



# Calgary Climate Change Youth Education Program



Two Unforgettable Days in Calgary  
November 7-8, 2017

Part of Inside Education's City Summits program, C3 brought five schools, 60 students, and twenty-three speakers together to find out what sustainability looks like in our backyard. From the top of the 54th floor of the Bow Building to the streets of the Downtown core, to standing in a simple garage filled with hammers and nails and dreams, these students has their eyes open to the possibilities of a hopeful future.

## C3 Schools

## Building Futures

## Colonel Irvine School

## Senator Patrick Burns School

## George McDougall High School

## St. Brigid School

## The Participants

Our second annual C3 Youth Summit brought some veterans and some new faces to the streets of downtown Calgary.



**Building Futures** is an Airdrie-based program that guides Grade 10 students through their core courses while building two houses from the ground up. This year's focus is on responsible energy use with the goal of presenting the Building Futures home building partner with an ECO Options package they can offer to their clients, which includes eco-smart upgrades for a more sustainable home.

**Colonel Irvine School** returned to C3 with 13 excited students from three school programs. These student representatives are excited to bring back their knowledge with the goal of engaging their fellow school mates around environmental issues and strengthening school spirit. Ten keen students represented this great program.

**Senator Patrick Burns School** is first school in Alberta to use wind power, the first to pilot the City of Calgary's composting program, and one of the first to have four-way waste stations. Nine students represented their fellow classmates as they engage them in thinking about the future of climate and its impact on Alberta.

Twelve senior high students make up the C3 team from **George McDougall High School's** Global Encounters program. Students will bring back as much information about alternative energy sources as they can to help their school formulate ideas about their up coming Prototyping Project with Telus Spark as part of George McDougall's A+ for Energy grant from BP Canada.

**St Brigid School** is using C3 as an opportunity to reinvigorate their environmental club as a new batch of students step up to take the reins. The focus of the club's participation is to connect the leadership team with issues and climate change science so they can return to their school with ideas and solutions.

## The Program

The C3 program was designed to incorporate professional presentations and outdoor components. Beginning at the beautiful Bow Building, students were encouraged to consider the history of the landscape before us, the present efforts around climate change mitigation, and the future of our city and province as we all work together to create the Alberta we want to see. Over the course of the next two days, students and teachers heard from 25 speakers, each one providing insight into what sustainability looks like in Calgary and beyond.

Day 1 started with meteorologist Andrew Schultz who provide the context around climate change in Alberta. Our hosts for the day, Cenovus, had our students split into groups to hear from three different speakers on about how innovative thinking is driving their industry to make smart choices . Our afternoon started with imagineCalgary, and then the City Scavenger Hunt that had students racing around the downtown core to find sustainability features of our city, as well as three special speakers who each focused on in-school action students could implement back in their classrooms.

**“It left me feeling like I could really make a change in the world.”**

Day 2 saw students in buses head to two hands-on tours: the SAIT Green Building Technologies Centre and a private net-positive home owned by Cornelis Koster. Our tour guide at SAIT gave insight into collaboration between academic

instruction, research, and industry push the envelope in green building technology, while the charismatic Cornelis told students his personal story of taking solar energy into his own hands.

The culmination of the program saw a diversity of speakers join the students for small group conversations in a workshop called The Building Blocks of Sustainability. Each speaker, dubbed an Agent of Change, was asked to bring a question they wanted students to discuss. Through multiple rounds, students were invited to move to the questions that most appealed to them, while the Agents of Change remained at their tables to connect with new students. Questions ranged from the tangible to the more philosophical, and ideas, notes, and drawings were captured on large paper-covered boxes. The goal was not only to encourage students to meet each other and tackle these questions, but it was a chance for student voices to be heard directly by organizations and corporations working on sustainability issues.

Please see Appendix A for the full program schedule and Big Questions.



