

YOUTH NARRATIVES PROJECT

Youth voices and values informing energy and environmental education in Alberta



There are
500,000
grade 4-12 youth
in **Alberta**

*What do they think
about **energy** and the
environment?*



Talking about energy and the environment is challenging and complex...

- The matter is urgent and evolving
- This heightened focus on energy and the environment can lead to tension
- Our education programs need to be based on science, but also approach these topics with the values and needs of our youth in mind.
- With so many emerging new opportunities, we need to prepare students by delivering targeted programming that engages them and improves their energy literacy, enabling them to embrace this complexity!

The Alberta YOUTH NARRATIVES PROJECT

Join us for an exciting new initiative to build energy and environmental education tailored to the unique values and needs of Alberta youth.

Funding Partners



Unique Learning Opportunity

While the research team is focused on learning *from* your students, there are many opportunities for connections to student learning outcomes.

Science

Grade 4-6: Plant Growth & Change, Weather Watch, Wetland Ecosystems, Evidence & Investigation, Trees & Forests

Grade 7-9: Interactions & Ecosystems, Biological Diversity, Heat & Temperature, Environmental Chemistry, Planet Earth, Freshwater & Saltwater Systems

Grade 10-12: Energy & Matter, Ecosystems & Population Change, The Changing Earth, Living Systems Respond to their Environment, Chemistry and the Environment, Energy and the Environment

Social Studies

- Canada: Opportunities and Challenges
- Government policies and actions
- Contemporary local, national and global issues

The Alberta YOUTH NARRATIVES PROJECT

is about meaningful
conversations around
energy and the
environment

By taking part, you and your
students will help put the
values and concerns of Alberta
youth at the center of how we
engage and teach about energy
and the environment.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Seeking 12 host teachers



- A key focus of this community-based initiative is openness and the inclusion of a diversity of young Albertans.
- We are seeking the involvement of a range of youth from rural and urban communities between grades 4 to 12.

WHAT CAN A HOST CLASS EXPECT?

Structured. 1 hour structured conversation facilitated by two trained early childhood and youth educators

Small groups. Open, easy-going peer-to-peer conversation in small groups of approximately 12 students

Listening. Active listening focused on what engages youth – what they care about, understand, and prefer

Safe. Builds on 15+ years of research experience and expertise. Full and informed consent.

Options. ACEE will arrange concurrent age-and curriculum-appropriate activities for the rest of the class.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Host commitments. Teachers will be asked to:

- Take part in a 30 minute introductory call with our team to prepare and discuss details
- Book a classroom or a shared space such as a library
- Distribute and collect signed consent forms
- Be present during the session to introduce the educators

We expect participation will take **3-4 hours** of your time including preparations and day-of activities.

INCENTIVES



Let us know how this can benefit the student learning experience and how we can thank you for your time and energy!

SHARING RESULTS

Your involvement will help
students and educators

Results will be compiled in an
Alberta Educators Guide,
supported by presentations
and webinars, and shared
broadly with teachers,
educators and community
leaders.

Once the participants have the opportunity to share the environment and energy issues that matter to them...

EXPECT ACTION!

Consider creating an opportunity for the participants to meet again in a self-directed activity where they can build on their conversations and work together to research the answers to their questions or create a visual expression of their thoughts



For more information contact:

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Visit: www.abcee.org/narratives

About the team

The Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) works collaboratively to advance environmental education and energy education.

SHELAGH PYPER B.SC.

Director of Education & Outreach with Fuse Consulting Ltd.

Shelagh is a passionate environmental educator, a certified trainer of the HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development and is an approved contractor with the Parkland School Division.

MARIA GRANADOS B.A.

Program Coordinator at ACEE

Maria leads the Connecting classrooms to Professionals programs and is excited to work in the classroom on the Youth Narratives Project to better understand the language and narratives that resonate with youth in order to effectively communicate energy and environmental issues.

This project is also supported by a diverse Advisory Committee.

To read Shelagh and Maria's full bios and learn about the Advisory Committee please visit

www.abcee.org/narratives

