



Fraser Basin Council

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CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR

CLIMATE STUDIES

BC Climate Exchange

Promoting Learning About Climate Change

Welcome to the BC Climate Exchange's First Newsletter!

Climate change. With ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and Canada's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to six percent below 1990 levels, it's in the news and is the focus of vigorous debate. This has stimulated interest in increased public education and outreach on climate change, its impacts and solutions.

The BC Climate Exchange (BCCE), a province-wide initiative housed by the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Climate Studies, was established in 2002 to assist organizations developing climate change public education and outreach programs. The BC Climate Exchange is funded by the Federal Government's Climate Change Action Fund as well as the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. If you are directly engaged in public education and outreach on climate change or working on mitigation solutions at the individual or community level you will be interested in the activities of the BC Climate Exchange.

A major focus of the BC Climate Exchange is to strengthen the connections between community, business, government and professional organizations engaged in public education and outreach on climate change. Over the past year we have been involved in the development and delivery of a number of events, including a resource fair for teachers, a presentation on energy efficiency projects a group of environmental professionals and a workshop on transportation demand management. seminars for the Vancouver and Victoria chapters of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) looked at opportunities available to communities to address climate change issues.

In addition to organizing workshops and seminars the BC Climate Exchange offers a number of other services. The BC Climate Exchange hosts a website that includes a clearinghouse of climate change education resources and list of upcoming events. Members of the BC Climate Exchange listserv are provided up to date information on events, research and resources related to climate change. We are currently engaged in compiling a number of case studies of energy efficiency projects in BC which will be published later this year. We also coordinate the BC Climate Change Education Working Group which brings together a number of organizations which develop, deliver and promote climate change education to children and youth.

The network of those engaged in climate change education and outreach in the province is growing. This newsletter provides another means to connect those engaged in climate change education and mitigation activities. In this edition we have provided an overview of some of our activities as well as those of other organizations such as the Canadian Impacts and Adaptation Research Network, the Sierra Club and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists.

— Narissa Chadwick, FBC / BCCE

If you have any comments or would like to contribute to our next edition, please contact Narissa Chadwick (604) 488-5360, nchadwick@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Visit our website at www.BCClimateExchange.ca.

To subscribe to our listserv, send a message to climate@fraserbasin.bc.ca

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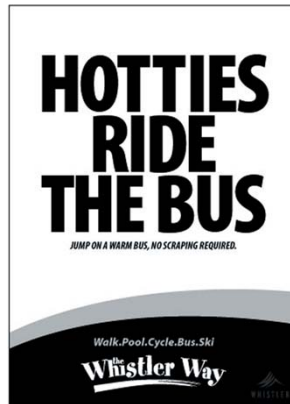
Make the Move on Climate Change!

Given that the transportation sector produces the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) will play a major role in taking action on climate change. In March 2003, seventy engineers, planners, government and NGO representatives squeezed into a cozy space at SFU Harbour Centre to share their challenges and identify opportunities to improve transportation demand management in their communities.

Organized by the BC Climate Exchange in partnership with Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), BC Transit and TranLink, the event featured presentations from a number of organizations and municipalities engaged in the development and delivery of TDM programs, as well as a workshop on social marketing facilitated by two marketing experts. The case study presentations were organized under headings relating to specific social marketing steps: Understanding Needs, Providing Incentives / Overcoming Barriers and Engaging the Public.

Understanding needs when designing TDM programs is a step both Tracey Axelsson, Executive Director of the Co-operative Auto Network (CAN), and TransLink's Valder Belgrave recognize as being of utmost importance. Tracey described the challenge she has faced in balancing "needs" and "wants" when it comes to running her successful car-sharing program. For CAN, this means having any one, or a number, of their 56 cars available in close proximity for the use of its 1100 Lower Mainland members. It also means offering some "fun" options such as VW Beetles and trucks to satisfy members' wants. As Valder expressed, "If you understand people's needs and respect them, you will get the results you are looking for." He described TransLink's new On-

Board program that aims to reduce the number of single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips made by employees and employers for commuting and work-related trips. The On-Board program funds a needs assessment process that involves interviewing corporate executives, conducting a site analysis and an employee survey, and arriving at a customized, measurable, actionable program.