**“The program was amazing and gave us so many ideas on projects and even careers. The best part was talking to people who work with sustainability and how it affects everyone.”**



**“I really enjoyed the last bit where we got to chat in smaller groups with different people. It felt way more personalized and relaxed and this is where I did a lot of my question asking.”**



**“I really appreciated the last workshop because we got to talk to young adults who treated us like the mature youth that we are. They were relatable and very inspirational.”**



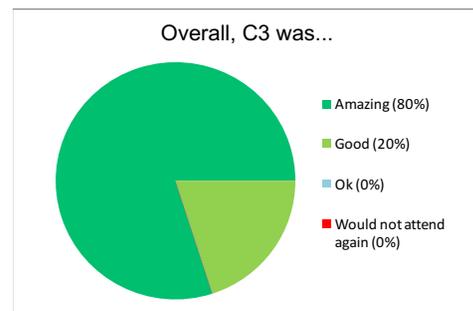
## Lessons Learned

We provided post-program surveys to both teachers and students, and the results are positive! We kept a keen eye on each component of C3 to ensure schools were getting value from our mix of content presentations and hands-on tours.

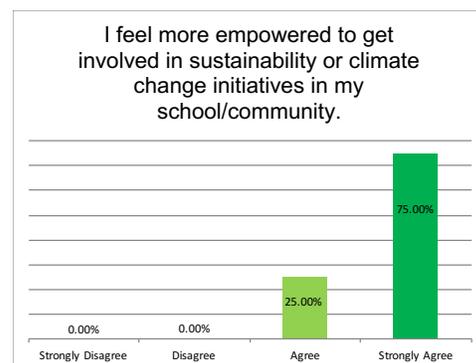
Over and over again, participants included qualitative responses that highlighted the profound impact of C3. One hundred percent of respondents marked an increase sense of empowerment in terms of participant in climate change or sustainability initiatives in their community. That is a roaring success!

The Building Blocks of Sustainability was our highest rated component of C3, which almost all participants marking it as their favourite aspect. The lowest rated sections were still marked as high value, but our qualitative data provides more insight. Many students were familiar with the topics covered by the City of Calgary Waste Educator and so the perceived value was lower. The tour of the net positive house was marked low primarily due to weather. As with all net-zero or green-built homes, space is tight and can make it difficult for students to feel fully engaged. Cornelis Koster tried to avoid that issue by hosting us in his garage, but the cold weather and concrete floor was a factor for students. Many said they would have loved the session if it has been warmer!

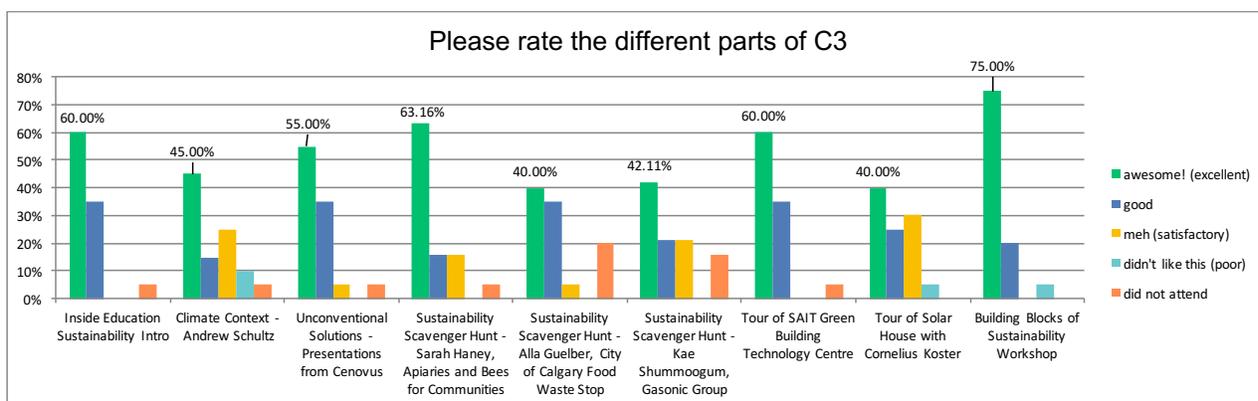
Inside Education marks our second annual C3 Youth Summit as a triumph! We were very happy to see such active participants, thoughtful discussion, and commitment to climate change initiatives.



