

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE) is a groundbreaking student learning and community engagement program that turns climate anxiety into local climate action. Grade 6-12 students in Vernon and the Central Okanagan work with mentors to build the climate awareness, project development know-how, and relational skills they need to create real-world climate solutions in their schools, homes, and communities.

In 2025, CARE engaged almost 800 students and mentors in Vernon, Lumby, Kelowna, West Kelowna, and Lake Country that supported local and global climate goals.



## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Critical to CARE's success are community mentors, project advisors, and speakers from all sectors and interests who care enough about kids and climate to share their insights, ideas, and passions for climate action.

Whether you're a climate activist, eco-entrepreneur, engineer, artist, biologist, community planner, master gardener, or researcher, you can contribute to community climate action by sharing your expertise and enthusiasm with students who are eager to learn.

You can help a project team focusing on any of these categories: Nature & Biodiversity, Agriculture & Food, Energy & Buildings, Waste Reduction, Eco-Friendly Transportation, or Human Health & Culture.

### SUCCESS STORY: Mobilizing Transit for Teens

Vernon students Haylee and Jade worked with UBCO professor and climate activist Mary Stockdale to promote free transit for youth under 18. Recommendations from their award-winning Transit 4 Teens project were adopted by the City of Vernon, endorsed by the Union of BC Municipalities, and are now being considered by the Province of BC.

The Proven Value of CARE

## Student Benefits

CARE teaches students to find their voices and refine their every-day choices. Robust pre- and post-CARE evaluations prove this approach helps students:

- Engage with climate change/action through inquiry-based learning
- Advance personal, educational, and vocational competencies and capacities
- Explore personal potential and passion for climate action
- Build project design, planning, development, and presentation skills
- Foster meaningful and productive relationships with mentors
- Support local and global climate goals

The Proven Value of CARE

## Mentor & Advisor Benefits

Evaluation outcomes show that CARE 2025 mentors enjoyed and benefited from:

- Sharing their experience, knowledge, and passion with students
- Building intergenerational relationships based on trust and mutual respect
- Connecting with others and building capacity in the climate action community
- Working with people from different sectors
- Learning new things about climate change and climate action
- Hastening the mobilization of community climate action

# Here's how you can help kids CARE!

With student numbers growing every year, we're always on the lookout for more community folks to help students design and develop their projects. You don't need to be a climate expert, and you don't have to invest a lot of time!

MENTORS	ADVISORS	SPEAKERS	SUPPORTERS
Provide topic-specific, in-person and virtual support to student teams throughout project design and development. <i>(10-30 hours over 3 months)</i>	Provide topic-specific expertise and ideas virtually during project selection and/or development. <i>(1-2 hours over 2 months)</i>	Share topic-specific experience, knowledge, and passion in classrooms or virtually. <i>(1-2 hours when requested)</i>	Provide funding or in-kind products or services to help teams develop their projects. <i>(As requested by teacher or CARE planning team)</i>

- Mentor tasks include sharing knowledge, providing local context, informing project research/development, finding input and support from within your networks, and guiding display creation.
- The CARE team and teachers will provide mentor training, resource materials, and ongoing support throughout the project development process.

- Join us today with your expertise and passion!

**"If you're wondering whether the next generation is on track to mitigate the effects of climate change, become a mentor and prepare to be impressed!"**

*Mentor survey respondent*

**"CARE features powerful programming and events that bring communities together with a shared focus on youth and climate action. It was an honour to be part of such a meaningful initiative."**

*Amandeep Singh,  
Home Zero Collective*



## SUCCESS STORY: CARE Bags

Lake Country students Carter and Jayda worked with teacher Marnie Birkeland (right) and Maddy Watson (Cammy LaFleur Outreach Program) to fill and distribute backpacks outfitted with hygiene products, food, and other items for unhoused folks in Vernon who are vulnerable to extreme temperatures and emergency events such as wildfires.

## Activate Positive Change Now!

Supporting CARE can help you meet your personal and professional climate action goals, while helping students learn how to contribute to sustainable futures for all.

For more info, please contact:

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