

Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education

2022-2023

Program Package



Alberta Council for
Environmental Education
ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ALBERTA



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Overall, we believe that if all Albertans are given better environmental education, we can work together to create a brighter future for everyone.

**- Sasha A,
AYLEE Student**



The Alberta Council for Environmental Education

Founded in 2005, the Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) works collaboratively to advance environmental education in Alberta. Although we embrace and support environmental education for ALL audiences in Alberta, we're particularly interested in supporting young people: we believe that educating today's youth to be tomorrow's environmental stewards is our best strategy to create a sustainable future. We also believe that youth voices must be included when discussing what students should be learning about and how - education is, after all, supposed to be about supporting them. Our Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education (AYLEE) program is designed to do exactly that, bringing youth voices to forefront of the education system. Learn more about us at www.abcee.org



The Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education

The Alberta Youth Leaders for Environmental Education (AYLEE) program is for grades 7-12 youth and teachers across Alberta. AYLEE provides members with opportunities to connect with like-minded folks; learn about the environment, energy, and climate change; collaborate on projects that advance environmental education and climate action; present at and host various environmental and/or education related meetings and events across the province; and take action within their schools to help build a brighter, more sustainable future. To see what AYLEE members have worked on in recent years, check out our website: www.abcee.org/aylee

We know our teachers can't teach us about climate change, the environment, and energy if they don't know enough themselves. So, we call for the education of our teachers on these topics and the provision of up-to-date resources for teaching about climate change.

- Stephen M.

Program Goal

To encourage youth to advocate for advanced environmental, energy, and climate change education in Alberta, leading them to inform regional and provincial policy, create change within the K-12 education system, and become climate leaders in their schools, communities, and province.

Program Outcomes

Youth emerge from the AYLEE Program:

- able to connect and collaborate with other education stakeholders who share their value of social and environmental justice.
- knowledgeable on the environment, energy, climate change, and the Alberta education system - and are hopeful for the future.
- skilled, confident advocates for change with with decision makers across Alberta having heard, and given consideration to, student arguments in support of increased environmental, energy, and climate change education in the province.



AYLEE 2022/23 Calendar

September						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

November						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

May						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Legend

AYLEE biweekly meeting at 5:00pm*

AYLEE movie night at 6:00pm

Oct. 15-17 | 2022 AYLEE Summit

Feb. 25-26 | AYLEE Planning Weekend

Jun. 3-4 | AYLEE Celebration

More events and opportunities will be added throughout the year.

*Meeting times are subject to change based on student availability.



Biweekly Meeting Themes

September

- introductions and the importance of climate action
- defining AYLEE

October

- climate experiences and mental health
- building connections and public outreach

November

- climate change communications
- climate solutions

December

- youth leadership
- taking climate action

January

- Alberta's education system
- youth climate action projects

February

- environmental education
 - teacher & student highlights
- youth climate action projects

March

- engaging with the education system
- youth climate action projects

April

- AYLEE advocacy
- youth climate action projects

May

- sharing your story and outreach
- wrap up and what's next



Membership Levels

This year, there are 3 AYLEE membership levels: Movers, Shakers, and Change Makers. The levels have been designed so that you can participate in AYLEE based on what you're interested in and how much time you can dedicate. After you sign up for AYLEE, you will be asked which level you want to be part of so we can make sure you are getting sent the correct information throughout the year. Additionally, there will be flexibility within the levels - for example, Shakers and Change Makers will have the opportunity to choose which part(s) of the AYLEE advocacy plan they want to work on and how much time they dedicate to it. If you have questions about which membership level is right for you or about the flexibility of these levels, please contact us.

Movers

- Attend meetings and events featuring guest speakers
- join in on movie nights
- participate in social activities

Shakers

- Lead an action project at your school
- Attend project-focused biweekly meetings, and portions of planning days
- Support the implementation of the AYLEE advocacy plan

Changemakers

- Attend the majority of biweekly meetings and planning days
- Co-create an AYLEE advocacy plan and support the implementation of it
- Present at conferences and events
- Lead an action project at your school

Members from all three levels will have ACEE staff support in planning and carrying-out initiatives, as well as support from fellow AYLEE members.

