



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Youth engage in sustainability and community at the Free Thinkers Festival**

Dartmouth, N.S. – Grade 9 to 12 students will engage in discussions and activities to promote sustainable living on April 27 at the 2013 Free Thinkers Festival. Offering free, interactive, hands-on workshops for youth as part of the day's festivities, the Free Thinkers Festival is scheduled from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Citadel High School in Halifax.

The Free Thinkers Festival is offered by Carbon Free Thinkers, a youth education program of Clean Nova Scotia which offers in-class, curriculum aligned education to youth both in and out of the classroom on issues of climate change and sustainability. The Festival supports the work of the Carbon Free Thinkers, providing youth with the opportunity to recognise the positive impact they can have on their community by understanding how daily interactions and lifestyle choices can affect our natural environment.

“By bringing youth into the conversation, we encourage them to look not only for sustainable solutions for themselves, but for their local and global community as well,” says Denise Whynot, manager of the Sustainability Education Department at Clean Nova Scotia. “Too often we focus on environmental problems and don't recognize and celebrate the positive actions of people in our homes, schools and communities. These actions trigger a powerful ripple effect that has impact across the province and into the world. Carbon Free Thinkers wants to give youth a voice to discuss the issues and solutions available in our communities.”

Festival highlights include special guest facilitators and presentations from community partners including the Ecology Action Centre, CanBike, Common Roots Garden, The Wooden Monkey, IfYouBuildIt, and Clean Nova Scotia programs including Green Schools, Discover Your Watershed and DriveWiser/DriveLess. In addition to workshops and presentations, there will be opportunity for youth from across the province learn and collaborate together by sharing environmental successes and new project ideas.

Students are encouraged to save their spot at the Festival by registering online:

[clean.ns.ca/carbonfree](http://clean.ns.ca/carbonfree).

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## BACKGROUNDERS

### **About Clean Nova Scotia**

Clean Nova Scotia is a Dartmouth based non-profit that seeks to create a cleaner, healthier, sustainable environment by informing, enabling and inspiring Nova Scotians to respect the environment in all of their choices. Committed to making our province a better place, Clean Nova Scotia aims to educate the public through an array of programs, services and resources on ways to protect streams, reduce waste, save energy and much more.

Founded in 1988, Clean Nova Scotia has since evolved into the largest environmental organization in Atlantic Canada, engaging thousands of Nova Scotians annually.

To learn more about Clean Nova Scotia visit [clean.ns.ca](http://clean.ns.ca).

### **About Carbon Free Thinkers**

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

To learn more about Clean Nova Scotia's Carbon Free Thinkers program visit [clean.ns.ca/carbonfree](http://clean.ns.ca/carbonfree).

### **About the Free Thinkers Festival**

The Free Thinkers Festival is a celebration of local culture, diversity, sustainability and freedom, "where science meets heart." This youth-focused conference event challenges grades 9 to 12 students across Nova Scotia to adopt sustainable living into many facets of their lives. This year, the Free Thinkers Festival is taking place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at Citadel High School in Halifax. This conference is free for youth and registration is available online: [www.clean.ns.ca/freethinkersfestival](http://www.clean.ns.ca/freethinkersfestival).