Providing incentives and overcoming barriers are activities both Chris Foord, BC Transit's Marketing and Communications Manager, and Samantha Hartley-Folz, Go Green Choices Coordinator for Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), have been engaged in. Chris had many lessons to share from his experience with the implementation of the UPass program at the University of Victoria and Camosun College. Analysis of the program to date indicates that while the U-Pass has resulted in large increases in transit ridership, most of these new users were formerly passengers in carpools. Increases in parking costs or even a change in fee structure from annual payment to per diem payment are still needed to make the UPass more attractive to SOV drivers. Samantha emphasized the importance of focusing on what people feel is important to them and empowering them to make choices. Go Green Choices is a training,

consultation and support program that helps workplaces create incentive programs to encourage employees to take the bus, walk, cycle, carpool or vanpool.

Engaging the public, as the City of Kelowna's Transportation Supervisor Jerry Dombowsky and Whistler's TDM Planner Municipality Emma Delsanto pointed out, is a very critical part of any TDM strategy. As Jerry described, the City of Kelowna has been engaged in a number of creative TDM initiatives. Public engagement activities that make effective use of the media, the profile of public officials, elementary and high school education programs, commuter challenge contests, poster contests, and the transit ambassadors program have contributed to Kelowna experiencing the fastest growing transit ridership in the province. Whistler has also used a variety of approaches to engage the public. Emma emphasized the need to be creative and target specific audiences. Whistler's TDM advertising campaign includes a series of catchy, youth-oriented ads for the young, seasonal crowd. These ads include slogans like "Hotties Ride the Bus" and "Drink and Ride."

It was clear to social marketing professionals David Kuefler and Don Millar that the groups presenting their TDM experiences are effectively using a number of social marketing strategies. When planning and implementing programs designed to bring about social change, David and Don emphasized the need to start with shared values, make the issue personally relevant, and empower people to own the challenge and take action.

- Narissa Chadwick, FBC / BCCE and
Christy Love, APEGBC

• for contact info see MAKE THE MOVE page 7

Addressing Climate Change at the Local Level: What is Happening in BC?

How are BC communities addressing concerns related to climate change? What types of programs are available to them to assist in taking action? Seminars co-hosted by the BC Climate Exchange and the Vancouver and Southern Vancouver Island chapters of the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) in December 2002 and February 2003 identified a number of ways that municipalities and regional districts are taking action on climate change.

An impressive number of BC municipalities have signed on as partners for climate protection through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. Through this program, FCM assists communities in developing and committing to local climate action plans using a "5 Milestone" approach. As identified by FCM representative Russ Haycock at both the Vancouver and Victoria events, this approach includes completing a greenhouse gas inventory and forecast, establishing greenhouse gas emissions targets, developing a local action plan, implementing the plan and measuring progress. Green Municipal Funds are available to assist municipalities in carrying out their plans.

At the Victoria event, Municipality of Saanich representative Russ Fuoco identified many obstacles that challenge the ability of municipalities to reach PCP milestones. These include the lack of clear legislative mandate, challenges related to staffing resources, and lack of understanding of the tools available to municipalities to move ahead. Russ suggested a number of potential opportunities that could enhance municipal capabilities. These include setting up inter-municipal information sharing committees and considering joint applications for funding. In the near future, Saanich hopes to complete its greenhouse gas inventory and forecast for Milestone I of the PCP program.

The GVRD has been working with its member municipalities to make climate change action directed toward climate protection more accessible and achievable. GVRD representative Jennie Moore identified to the Vancouver audience both existing barriers as well as tools available to municipalities to assist them in taking action on climate change. Barriers include lack of understanding about the issues, perceived lack of empowerment, competing issues, inadequate funds, fear of losing constituent support and limitation of jurisdiction. Local government tools that could be used to address climate change include Official Community Plans, bylaws and permits, infrastructure and services, facilities management, procurement practices, community awareness and demand side management.



