

FOR THE RECORD

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COOL IT! Climate Leadership School Program

The Cool It Program engages students in saving energy and reducing emissions (lighting, active transport, solar, using less hot water, etc.). The BC Sustainable Energy Association developed this program in 2007. In 2019, the Nelson Hydro EcoSave program sponsored the program for interested schools. Through this education, the students do their own critical thinking and take their own actions at home to save energy. In 2019 the Cool It program reached 350 students in 7 schools in the Nelson area. Since its inception, the program has reached over 70,000 students and their family's province-wide.

The program seems to be hitting the mark in engaging students in the use of energy and reducing energy consumption. Through the educational workshops and a four-week home challenge, students and their parents also learn about local sustainability initiatives such as the EcoSave Program, in which homeowners can learn how to make their homes more energy-efficient. This program was hugely successful in its first year in Nelson and it is estimated that if the changes that were identified by the students and implemented continue into the future, it will reduce annual GHGs by 362 tons of CO₂ per year.