



Stories of Climate Change Education

Toronto District School Board - Climate Literacy & Leadership Program

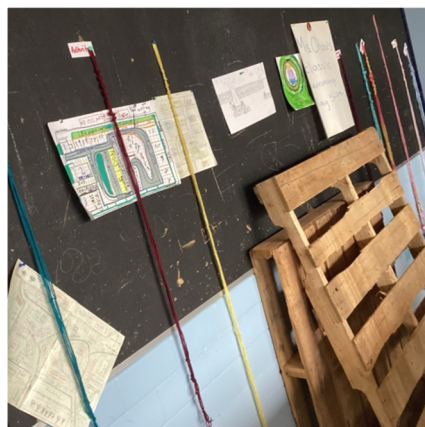
Climate, Community, and Cultivation

Growing food to address urban food insecurity and climate change

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Greenhouse collapses under heavy snow



Upcycling materials



Planting and growing food

Learning Outcomes:

- We will learn about climate and climate action through food growing
- I will be able to plant and harvest my own foods, on a balcony, garden or in community gardening co-ops

Climate Concepts:

Food is a climate system: Food is part of an interconnected climate system involving land, water, energy, labour, and transportation. Not all foods carry the same climate cost.

Food insecurity is a climate justice issue: Climate change deepens existing inequalities in food access

Growing food is an act of climate resilience: Growing food reconnects us to the land, the seasons, and community

Learning Activities:

The unexpected collapse of our greenhouse after a heavy snowfall, became a powerful learning opportunity to explore how our changing climate impacts urban food systems. The rebuilding process brought together multiple classes and departments, modelling resilience, teamwork, and adaptive problem-solving while making visible the real impacts of climate change. Throughout the project, students connected their understanding of food systems and climate through hands-on, inquiry-based learning, sustainable design, and community collaboration.

<p>Together, we...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned about climate, weather patterns, and growing regions, with attention to how climate influences food production. • Examined urban environments to identify and reflect on local growing opportunities within our specific climate context. • Connected our actions of engaging in urban agriculture to abating food insecurities. • Sorted and planted seeds based on criteria such as plant height, yield, and accessibility to support inclusive growing practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and applied work skills by designing and running a plant sale, including organizing a simple production line. • Observed and documented plant growth timelines to better understand how long different food items take to grow. • Used recycled and refurbished materials to support both the classroom and greenhouse, reinforcing principles of sustainability, reuse, and environmental stewardship.
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food takes a lot of time to grow; we need to reduce the waste and plan ahead! • access to growing and / or purchasing food is an issue for many people in Canada, how can we help this issue (inquiry project) 	<p>Key Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach yourself videos on Youtube! • Green space, access to sunlight, and recycled containers • Enthusiasts of gardening is an asset :)