Active in BC for over a decade, the BC Energy Aware Committee (EAC) provides education and outreach related to Community Energy Planning (CEP). As identified at the Vancouver event by Mark Holland of Holland Barrs Planning Group Inc., CEP focuses on the reduction of energy consumption through sustainable development practices that address planning issues, including transportation, land use, utilities and built form. The EAC has produced a three volume *Community Energy Planning Tool Kit* that has been recognized across North America and Europe as a leading community energy planning guide. The EAC, now named the BC Community Energy Association, has assisted with community energy planning in a number of communities in

BC including Quesnel and Bowen Island. The Pembina Institute has worked closely with BC Hydro and the Community Energy Association to prepare a Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) for Bowen Island. Andrew Pape-Salmon, Pembina Director of Sustainable Energy, identified the steps undertaken in the Bowen Island project. These steps included completing an energy and emissions baseline; establishing community objectives; evaluating sustainable and conventional energy options; establishing emissions management targets; identifying policy options to implement targets; completing an energy and emissions action plan that highlights potential benefits; establishing a community consultation framework; and implementing the CEP. The Bowen Island experience with CEP provides insights for all BC communities, particularly those on the urban fringe and in rural areas.

As Ron Drolette of BC Transit emphasized to the Victoria audience, transportation planning plays a major role in addressing climate change. The Capital Regional District has made the coordination of land use and transportation a central theme of its Regional Growth Strategy. BC Transit is working on the development and delivery of a Travel Choices Strategy that focuses on limiting growth in single occupancy vehicle trips, minimizing congestion, and providing travel options for suburban as well as urban areas. All of these efforts will assist in reducing the region's greenhouse gas emissions.

As was made clear in the presentations made at the PIBC seminars in Vancouver and Victoria, taking action on climate change at the local level involves a commitment to implementing a range of approaches and initiatives.

- Narissa Chadwick, FBC / BCCE

C-CIARN BC Update

C-CIARN BC is the British Columbia regional office of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN), a national network of climate change researchers funded by Canada's Climate Change Action Fund. BC's natural resource based communities and the province's economy as a whole are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Examples include increased rate of decline of fish stocks, forest susceptibility to pests and fires, and incidences of flood and drought conditions.

C-CIARN BC initiates, fosters and coordinates dialogue among researchers, stakeholders and decision makers. Recently, C-CIARN BC meetings have been held on university and college campuses bringing faculty, researchers and students together. This has helped create a climate change research community, uniting researchers from a diversity of research disciplines.

A series of regional workshops has been initiated. The first was in Cranbrook BC in the Columbia Basin organized in partnership with

the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Columbia Mountain Institute. Highlights of this workshop included presentations on the potential changes in forest cover, fire danger and pest infestations in the Columbia Basin. Climate Change impacts such as more frequent droughts and floods, less snow in the winter and higher temperatures throughout the winter months are readily evident to residents in this region. Adaptation strategies such as a water conservation program in Kimberly are still in their early stages.

Following the success in Cranbrook, a workshop was organized for Prince George in partnership with the University of Northern BC. The focus was on promoting an information exchange between researchers and stakeholders on climate change issues, both human and natural, in northern BC.

C-CIARN BC's office is conducting a survey on the current state of the climate change knowledge, with a focus on expert opinion and a review of the literature on the subject. C-CIARN BC's electronic database is updated on a continuous basis and incorporates

the newest publications on climate change impacts and adaptation in BC. Through these activities, C-CIARN BC is helping to create an informed and engaged community around climate change impacts and adaptation, and hopes to foster collaborative research approaches for the future.



C-CIARN BC is located at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia.

Visit our website:
www.britishcolumbia.c-ciarn.ca

- Julia James, C-CIARN BC



As water levels change markedly in Canadian coastal regions, a recent national coastal zone workshop held by C-CIARN showed that community adaptation initiatives are definitely on the rise. The February 2003 workshop

The Highs and Lows of Water Level: The Vulnerability of Coastal Communities to Water Level Change

held by the Coastal Zone sector of C-CIARN in North Vancouver detailed pioneering municipal initiatives ongoing in all of Canada's Coastal Zones, and highlighted recent climate research related to water level variations. Entitled "The Highs and Lows of Water Level: The Vulnerability of Coastal Communities to Water Level Change," the workshop attracted a number of practitioners from a variety of fields including climate researchers, stakeholders, and representatives from

non-governmental organizations as well as from municipal, provincial and federal governments.

