



Clean Nova Scotia
inspiring environmental change

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carbon Free Thinkers gives youth a voice on climate change

Dartmouth, N.S. - Clean Nova Scotia is approaching youth education around climate change in a fresh and engaging way through the launch of their new program, Carbon Free Thinkers. The initiative speaks to the prevalent disconnect between awareness of climate change and solutions.

“The goal of Carbon Free Thinkers is to inspire collective visioning about what a low carbon future could look like in our province,” says Katie Abriel, Climate Change Program Manager at Clean Nova Scotia. “Climate change education traditionally focuses on the negative aspects of climate change, which tends to leave people feeling helpless and apathetic. Carbon Free Thinkers is breaking the mold by talking about the science and impacts of climate change, but focusing on solutions and celebrating the successes we already have here in Nova Scotia,” says Abriel.

To creatively raise awareness around low carbon living and climate change issues, the Carbon Free Thinkers are launching the Free Thinkers Festival, a new Halifax-based event which combines music, art and public education. The first annual Free Thinkers Festival will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 in the McInnes Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building in Halifax.

“One of the main features of this program is that it aims to include youth in the conversation,” says Gina Patterson, Program Director for Clean Nova Scotia. According to a recent poll done by Teens Now Talk Magazine, climate change is the number one issue that young people in Atlantic Canada want to know more about when it comes to the environment. “We are excited that the magazine is sending some young journalists to cover the festival. They will be participating in activities and reporting on climate change in their own words,” says Patterson.

The Festival has been constructed to include a daytime youth conference with keynote speakers, interactive educational workshops and open-space discussions to promote dialogue and feedback from youth participants.

- 30 -

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She can connect you to Katie Abriel, Gina Patterson...and more. www.clean.ns.ca

Backgrounder

About Clean Nova Scotia

Clean Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1988. Over the last 20 years, the organization has evolved into an effective, high profile institution with a broad mandate to work with individuals, government, businesses and communities to improve our environment. Clean Nova Scotia seeks to create a cleaner, healthier environment by informing, enabling and inspiring Nova Scotians to respect and consider the environment in all their choices.

About Carbon Free Thinkers

Carbon Free Thinkers is a new program delivered by Clean Nova Scotia's Climate Change Education Department and is funded by Nova Scotia Environment. The program engages children and young people by delivering free, curriculum-linked educational workshops on climate change and sustainability. The program also provides more informal educational youth outreach and events to promote awareness and action on climate change.

For more information about Clean Nova Scotia and the Carbon Free Thinkers program, please visit www.clean.ns.ca

About the Free Thinkers Festival

The Free Thinkers Festival is a celebration of local culture, diversity, sustainability & freedom, "*where science meets heart.*" This inaugural event will offer a youth-focused conference (ages 16 to 30) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2012 in the McInnes Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building in Halifax. This conference is free for youth and registration is available online through www.clean.ns.ca.

Throughout the day participants can expect special guest facilitators and presentations from community partners including HeartWood, Teens Now Talk Magazine, Dalhousie University, The Atlantic Science Links Association, the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, as well as other Clean Nova Scotia programs including Green Schools, Adopt a Watershed and DriveWiser/DriveLess.

Doors will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for the evening portion which includes a sustainable, local market and a rock show featuring event headliners Keith Mullins and local rock sensation, Gloryhound.

For more information or to register for the Free Thinkers Festival, visit: www.clean.ns.ca.

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