

Classroom Energy Diet Challenge: Training Canadian Students to become Energy Conservation Ambassadors

Ottawa, May 17, 2017 – The [Classroom Energy Diet Challenge](#), created by Canadian Geographic Education, and funded by Shell Canada, is a program designed to improve energy literacy among Canadian students. This year, [many Canadian teachers](#) went above and beyond their classroom duties to run Eco Clubs and volunteer their time to provide their students with energy literacy basics through this program. From January 30th to April 26th, 2017, students completed 2,085 energy-saving challenges, a 25% increase over last year.

“The Classroom Energy Diet Challenge continues to be an incredibly powerful tool for teachers to engage their students in meaningful dialogue about their energy use and role in the energy landscape. This year saw a record number of challenges completed by students in all parts of the country,” says Ellen Curtis, Director of Education for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. “We continue to be impressed with the quality of work from students in all grades - Kindergarten to Grade 12.”

The [25 energy-themed challenges](#) educate students on a variety of energy literacy topics, which include: learning about the concept of carbon footprints and calculating their own; calculating the approximate amount of energy used in their classroom or homes and thinking of ways to reduce it; designing and creating new products to make the world more energy efficient; and looking at energy consumption associated with food production and transportation. Students also had the option to produce a one-minute public service announcement video about ways to save energy. This year’s Video Challenge had more entries than ever before, and a greater number of people voted for their favorite [videos](#) than in previous years.

These challenges produce real results. In total, this year’s participating classrooms **saved 4,987 kgs of trash** from entering landfills, conserved **158,257 liters of water** and **91,280 KWh of energy** over the course of the three-month competition. Classrooms managed to spend more than **3,514 hours without power**. The points have been tallied and the winners of the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge have been awarded. This year the program is giving out more prizes than ever before, more than [170 prizes, totaling \\$40,000](#).

Since its inception in 2011, the Challenge has seen more than 100,000 Kindergarten to Grade 12 students participate Canada’s only student energy conservation program, designed to teach students to think critically about where energy comes from, how it’s used and how they can use it more responsibly. By the end of this Challenge, students have become enthusiastic about energy conservation and learned valuable skills, including every parent’s bane: turning off the lights when they leave a room.

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