The workshop featured both presentations and panel discussions about the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change. Canada's four coasts - the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Arctic, and the Great Lakes are exhibiting different water level changes. John Clague, a research scientist in the Department of

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Highs and Lows

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Geography at Simon Fraser University, described important factors involved in the rising water levels on Canada's three ocean coasts. Linda Mortsch, from the Impacts & Adaptation Research Group at Environment Canada, detailed the "in's" but mostly "out's" of falling water levels in the Great Lakes.

Many coastal communities are adjusting municipal laws not only to adapt, but also to anticipate further water level changes. Municipal representatives from Alert Bay (BC), Goderich (Ontario), Placentia (Newfoundland), Tuktoyaktuk (NWT) and Charlottetown (PEI), described new climate change adaptation initiatives on-going in these communities. Michael Berry, from the Inner Coast Natural Resource Centre, told workshop participants that Cormorant Island in Alert Bay BC is facing elevated tidal events, devaluation of coastal properties and irregularities with tide table predictions as a result of rising water levels.



Stuart Cohen, Environment Canada Climate Change Researcher, speaking at a C-CIARN Workshop

A series of presentations addressing the socio-economic impact of coastal water level change was highlighted

on the second day of the workshop. The presentations touched upon such issues as human safety, disaster mitigation, social and cultural resources, tourism and recreation, property values and insurance. Lianne Bellisaro, from the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness described how the federal government is seeking to develop proactive - not simply reactive - measures to climate change induced disasters in order to reduce human and environmental vulnerability.

Workshop participants compiled a comprehensive list of essential tools communities must develop in order to adapt to rising water levels. Collaborative development of sophisticated water level scenarios, in consultation with researchers, government and community stakeholders was deemed the most critical tool for adaptation.

The widespread representation and participation of stakeholders, researchers and government representatives at the C-CIARN workshop evidenced a growing concern, but also a rise of innovative adaptation strategies to the changing water levels in Canada's coastal zones. The full proceedings of the C-CIARN Coastal Zone Workshop will be available soon online at

www.c-ciarn-bc.ires.ubc.ca/

- Sarah Everts, C-CIARN BC

Victoria Get Cool!

Since January, Victoria Get Cool! The Climate Change Project has been helping Victoria locals make their city a cooler place by working with them to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Working one-on-one with project participants, GAIA Project staff and volunteers have developed a tailor-made GHG-reduction action plan for each participant. Beyond offering participants targets to work toward, the project offers people the support they need to be able to follow through with their plans.

As part of this support, the Sierra Club of Canada-BC Chapter/GAIA Project staged the Eco-Home and Transportation Show on March 15th. Sixteen local businesses, organizations and authors came together to make the event a one-stop shop for climate conscious consumers who might not have been aware of what resources were available to them.

Participants were impressed to learn how accessible ecologically-friendly alternatives have become. From cutting edge technologies to traditional techniques, exhibitors showed us just how easy it can be to "walk your talk" in the areas of food, green building, waste reduction and sustainable transportation.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these topics, a complete list of contacts for exhibitors is available at www.gaiaproject.bc.ca. If you are interested in being part of the next home show, please contact Michelle Hannah at (250) 384-1534 or michelle@sierraclubbc.org.

*Victoria Get Cool! has been made possible by generous contributions from the Government of Canada's Climate Change Action Fund and VanCity's EnviroFund.

- Michelle Hannah, Sierra Club BC

APEGBC Sustainability Committee

Many engineers and geoscientists in BC are making positive contributions to the reduction of emissions and to improved energy efficiency through their practices. The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC), the regulating body for the 20,000 professionals in BC, has taken on a proactive role of its own in communicating the expertise and success of these innovators with other members, and providing all members with the knowledge and tools they need to move their own practices forward.

