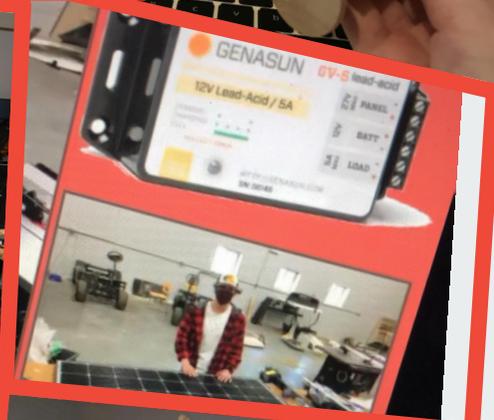
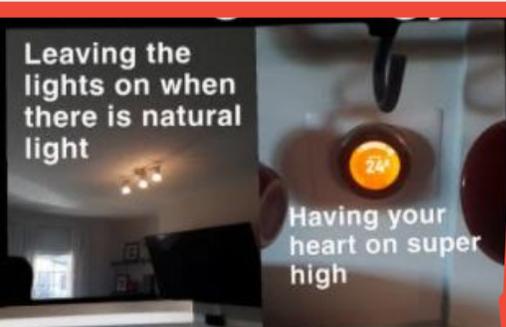


gener8

YOUTH ENERGY & CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT Virtual Edition

March 18th, 2021

A one-day online event for junior and senior high students to explore topics surrounding energy and climate in Alberta



Overview

Virtual Generate 2021 endeavored to take the provincial youth summit format that Inside Education has proudly offered in past years and deliver it in a one-day, virtual format. With the switch to online learning in 2020, Virtual Generate sought to bring the themes of Alberta's energy landscape, emerging energy innovations, and natural resource stewardship to an audience of junior and senior high school students from across the province in a virtual format.

The program was streamed via YouTube onto a custom site that was built specifically for the program, and included a keynote presentation from Disa Crow Chief, a member of the Sikiska First Nation. Disa is a former attendee of Inside Education's provincial Youth Summits, and continues to work as an advocate for energy and climate issues in First Nations and youth communities.

A panel discussion was also included as part of this program - Stephanie Ripley (Municipal Climate Change Action Centre, MCCAC), Jan Gorski (Pembina Institute), and Wes Jickling (Canada's Oil Sands Innovations Alliance, COSIA) attended to speak about what is new and exciting in the world of Alberta energy and the future of the low carbon economy, as well as to field questions submitted by program participants.

Finally, this program involved the Gener-RACE, a hands-on component that allowed them to get away from their computer screens and explore energy concepts in their homes and schools. Ahead of the presentation, Gener-RACE kits were sent out to participating schools full of materials require to build solar cars, hydrogen fuel cells, perform an energy audit, and more! They participated in a fun competition to gain points for completing activities, and a prize was given out at the end to the team who accumulated the most points.



The Participants

Generate 2021 included 15 schools from 12 communities across the province, from Fort McMurray to Arrowwood and many communities in between. This format offered a unique opportunity to include schools that may not always have the opportunity to travel to a regular youth summit, as well as a chance for larger classes to take part in the program.

Leading a program for students who are engaging in at school and at home learning was a challenge, but the coordinators were able to work with teachers ahead of time to help ensure that students were able to communicate with their classmates, and that activity materials were distributed ahead of time.

- Hillcrest Christian School** | Grande Prairie
- Rundle College** | J.J. Nearing, St. Albert
- Career and Technology Centre** | Calgary
- Robert Thirsk High School** | Calgary
- Fort Assiniboine School** | Fort Assiniboine
- St. Augustine School** | Calgary
- Fort McMurray Islamic School** | Fort McMurray
- École St. Joseph** | Whitecourt
- Connections for Learning** | Stony Plain
- Arrowwood Community School** | Arrowwood
- Steele Heights School** | Edmonton
- Black Gold Distance Learning** | Beaumont
- George P. Vanier School** | Donnelly
- New Myrnam School** | Myrnam
- Siksika High School** | Siksika First Nation



The Program

Expert Guests

Start Time - 9 AM

9:00 - 9:30
Welcome & Keynote

9:30 - 10:30
Explore Energy (Offline)

10:30 - 11:15
Your Energy Future - Discussion & Expert Q & A

11:15 - 1:15
Ready, Set, GeneRACE! (Offline)
This is also your team's opportunity to have a lunch break!

