

Be Part of the Solution

by Julian Celms

Flooding, dust bowls, arctic ice meltdown.... How often have you read in the papers or heard on the radio news about climate change? It's a fact — if we don't do something soon about climate change, we may be too late. Scouts Canada wants to help. Many Scouters aren't aware that we have a fantastic climate change program. We're looking for help in spreading the word — through Climate Change Ambassadors!

What makes our climate change program so special? We've developed high quality program materials that emphasize educating youth about climate change; helping them take action at a local level through initiatives such as recycling, reducing energy use, active transportation, home energy audits, and promoting healthy attitudes. There are Climate Change JUMPSTARTS available on-line and in the *Climate Change Resource Book*, unique youth-friendly, on-line energy audits for Cubs and Scouts.

What's a Climate Change Ambassador? Enthusiastic Rovers, Venturers and Scouters who promote the program and have fun doing it!

What Do You Do?

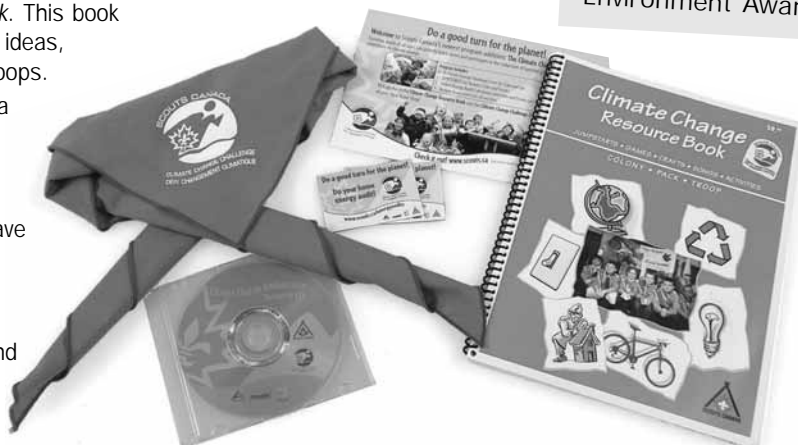
For Venturers and Rovers, we've created a fun, custom-designed evening program you can run to explain the energy audits designed for a Cub pack or Scout troop. We've put together a multimedia program (called *EssentialTalk*) to lead you through this easy program step by step, and all the resources are on the CD as well.

Scouters are asked to promote the climate change program three times. Simply go to a nearby colony, pack or troop who has not done the climate change program and run one evening of the climate change JUMPSTARTS with them. Ambassadors can also do a demonstration at a local Sharing Session, Old Wolves Club or Scouter's Club.

Climate Change Ambassador Kit

To help Ambassadors do their job, a kit is provided that includes the following:

- A copy of the *Climate Change Resource Book*. This book includes great JUMPSTART programs, extra ideas, and energy audits for colonies, packs and troops.
- A Resource CD. This includes an outline for a Sharing Session/Old Wolves/Scouters Club talk, and soft-copies of the Cub and Scout energy audits.
- Leave behind cards – information you can leave with the section Scouters about the climate change program and where they can find more information.
- Fridge magnets – hand out these to youth and leaders after talking about climate change.
- And as a token of appreciation — a special Climate Change Ambassador Necker.



Although we've outlined what a Venturer/Rover or Scouter would do, the roles are interchangeable!

The Key is Three

We don't want to make this difficult or a burden as we know you are already busy Scouting. So the key is to just do three presentations. Yep, that's it. Do one presentation three times. You don't need to do the whole program with participants. Just give them a taste and point them in the direction of our web site where they can find many resources on-line. Each time you've completed a presentation of some type, go to the Ambassador web page. At the bottom is a link to the Ambassador database that tracks your presentations, and important details such as how many youth/leaders you visited and if they had any comments about the program.

I'm Interested in Helping Out!

If this sounds interesting, contact your Council Advocate! Your Council Advocate is the co-ordinator for the Ambassador program at the council level. They can tell you more about being a Climate Change Ambassador. If you don't know who that is, talk to your council commissioner or call your council office.

Climate Change 101

Would you like to know a little more about climate change? Check out the Ambassador web page for a climate change 101 *EssentialTalk*.

Don't forget! The climate change website is www.scouts.ca/ccambassador.

– Julian Celms, Program Director for Beavers, Cubs and Outdoors invites everyone to join him by taking part in the Climate Change program.