Climate change, and in particular the Kyoto Protocol, is a current “hot topic” that has direct implications for the practices of engineers and geoscientists. Most professionals agree that it is in the interests of all to use the most energy-efficient, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable practices available to us. More of

us are also recognizing the need to collaborate with other professionals and stakeholders to optimize our designs, to represent the full costs of our projects and to address the needs of the people we are serving.

The Sustainability Committee of APEGBC has undertaken a number of initiatives to increase awareness of sustainability throughout its membership. The hub of these efforts is the www.sustainability.ca website. The site currently generates several hundred visits per day and is seen as a model by other professional organizations. Along with a wealth of other resources, the website houses the quarterly *Sustainability Now* newsletter and the *Sustainability Primer*, a reference tool to assist engineers and geoscientists in applying sustainability principles within their practices.

The Association has also taken the

lead in sustainable building practices by recommending LEED™ as the preferred method of building environmental assessment. In support of this position, APEGBC has joined the US Green Building Council, offered continuing professional development seminars, drafted the green building primer module and published a special newsletter issue on LEED™ and green buildings.

All of these initiatives can be explored in more detail through the website. To learn more, please contact Christy Love, EIT, Sustainability Engineer/Researcher, APEGBC, tel: 604.412.4868 or email: info@sustainability.ca.

- Christy Love, APEGBC

March Carbon Credits Workshop in Prince George

On March 7 / 2003, 95 private landowners and others met in Prince George's Civic Center to learn more about carbon credits - stores of carbon created and held, usually as forest plantation, on private land. The workshop, “Cashing in on Carbon Credits,” was hosted by Natural Resources Canada and the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA).

As part of its commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases, the Government of Canada is investigating ways to use forested land to help remove excess carbon from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration, the storage of carbon in living wood. Currently, emissions

trading programs are in place in Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, the United States, the United Kingdom, Denmark and the European Union. One focus of the workshop was to identify the interest of landowners in participating



in carbon sequestration programs.

During the workshop's morning session, presentations were made by experts from the CFS, the BC Ministry of Forests and three consulting firms. Thomas White of the CFS noted that there are three ways to reduce greenhouse gases: reducing sources of excess carbon, increasing carbon sinks such as forests or a combination of both. Producers of greenhouse gases can also offset their excess carbon production by buying carbon credits. To be eligible for carbon credits under the Kyoto agreement, land must be privately owned and must have been cleared before January 1, 1990 for a purpose other than reforestation.

• see CARBON CREDITS page 7

Make the Move Contacts

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For more information on the Co-operative Auto Network (CAN) contact Tracey Axelsson at Tracey@cooperativeauto.net, or go to www.cooperativeauto.net.

For more information on TransLink's On-Board program contact Valder Belgrave at valder_belgrave@translink.bc.ca

For more information about the U-Pass at UVic go to www.stas.uvic.ca/upass.htm or contact Chris Foord at Chris_Foord@bctransit.com.

To find out more about Go Green Choices and other BEST programs go to www.best.bc.ca or contact Samantha Hartley-Folz at sam@best.bc.ca

For more information on the City of Kelowna programs go to www.city.kelowna.bc.ca, or contact Jerry Dombowsky at jdombows@city.kelowna.bc.ca.

For more information on Whistler's TDM program, contact Emma DelSanto at Edelsanto@whistler.ca

Carbon Credits...

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In the afternoon, participants split up into breakout sessions on three topics: Incentives, Pilot Projects and Cooperatives.

The Incentives session aimed to identify ways to encourage participation in a national carbon sequestration program. The group made a number of suggestions. Landowners need to retain property rights and ownership and to control which tree species are planted on their land. A steady income stream featuring annual payments for carbon credits would be preferred. GST/tax implications were a concern. The group also identified the need to have clarity around (a) the rules specifying which land is eligible and (b) the objectives of the program.

The goal of the Pilot Projects breakout group was to identify landowners interested in participating in a pilot project, and to investigate the conditions

and incentives needed to carry "test" projects. Many of the participants in this group were interested in finding out if their own land was eligible for a pilot project and what the benefits might be. Many questions were raised, and by the end of the session attendees representing 1350 hectares of land had signed up to find out more about pilot projects.

The Cooperatives group worked on the idea of developing "carbon cooperatives" so that private landowners could work together to establish new forests and market the resulting carbon credits. It was noted that to meet market demands, each cooperative would have to consist of at least 20,000 – 30,000 hectares of newly established forests. Participants agreed that there was value in pooling carbon credits and other related efforts.

Many of those participating in the

Carbon Credits Workshop felt it was a great success.

For more information on carbon credits, visit the federal government's website on the Climate Change Plan for Canada at www.climatechange.gc.ca/plan_for_canada/index.html, contact the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations at www.woodlot.bc.ca or contact your local BC Ministry of Forests office.

- Anne Scott



Upcoming Events

April 25-26, 2003
Burnaby BC
R2000 Training Workshop
Information and Registration:
Wilma Leung, wilma@wisa.ca, (604) 261-6632

April 25, 2003
Prince George BC, Coast Inn of the North
Green Energy – Opportunities and Challenges in the BC Interior
Information and Registration:
Jim Vanderwal, climate@fraserbasin.bc.ca,
(604) 488-5359

May 5 – May 8, 2003
Nelson BC
Lifestyles, Livelihoods and Landscapes, Transitions Through Time
Information and Registration:
PIBC website at www.pibc.bc.ca

May 7 – 8 (Nanaimo)
September 10-11 (Merritt)
October 8-9 (Prince George)
October 22-23 (Terrace)
Environment and Energy Planning Workshops for First Nations
Information and Registration:
roseanna@nautsamawt.com, (604) 943-5367

May 23, 2003
Victoria BC, Victoria Conference Centre
Adapting to Climate Change in the Coastal Pacific Northwest
Information and Registration:
Julia James, c-ciarn-bc@ires.ubc.ca, (604) 822-4428

First week of June, all over the province
The Commuter Challenge
Is your community involved? Check the national website at www.commuterchallenge.ca.
To register your community or get advice on getting involved contact Samantha Hartley-Folz at Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST), sam@best.bc.ca, (604) 689-4467

June 4-6, 2003
Penticton BC, Penticton Lakeside Resort
The Recycling Council of BC Annual Conference
Information and Registration:
www.rcbc.bc.ca/upcoming_events/events.htm

Please check the BC Climate Exchange website for more events. If you have an event you would like to post on the website or in this newsletter, please send information to: climate@fraserbasin.bc.ca

Opportunities

BC Climate Exchange Case Studies

The BC Climate Exchange is compiling case studies of energy efficiency projects in British Columbia. These case studies range from green retrofits to greenbuilding to the introduction of natural gas or hybrid vehicles into commercial vehicle fleets. Case studies will be showcased in a publication later this year. If you have an energy efficiency case study you would like to share please contact Narissa Chadwick or Jim Vanderwal at climate@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

AIBC /APEGBC Sustainability Exhibition

The AIBC Energy and Environment Committee and the APEGBC Sustainability Committee are collecting submissions for their Sustainability 2003 exhibition. Submission of sustainable design products or projects are requested from B.C. based professionals, including engineers, architects, landscape architects, planners and interior designers, with a preference for multi-disciplinary projects. The successful entries will be exhibited at a number of venues beginning with the APEGBC AGM in Penticton October 2003. Submissions are due May 30, 2003. For more information contact exhibit03@sustainability.ca / (604) 683-8568.

Canada's Energy Efficiency Awards

Natural Resources Canada is now collecting nominations for their Energy Efficiency Awards 2004. Categories include: equipment and technology, housing, buildings, industry, transportation, outreach, media and student competition. For more information contact awards.prix@nrcc.gc.ca / 1-888-333-3970 / (613) 996-2250.

The Sustainable Living Bus

The Sustainable Living Bus is a mobile eco-learning centre that demonstrated ideas that enable us to conserve energy and water, reduce our waste production, commute with less environmental impact, and make informed consumer choices. The bus will be touring through the Victoria and Vancouver Area June and July 2003. If you would like the bus to come to your event contact Shelley at shelley@sierraclubbc.org (250) 384-1534.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this first edition of the BC Climate Exchange Newsletter.

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