Ultimately, education is about the students - Let our voices be heard, include student input in your work, give us a chair in the discussion.

- Jack L.

AYLEE Project Requirements



1

Become an EcoSchool - This will give you access to their 46 Eco-Actions, a school sustainability review tool to determine your action plan, resources to help you implement your project, and a way of tracking your progress to see the positive impact that you have this school year.

2

Attend the 2022 AYLEE Summit (October 15-17) and begin planning your project with the support of ACEE staff.

3

Use the [AYLEE Green Leaders Toolkit](#) to host an event for your school in November, December, or January to share your action plan and get more folks involved.

4

Submit your EcoSchools action plan and a budget for review.

5

Attend 5 project-focused biweekly meetings between January and May.

6

Share the story of your project through a medium of your choice (eg. written story, video, photo journal, mural, etc.).

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can sign up?

Any interested grades 7-12 youth who are passionate about and value social and environmental justice can sign up AND teachers with an environmentally focused class or club can sign up to have their students participate in AYLEE.

How can I sign up as a youth?

Fill out our [Youth Sign-Up Form for 2022/23](#)! Once you sign up, our Youth and Program Coordinator will reach out to you!

How can I sign up as a teacher?

Fill out our [Teacher Sign-Up Form for 2022/23](#)! Once you sign up, our Youth Program Coordinator will reach out to you!

What is expected of participating youth?

Depending on your choice of membership level, we expect that you will attend various meetings and events. Of course, we recognize that as students, you do have busy lives so we understand if you are unable to make a meeting here and there, but we ask that you please let us know in advance if you are unable to attend. In addition to the meetings, if you are in the Shaker or Changemaker group, we expect that you will implement a climate action project in your school following our project requirements. If you are a Changemaker, it is also expected that you work on and help implement an AYLEE advocacy plan - this may include creating social media posts, writing articles, meeting with education leaders, or presenting at events. Reading this may sound like a lot but don't worry! We have made the program flexible so that you can participate at a level that works with your schedule and if at any point you need to take a step back, you are encouraged to do so - we don't want to see you burn out, we want to see you thrive and have fun!



“We need to find a more sustainable way to create energy and then make sure as students we really understand this so that we can have a future and so that we can really help with our future” - Subashini Thangadurai, Queen Elizabeth High School, Calgary

Frequently Asked Questions

What do youth need to do to prepare?

Once you sign up, we will reach out to you to answer any questions you may have and provide you with more information about what the program will look like this year. To prepare for the program, we do ask that you (or your parent/guardian if you are under 18) fill out a Media Permission form.

What is expected of me as a teacher?

Throughout the school year, we will be having virtual biweekly meetings and occasional planning days on the weekend. You don't have to attend these but you are more than welcome - we always appreciate a teacher's perspective! We do expect, however, that you encourage your students to attend these meetings and help to ensure that they are up-to-date. Additionally, we expect that when an in-person public speaking opportunity or an AYLEE gathering is scheduled, you assist in coordinating with your students as you would a typical field trip to ensure students can attend and participate in these unique opportunities.

What do teachers need to do to prepare?

Once you sign up, we will reach out to you to answer any questions you may have and provide you with more information about what the program will look like this school year. The two pieces that you will need to do: sign-up the students from your class or club that will be participating and have each of them fill out a Media Release form - how to do this will be included when we email you.

How will this program be impacted by COVID-19 ?

Seeing as the COVID-19 situation continues to be ever-changing, we are staying flexible! The foundation of the program has always been virtual biweekly meetings as folks join from across the province - so those will not be affected. Every year we also have an AYLEE Summit in the fall which has typically been held in-person. For this year, we are looking at hosting a in-person event but this may change based on the regulations in place closer to the date. Additionally, we may have other in-person or virtual gatherings throughout the year. Lastly, we will still be providing public speaking opportunities for youth and we will assess each opportunity to determine if it will be in-person or virtual. Please reach out to our Youth Program Coordinator with any specific concerns you may have.

“Climate change is not just a scientific issue, but an economic, political, health, and socio-cultural issue as well. We need to understand this complexity and weave climate change into all aspects of learning.” -Sneha J.

Contact Information



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