1:15 - 2:00
A+ for Energy - Youth leadership and how to get an energy grant for your school project

2:00 - 2:30
Project Showcase & Generate Closing Remarks

Keynote: Disa Crow Chief - Co-Chair, SevenGen 2019

Expert Panelists:

- Stephanie Ripley - Municipal Climate Change Action Centre
- Jan Gorski - Pembina Institute
- Wes Jickling - Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance

This program also involved the development of an online video resource that the students had an opportunity to explore. Individuals from partner organizations were invited to record short videos about themselves and their roles in the energy industry, which were combined with videos highlighting different energy innovations that are taking place around the province. This resource will continue to exist on the Inside Education website as a free learning resource.

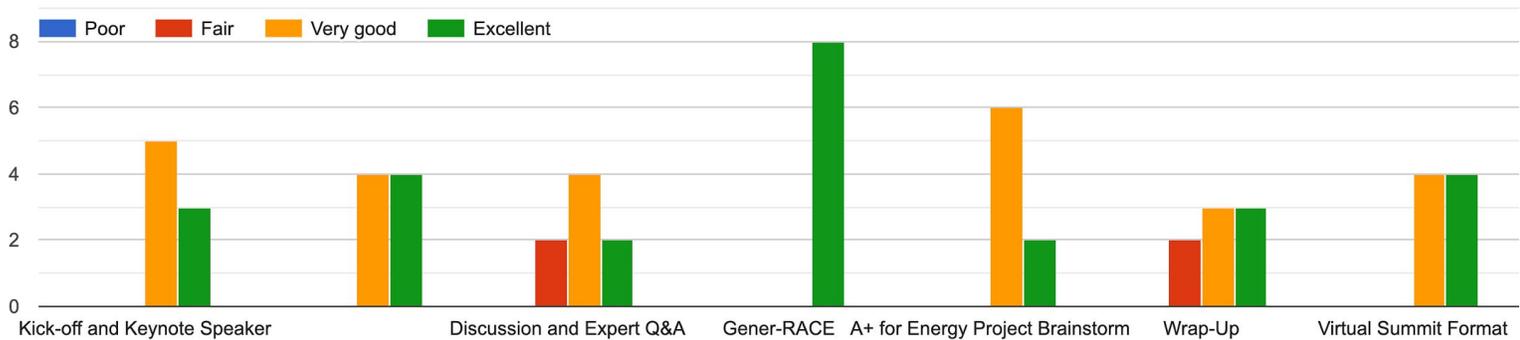
PROGRAM THEMES

- **Alberta's Energy Story** - Exploration of energy and climate projects and innovations are happening in the province
- **Hands-On Energy Exploration** - "Away from the screen" activities for students to play and learn about energy in their homes and schools.
- **School Energy Projects** - inspiration from past A+ for Energy winners

Program Impact and Feedback

Inside Education is very proud of the success of this program and the positive feedback that was received from both students and teachers after the program closed. Fitting a four-day interactive summit into a one-day virtual program was a challenge for the program team, but by implementing lessons learned from earlier online programs, it was possible to coordinate an informative and interactive program that was still able to address the key topics of a Generate Youth Summit, while accommodating the new reality of virtual learning.

Please rate your experience during the different parts of Generate



Super fun, despite the pandemic, we were still able to experience the conference as we would've in years past.

- *Student, Robert Thirsk School*

The students were able to learn new things from the experts and some are now curious about sustainability projects in our community (especially hydroponics and reducing wood waste in our school).

- *Jesse Benoit, Teacher, Georges P. Vanier School*

Summary and Futures

Inside Education was extremely pleased with the outcomes of Virtual Generate 2021. Presented with the challenges of offering a provincial youth summit in a virtual environment, the team is very proud to have coordinated a program that operated very smoothly technically, all while preserving the hallmarks of an Inside Education program - multiple perspectives, expert guests, hands-on and interactive sessions, all addressing the key themes of a Generate energy and climate summit. It is our hope that we will be able to resume with in-person summits and we get further into 2021 and 2022, but this program made it clear that including virtual components to this type of program is not only possible, but can actually serve as an improvement for schools in terms of reach and accessibility. Not only that, but the necessity of creating an online program gave the team an opportunity to stretch their abilities and create new resources that may not have happened otherwise!

Contact

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Thank You to Our Program Partners:

