

Empowering students. Engaging communities.

CARE is designed and delivered by the Fresh Outlook Foundation (FOF) in collaboration with partners who share goals for community climate learning, engagement, and action.

This collaborative community model builds widespread awareness and action, while fostering enhanced communication across sectors, generations, and cultures.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

CARE is a customizable program based on emerging best practices in inquiry-based learning and student/community engagement. Staff and teachers within each district finetune the CARE approach and resources to align with their specific structures, strategies, objectives, schedules, and organizational cultures.

Administrators and teachers at both SD22 (Vernon) and SD23 (Central Okanagan) report that CARE programming and events:

- Support BC Ministry of Education Core and Curricular Competencies
- Support school district climate-related strategic goals and learning objectives
- Reinforce the benefits of cross-curricular, inquiry-based, team-focused, and project-driven learning
- Foster student connection with climate action in ways that enrich their skills, talents, interests, and personal capacities
- Engage students with community in meaningful and productive ways

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CARE provides regional and municipal governments with opportunities to build awareness and support for local climate action plans, policies, programs and projects.



Local government staff in Vernon and Central Okanagan communities report that CARE programming and events help:

- Provide meaningful and measurable climate outreach and engagement opportunities for youth and the broader community
- Motivate and mobilize climate-friendly behaviours at scale
- Foster communication and collaboration among community stakeholders with shared visions, goals, and objectives
- Generate ideas and opportunities for consideration by local government
- Enhance local efforts to address climate-focused efforts for nature and biodiversity, agriculture and food, energy and buildings, waste reduction, eco-friendly transportation, and human health and culture

- Provide mentor and advisor opportunities for elected officials and staff
- Stimulate interest in community planning processes and activities

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

CARE provides robust opportunities for higher education to engage with nearby communities in ways that benefit all partners.

Anecdotal evidence shows that CARE helps post-secondary institutions:

- Share climate-related knowledge
- Showcase climate-focused research
- Promote climate-related programs/degrees to students in nearby communities
- Provide mentor and advisor opportunities for faculty, staff, and students

CLIMATE EXPERTS & PROFESSIONALS

CARE relies on the knowledge, passion, and networks of climate experts and professionals to support students as mentors and advisors.

Feedback outcomes show that mentors value CARE for its meaningful and productive opportunities to:

- Share their experience, knowledge, and passion with students
- Build intergenerational relationships based on trust and mutual respect
- Connect with others and building capacity in the climate action community
- Work with people from different sectors
- Learn new things about climate change and climate action
- Hasten the mobilization of community climate action

ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE NONPROFITS

CARE is supported by organizations whose members act as mentors and advisors to student teams. These volunteers bring local knowledge, passion, networks, and projects from which students can learn about climate change and build climate action interests and abilities.

Participating nonprofit organizations can:

- Increase community awareness of their organizations and mandates/projects

- Recruit new members
- Build alliances with other local groups with shared goals
- Expand visibility within school district (e.g., knowledge-sharing and project support) and local government (e.g., input to policy and projects, and cost-sharing opportunities)
- Explore sponsorship and in-kind opportunities with climate-focused businesses

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Engaging the business community is vital in the move toward community climate action. As consumers see more options for climate-friendly products and services that are convenient, accessible, and affordable, the more likely they are to consider new purchases or behaviours.

To that end, local businesses can support and benefit from CARE in a variety of ways:

- Participate as an exhibitor at a CARE expo
- Provide employees with volunteer opportunities for student project support
- Participate as a case study for a student team looking to make a business more climate friendly
- Assist a student project that's aligned with the business's focus (e.g., funding or in-kind support from a solar company to a group of students building a solar-powered device)
- Support CARE as a sponsor

In 2025, CARE's collaborative community model continued to grow. Thank you to the folks from all walks of life who are spreading the impacts of the climate action ripple effect!

For more info, please contact: jo@freshoutlookfoundation.org or visit climateactionrippleeffect.org

CARE is delivered by Fresh Outlook Foundation with participating school districts, municipalities, higher education, climate experts, and climate-focused nonprofits and businesses.

