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Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

Free environmental education and training activities
offered to Official-Language Minority Community groups

Rock your planet!

2008-2009 Biosphère
Youth Program

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The Biosphère

The Biosphère is one of the tools Environment Canada uses to raise awareness among Canadians of major environmental issues related to water, air, climate change, biodiversity, eco-friendly transportation, and sustainable development. It also helps Canadians adopt responsible consumption habits to protect the environment.

Inaugurated in 1995, the Biosphère occupies the former American pavilion at Expo 67, a structure that has since become an architectural icon in Montréal. As the first environmental museum in Canada, the Biosphère presents permanent and temporary exhibitions, events for the general public, and entertaining and informative activities for young people and adults alike. It is a Canadian showcase for information and advice on adopting environmentally friendly behaviour and becoming good environmental citizens.

As part of its new national mandate, the Biosphère has extended its influence across Canada, leading the way in environmental education. As the National Centre of Expertise for Environmental Education and Engagement (NC4E), it also offers educational and training activities throughout the country.

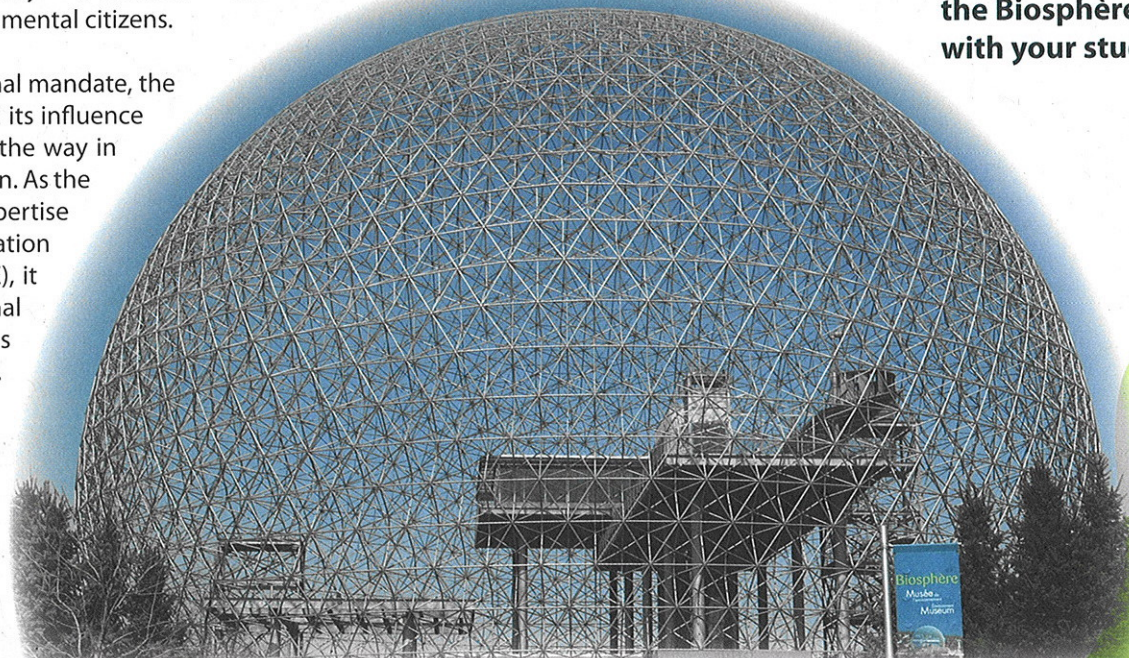
In this role, the Biosphère helps raise awareness of environmental protection among thousands of Canadian students by means of videoconferences and in-school presentations. It develops partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental environmental education organizations and provides training for teachers and environmental players in all regions of the country.

The Government of Canada has committed to encourage linguistic duality among all Canadians. Its goal is to support the cultural vitality of communities by emphasizing the value of increased knowledge of both the English and French languages. In line with this approach,

Environment Canada subscribes to government objectives of improving access to services for official-language minority communities, notably young people.

Therefore, for 2008–2009, Environment Canada's Biosphère is pleased to offer a variety of free educational activities and training to Official-Language Minority Community youth groups (aged 12 to 18) and teachers via videoconferences or in-school presentations, according to a pre-determined schedule.

Enjoy a stimulating learning experience by participating in the Biosphère's Youth Program with your students!



The Biosphère at your school

"Environment and Science" Educational Activities

The Biosphère is pleased to offer you three "Environment and Science" activities adapted to the needs and interests of high school students and teachers across Canada. These science-and-technology-based activities explore one or more of the following topics: water, the St. Lawrence River, meteorology and climate change.

These activities are offered free of charge through on-site presentations in Canadian schools or via live videoconferences in real learning situations.

Target audience: Ages 12 to 18 • Time: 60 minutes



This unique educational activity fosters discussion about the very latest scientific information on air quality and climate change, their impacts on the environment and what we can do about it. It includes several visual simulations and provides an opportunity for exchanges between students and an expert facilitator.

Nitrogen, oxygen... what is the air made of? What about the atmosphere? This educational activity will help young people understand smog and acid rain and what causes them, both human activities and meteorological factors. In a user-friendly atmosphere, participants will discuss solutions with the expert facilitator as well as formulate concrete actions they can take to limit those phenomena.

The St. Lawrence River has always been prized by those who live along its shores. A renowned waterway, it has shaped our country's history. This educational activity encourages young people to take action to protect the river. They can discover the river and look at it from a sustainable development perspective by learning about its various facets, including its biodiversity, and the environmental issues it is facing.

Note: This activity is available only by videoconference.



