related booths – the groups switched after 45 minutes.

Conference Dinner

"I went to Antarctica and all I got was...A comprehensive knowledge about climate change and what I can do about it back in Canada"

Keynote Presentation: *Dayle Pett & Jennifer Keller*, *Solstice Canada*

Tuesday, March 13

Breakfast

Keynote Presentation: An introduction to the SolarHero Project & connected video production surrounding the University of Calgary's Solar Decathlon Team. Presenter: **Matt Keay**, SolarHero Project

Energy Efficiency in Our City Tours

- Students were divided into three groups and participated in different tours:
 - *University of Alberta Sustainability Tour*, *Lisa Dockman*, University of Alberta
 - *Belgravia NetZero house*, *Gordon Howell*
 - *NAIT Alternative Energy Lab*, *Dr. Jim Sandercock*, NAIT

A SLICE of Queen E High School

This was an introduction to Queen Elizabeth High School's Student Led Initiatives for Sustainable Education (SLICE). Mr. Dublenko, the staff supervisor and two students shared some of the activities undertaken by students at Queen E.

Presenter: *Mr. Aaron Dublenko*, Queen Elizabeth High School

Edmonton's Energy Future

This interactive workshop introduced everyone to some scenarios for Edmonton's energy future. Participants had a chance to assess some potential futures for energy in the City, and to start mapping out some ways we can contribute to an ever-more sustainable energy future.

Presenters: *Barbara Daly/Heather Wheeliker*, City of Edmonton

2:45 – 3:45 pm • Action Planning

An important outcome of Generate Edmonton is for each of the schools gathered to develop an action plan for their school. Based on what we've learned over the past two days, what are some *specific, achievable* activities we can undertake this year, and into the future to share the information and work towards energy efficiency within our daily lives and within our school?

3:45 – 4 pm • Evaluation and Bon Voyage!