

DC in...

1.

What is it?

The DC Program explores a different theme each year:

Year 1- Energy- A great topic to start with as it is easy to make changes and see the results. Energy savings easily translate into cost savings, part of which are then used to pay for next year's DC program!

Year 2- Water- Canadians are among the biggest water-users in the world! DC teams will examine water conservation behaviours and technologies that can be implemented at home and school.

Year 3- Waste- Assessing the amount of waste generated at school is great motivation to establish or improve recycling programs, as well as looking at creative ways to reduce waste in the first place, by employing some of the 'other Rs' (reduce, reuse, repair, rethink...)

Building Operator Training Program

In parallel with the student-centered workshops, DC offers training for the custodial staff on the technical aspects of sustainable practices and technologies.

Years 4-6 – For the keen schools that wish to keep working with DC we have an additional three years of programming, delving into environmental issues and action in the home, our communities, and the world.

2.

What Happens?

DC Workshops are held twice a year in a central location with 10 to 15 DC teams from your district. These workshops are held during the day, and last 2.5 hours. A snack is included, and provided by the district. DC covers the cost of one substitute teacher for each school.

DC team representatives learn about the issues and technologies as well as lifestyle strategies that may offer solutions with hands-on activities, games and demonstrations presented by DC staff. Teams also share information, report on their progress and work at the 'Ideas Station' in which they get support planning their campaigns!

DC Teams consist of students, teachers, principals, custodians and parents and can be run as a class project or an extra-curricular program.

DC Staff will run the workshops, direct you to follow-up resources, assist you in accessing and using our web site, as well as providing follow-up support if requested.

3.

Now What?

Between workshops, DC teams have some 'homework' to do!

Using resources provided on the web site, DC teams need to meet, perform investigations, and plan and implement their campaigns.

DC staff are available to answer questions through e-mail or telephone. We can help you to find additional local resources, people, and programs that connect with your campaigns. Please don't hesitate to contact us!

www.dcplanet.ca

WORKSHOPS
Exploring Issues and Solutions



Year 1 Energy

Starting Simple

What is it?

Orientation:

DC kicks off with an Orientation workshop that involves all the adult members of the school team: teachers, parents, custodial staff, and administrators.

Energy 1:

We look at energy sources, the efficiency of various kinds of lighting options and energy mapping, in an exploration of the “technology” end of the energy question.

Energy 2:

Topics include renewable and non-renewable energy, climate change, and vehicle idle-off strategies. The goal is to investigate the connection between our habits and larger energy issues.

Year End:

A chance to reflect on the years accomplishments and for schools to share their projects with each other.

What Happens?

Orientation - Presentations

are aimed to provide the adults with the program ‘big picture’, answer questions, and plan your DC team structure. The rest of DC programming is student-centered.

Energy 1 - DC teams visit 3 activity stations to learn how energy is generated and wasted. They are introduced to the lifestyle campaign process, and visit an ‘ideas station’ to learn more about campaign planning. Each station is 15 minutes long. Some are run by DC staff, while others are teacher-led (instructions provided!).

Energy 2 - Activity stations are supplemented with campaign coaching at the ideas station.

Now What?

Between the Orientation and Energy 1, DC teams are formed and some team building activities take place.

Between Energy 1 and 2, DC teams are asked to perform at least one school investigation and start planning their campaign.

Between Energy 2 and the Year-end, teams run their conservation campaigns and collect results.

Campaigns

It's about changing behaviour

What is it?

DC is an **action-oriented** program. The Lifestyle Campaign planning process gives structure to DC projects, helping teams work through the stages of planning and implementing a project to meet with success that is achievable, tangible, and realistic.

The steps in the campaign are:

Welcome - for new schools

1 - Investigate - Where do we Start?

2 - Plan - We have an idea but we need a plan.

3 - Communicate - We have a plan, now we need to get our message out.

4 - Evaluate - We're starting to see results. Now What?

Advanced - We've completed a lot of projects, we're ready for something new.

What Happens?

A vital component of a DC lifestyle campaign is **collecting**

data before and after so that students can see their progress. DC provides the tools necessary to evaluate energy use, water use and waste production, and assists the DC teams in creating campaigns that have measurable results.

Investigation tools are simple forms that can be downloaded from the DC web site and filled out by the students with the support of adult team members. The results inform a key part of planning step, including setting goals and measuring results.

Now What?

Homework: The DC web site is a great source of ideas, tips and activities for every step along the campaign process. Check out some of the creative campaigns run by other schools in the Green Gallery.

Sample letters home and a number of other communication tools are available to you on the web site.

Celebrations

Showcasing out Successes

What is it?

Year-Ends

The third workshop of the year is an opportunity to look at what has been accomplished, and to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of the DC teams.

The Green Gallery

Teams are encouraged to summarize what they have accomplished in their campaigns in a Green Gallery Report. This is presented at the third workshop along with a display about their campaigns. These will go into the Green Gallery database for other schools to use as a resource in the future.

Recognition

DC Plaque - Each school receives a participation plaque and DC seal for every year they are involved.

Accomplishment Award - Each team will be recognized for "what they are most proud of" as submitted with their Green Gallery Reports. They will also receive a pre-loved award created by another team and re-used each year.

The Peoples' Choice Award is determined by popular vote, based on the Green Galley presentations.

Background

How it all works

What is it?

The Destination Conservation program is offered school districts in Alberta and British Columbia by the Elements Society. The program began in 1983, and became independently operated by Elements in 2003. During the 2008/2009 school year more than 130 schools in 9 school districts participated in the program.

The Elements Society is a registered not-for-profit run by a volunteer board elected by the members of the society - including all adults that participate in the Destination Conservation program. Many of our board members and staff are former DC teachers and principals committed to helping schools address environmental problems.

Destination Conservation is just one of the programs offered by Elements. To find out more, or to get involved, please contact our office or visit our web site dcplanet.ca .

What Happens?

Formats

Green Gallery Workshop:

This format of the year-end is a 2.5 hour session during the day similar to the student workshops. It starts with the Green Gallery and awards, followed by district and school presentations (1- 2 schools volunteer). In addition, DC teams participate in learning stations that we design each year with a unique theme.

OR

Green Gala: A 1.5 hour session after school that is more formal and often involves parents. The same Green Gallery, awards, district and school presentations, followed by juice and snacks.

What Happens?

A partnership between the School District, the Elements Society and the Sponsor is created.

The district commits to reducing their environmental impact and supporting schools conservation initiatives.

The sponsor(s) provide first year and sometimes second year funding to help the program get started.

Elements launches the DC program and works with schools to reduce their impacts.

The result: schools improve environmental literacy, build leaders, reduce their environmental impact and save money on utility bills.

Now What?

Homework:

Presentations or posters are meant to be short / simple, and not add a large amount of work. The idea is to showcase your campaign and its success.

Each DC team is asked to bring a gently used stuffed toy, recycled trophy or other item, decorated to reflect the DC experience. This creation will be used as a special (recycled) award for another school.

Now What?

Over the three years of the program utility bills are tracked to determine the energy savings created by each school.

Part of the savings cover the cost of the program. The balance is reinvested in schools and may be shared with DC teams. Find out more from your DC Coordinator.