“Environment and Science” Educational Activities (continued)

Videoconference

In order to participate in one of these activities by videoconference, you must have the technical capacity to hold a videoconference in a room that can accommodate between 25 and 100 students. It is also possible for us to connect several schools across Canada at the same time to encourage discussion among young people from various cities or provinces.

Videoconferencing is available between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time).

School Presentation

A Change in the Air and *A Breath of Clean Air* activities are being made available to groups of 100 to 300 students in either English or French. This year, presentations are being offered on request in Quebec as well as on the following dates in other provinces and territories:

Alberta (Edmonton area): 27 to 31 October 2008

British Columbia (Kamloops area, Kelowna area, and Vancouver area): 23 to 27 February 2009

Manitoba (Winnipeg area): 3 to 7 November 2008

New Brunswick: 17 to 21 November 2008

Nova Scotia: 25 to 29 May 2009

Ontario (North Bay area and Sudbury area): 19 to 23 January 2009

Newfoundland and Labrador: 23 to 27 March 2009

Yukon (Whitehorse area): 1 to 5 December 2008

Several “Environment and Observation” activities carried out independently either *in class* or *in the field* are also available. For more information, visit www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca, “Activities for Groups” section: Youth Program.

Teacher Training

These training courses, offered locally from coast to coast, will help elementary and secondary school teachers integrate environmental concepts into their teaching curricula and encourage young people to take action to protect the environment.

Environmental education and engagement: fundamentals and practice

Target audience: Elementary and secondary school teachers

Time: 2 days

Introduction to the concepts, principles, and practices of educating about the environment and environmental engagement. This intensive training facilitates an understanding of the various levels of commitment and integrates this concept into teaching.

Environmental education and experiential learning strategies

Target audience: Elementary and secondary school teachers, educational advisors

Time: 1 to 2 days (in person) or 3 sessions of 90 minutes (online)

Experiential learning strategies can be used to help students acquire new behaviours and new competencies. The aim of this training is to develop and enrich the competencies of teachers in using these practical techniques. After this session, participants will be able to use strategies such as nature field trips, decision making, and resolving environmental problems.

This training was developed by Diane Pruneau of the research group Littoral et vie [Coast and life] of the University of Moncton, and the Comité de valorisation de la rivière Beauport (CVRB) [Beauport River enhancement committee].

Environmental training

Block I: Climate Change and Energy

Block II: Water and Forests

Target audience: Secondary school teachers, science teachers

Time: 1 day per block

Offered in two separate blocks, this training allows educators to learn about climate change and energy or about water and forests. Participants will receive practical tools to help them design learning activities on these subjects and the issues involved.

Keep an eye on the Biosphère website for dates and locations of training sessions across Canada.
























You can also create your own group and request a training session at the location of your choice.
























Capacity of 20 to 25 participants.








Resources for Educators

Visit Environment Canada's Educators' website at www.ec.gc.ca/educators to find the teaching resources listed below

	AGES			
	5-8	9-12	13-15	16-18
CLEAN AIR / CLIMATE CHANGE				
Acid Rain – Supplementary resources				
A Change in the Air: videoconference & in-school presentations – Supplementary resources				
Science and Impacts of Climate Change Presentation Graphics – Supplementary resources				
NATURE / WILDLIFE				
Species At Risk in Atlantic Canada workbook – Supplementary resources				
Species At Risk in Canada – Supplementary resources				
Wetland Biodiversity posters – Lesson plans & teachers' guides				
WEATHER				
Project Atmosphere Canada – Lesson plans & teachers' guide				
Sky Watchers – Programs				
All About Hurricanes – Supplementary resources				
Wind Chill – Supplementary resources				

	AGES			
	5-8	9-12	13-15	16-18
WATER				
Adopt a River – Programs				
Did you know?... Freshwater Facts for Canada & the World – Supplementary resources				
Every Drop Counts – Supplementary resources				
ExploreWater with Holly Heron – Supplementary resources				
From Mountains to the Sea – Supplementary resources				
Let's Not Take Water for Granted – Supplementary resources				
Morphie's Great Water Ride Adventure – Lesson plans & teachers' guides				
Project H2O – Programs				
A Primer on Fresh Water – Supplementary resources				
Resource Kit: Kid's WaterFest – Supplementary resources				
Water & Canada: Preserving Legacy for People & Environment – Supplementary resources				
Water Fact Sheets – Supplementary resources				
Water Heroes – Lesson plans & teachers' guides				
Water Use Calculator – Supplementary resources				

POLLUTION PREVENTION

A Guide for Building an Interactive Pollution Model – Supplementary resources			
Lessons in Pollution Prevention – Lesson plans & teachers' guides			
National Pollutant Release Inventory – Supplementary resources			

Check out the **Supporting Resources** section on the website below for a list of speakers for your classroom, networking and training opportunities, museums and other educational facilities, a calendar of environmental dates, and much more!

www.ec.gc.ca/educators

Information and reservations

For activities
"Biosphère at your school" and
"Teacher Training":
514-496-8282 or
1-866-487-8282 (toll free)
or
reservations.biosphere@ec.gc.ca
or
www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca,
"Activities for Groups" section.

"Environment and Observation"» Activities
in class or in the field: www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca,
"Activities for Groups" section: Youth Program

Other Free Educational Resources for
Educators: www.ec.gc.ca, "Take Action" section:
Resources for Educators

Please feel free to contact us with your
suggestions or requests.



Biosphère Environment Museum
160 Chemin Tour-de-l'Isle
Sainte-Hélène Island
Montréal, Quebec H3C 4G8



Jean-Drapeau

Également disponible en français

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