

What is Lights Out Canada?

Lights Out Canada is an annual event during which schools across the country turn off their lights and spend the day engaging with climate change awareness and action. Through Lights Out, participants:

- Engage with the science of climate change, why it is occurring and its consequences.
- Consider how to change everyday habits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Identify opportunities to green schools, homes and communities.
- Are empowered to act on these opportunities, lead more sustainable lifestyles and model positive change.

When is it?

Lights Out is held annually on or around April 22nd (when it falls on a school day). Hundreds of thousands of students and educators participate every year across Canada. 1.5 million students have participated since 2005. Even though Lights Out is a one day event, we hope that our programming facilitates environmentally conscious behaviour 365 days a year.

How do schools participate?

Schools register online at www.lightsoutcanada.org. Participating schools can download lesson plans, step-by-step participation guides, and posters in order to make Lights Out Canada a success. Project materials are available for free download on our website. Registered schools are featured on the Map of Participants.

Our lesson plans detail:

- What is climate change?
- Why is it occurring?
- Why is it a problem?
- How can I make a difference?



Why do we do Lights Out?

Lights Out Canada was launched by a high school student on Vancouver Island in 2005 and is run on a volunteer basis for youth, by youth. The Lights Out team coordinates the project because climate change is not a far off concept, it is happening now, and its effects are being felt today. Ice in the Arctic is melting. Ocean levels are on the rise, and changing climates have contributed to the extreme weather felt around the world. The repercussions of growing greenhouse gas emissions will be one of the greatest, if not the most prominent, issues that our generation will face. Lights Out Canada will not stop global warming. It will, however, give students foundational tools to understand the challenges we face and that we all need to take action to preserve our country, and our planet, for future generations.