*"I learned so much more than I thought I would, and I'm motivated to make a change within my community and school."*



*"You gave me such a good experience that shed more light on what I can do to help as an individual and a group when it comes to sustainability and warming. An overall great experience and approach to building a more sustainable Calgary."*



*"Thanks so much for all of the work you put into the event. The speakers you brought in were very diverse and provided students with many things to think about. It started many conversations at school, which we will continue to flesh out in the days to come. Special thanks to Cornelis. This was one of my favourite sessions. I think it helped students to see that "regular" people can make a difference in the world. Sustainability is at our fingertips and we just need to put in a bit of effort to make it possible."*

## Energizing Schools - Energy Education Grants

Inside Education is thrilled to be partnering with ENMAX to support energy education initiatives in our C3 schools. Each C3 school was awarded an energy meter to bring a hands-on component back to their classes. Further, schools were encouraged to put together a plan to keep the energy going. ENMAX is providing schools with up to \$500 to turn their ideas related to the key themes of the summit – energy, electricity, energy efficiency, and climate change, into action.

Ideas include education campaigns and contests at school to encourage stewardship, starting a Green Club to foster a culture of sustainability, installing aquaponics or bee hotels in schools, or even the creation of an up-cycling elective!



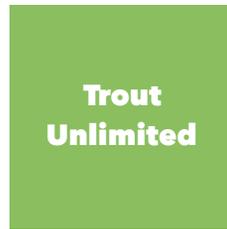
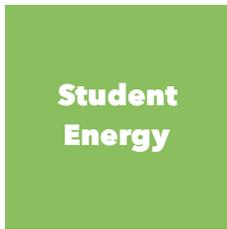
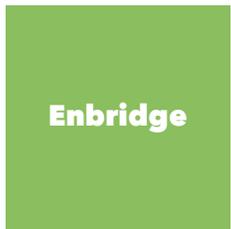
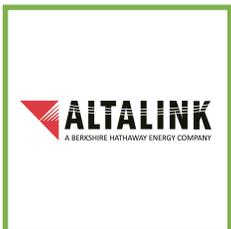
*"Thank you for the educational experience and helping me learn and grow in some amazing locations with amazing educators. You have helped shed light on issues and have provided me with the things I need to continue growing and making sure our future is sustainable. Thank you!"*

### Program Partners and Special Thanks

A very warm thank you goes out to our the Government of Alberta, AltaLink, Cenovus, ENMAX, and the Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund for supporting the Calgary Climate Change Youth Education program.

Through your generous support, we were able to create a 2-day program full of a variety of speakers, site visits, and Agents of Change to inspire our student participants. We are honoured to have shared the podium with such a passionate group of people and organizations who are actively working to address climate change issues and create an Alberta for tomorrow.

A special thanks goes to Decentralized Energy for all their work connecting Inside Education to the innovators and entrepreneurs working in the low-carbon community.



## Appendix A: Full Program Schedule and Big Questions of Sustainability



### Calgary Climate Change (C3) Youth Education Program November 7-8, 2017

Tuesday, November 7

**Registration 8:45 - 9:00 am at the Bow Building (500 Centre St S)**

**9:15 - 10:00 C3 KICK OFF**

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind sustainability education experience! What is sustainability? What does it mean to our community? How does it link to climate change?

**10:00 - 10:30 Climate Context**

*Weather* you've heard him on the radio or seen him on the small screen. Andrew Schultz is well known across Calgary. He'll provide the scientific background that will help us understand just what climate change means.

*Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist for Breakfast Television and 660 News*

**10:45 - 12:00 UNCONVENTIONAL SOLUTIONS**

Cenovus is one of the big players in the unconventional oil industry (that means oil sands) and so they are tasked with some big challenges in the context of climate change. We'll hear from three different speakers on how Cenovus is tackling the challenges of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, and habitat management.

**12:00 - 12:45 LUNCH - provided by Cenovus Energy**

**12:50 - 1:30 imagineCALGARY**

This award winning initiative represents the voice of 18,000 Calgarians to create a shared vision for our city and a detailed plan for how to get there.

*Christina Fuller, City of Calgary*

**1:30 - 3:15 SUSTAINABLE CITIES TOUR** Now that you have had an introduction to sustainability, view Calgary through a different lens. Explore sustainable building design as well as everyday sustainability features of our city that you may have overlooked!

- *Alla Guelber - Food Waste Educator, City of Calgary*
- *Kae Shummoogum - CEO, Gasonic Group*
- *Sara Haney, Educator and Permaculturist, Apiaries and Bees for Communities*

**DAY 1 PROGRAM END: 3:00 PM at the Bow Building**

*"Keep your eyes open because everyone can stumble upon  
something that can change the world"*

**Kae Shummoogum - Gasonic Group - C3 Speaker**

Wednesday, November 8

**Registration 8:45 - 9:00 am at the SAIT Green Building and Technologies Lab and Demonstration Centre (click here for location: [GBT GOOGLE MAP](#))**

**9:00 -12:00 OUR DESIGNED ENVIRONMENT**

Students will get a chance to tour both a design lab as well as real working homes. We will divide into two large groups: one will stay on site at SAIT, and the other will hop on Inside Education provided busing to head to a net zero home! At 10:00 am, our groups will switch.

Tour 1: SAIT Green Building and Technology Lab and Demonstration Site

Tour 2: Net Zero/Passive Home

**12:00-1:00 pm LUNCH provided by Inside Education**

**1:00 - 1:30 AGENTS OF CHANGE**

Students will meet working professionals from across the sustainability spectrum. These agents of change will introduce the conversations, questions, challenges, and innovations happening across the city when it comes to considering climate change.

**1:30 - 2:45 BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUSTAINABILITY**

Our Agents of Change sit down with students to tackle some of the Big Questions around sustainability and climate change. Students will leave with a better understanding of how they can fit into the larger picture, and what pieces come together to build a sustainable community.

**2:45 - 3:00 pm PROGRAM WRAP-UP**

So now what? We close the program with a final group conversation on how we can take this information and become our own agents of change!

**DAY 2 PROGRAM END: 3:00 PM**

<i>What role does Calgary play in ensuring the entire Bow river watershed's health?</i> <b>Trout Unlimited</b>	What does "environmental science stewardship" actually look like? <b>A/Vian Ecological Consulting</b>
What is the role of renewable energy in southern Alberta? <b>Enmax</b>	What can we influence our agricultural industry to manage and mitigate climate change? <b>Permaculture Calgary Guild</b>
How can the oil and gas sector be an important piece of Calgary's sustainability story? <b>Student Energy</b>	Feeding a growing population is a global issue, what does this mean for southern Alberta? <b>The Climate Reality Project</b>
With great power comes great responsibility. What does "responsible use of fossil fuels" look like? <b>Enbridge</b>	What is climate change education? <b>Alberta Council for Environmental Education</b>
In the face of our increasing demand for fossil fuels, how do we find balance with the economy and the environment? <b>Enbridge</b>	How can you encourage other students, your family, or an industry to think innovatively about reducing their environmental footprint? <b>MycoRemedy</b>
What is "sustainable tourism" and how does it influence the way we see the landscape? <b>AltaLink</b>	How can you take action and show leadership on sustainability issues in Calgary? <b>Calgary Board of Education</b>
How can we make our communities more wildlife friendly? <b>Alberta Wilderness Association</b>	How can I, as a student, play a role in scientific research? <b>Miistakis Institute/Trout Unlimited</b>