

BCLA CAC Brainstorming Meeting

Date: 4 August 2021

Summary of responses to questions asked via an interactive slide deck and Padlet.

* = dots added through the dot-ocracy activity to help rank interest in responses.

1. Share examples of what the BC library sector is doing / has done in response to the climate crisis

- Hosted the Seth Klein talk ***
- BCLA supporting the CoV Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) **
- Virtual staff meetings **
- Virtual programs **
- New iSchool course "Information in times of crisis" **
- Greener policies in libraries (e.g. procurement) **
- Started Climate Action Committee *
- Conference poster <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/78694> *
- Speaking at City Council, with MLAs, and MPs as a librarian *
- Repair and renew workshops *
- Science Literacy Week (climate theme in 2021) *
- NVCL programs - worked with DrawDown on climate change sessions, hosting a TEDx Countdown event in November *
- EV for moving materials *
- Libraries in the Global Arena series
- University wide committees
- Host information about how to install e-bike conversion kits

2. What is already happening in our wider communities? What actions have been taken outside the library? What opportunities can we contribute to?

- City of Vancouver Climate Action Plan ***
- Seth Klein's list of opportunities: <https://www.sethklein.ca/join-the-mobilization> ***
- Transition Towns: <https://transitionnetwork.org/> **
- Repair Initiatives being hosted at public libraries *
- UBC strategic priorities and Climate Action Plan *
- USA cancelled Keystone. Canada cancel local pipeline? *
- Clean BC energy programs - get word out about subsidies and audit programs
- Current BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy public feedback opportunity <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/community-partnerships/libraries/libraries-strategic-plan.pdf>
- BC cancelled municipal climate action grants
- Car companies beginning to offer more electric options.
- Community centres encouraging sustainable transportation - hosting quick charge stations for EVs, secure bike storage/end-of-trip facilities etc.
- Find places we can have influence. Look at what municipality or library has already done, said, or is doing on climate emergency? Is there a

declaration, is there a plan, is the library part of it? who are allies in your system (library and outside of library)?

- If there is a plan or strategy how could the library support or be a part of that? Is there internal work to do on that?

3. What can we bring to the discussion, particularly around public policy? What experiences or perspectives can we speak to? What is the unique role that libraries play within communities?

- Meeting space for local climate action organizations ****
- Strong collections of climate focused books ***
- Experience as emergency cooling and air quality shelters **
- Encouragement of civic engagement in the area of climate - townhalls, holding politicians to account (** and similar to #1 above)
- Public librarians are uniquely situated for understanding the interests and concerns of their patrons *
- Experience in communities that lost internet b/c of fires
- Libraries are seeing first hand the impacts of climate instability in communities - cooling centres, emergency stations for wildfires, Grand Forks and others haven't had internet because of fires so operational consideration there as well
- Viewed as accessible spaces so how can that be built upon
- Experience/engaged in local funding issues
- Educate customers about climate emergency.

4. How do we best serve communities, especially those that are most impacted by the systems that caused climate change, related risks and impacts, and the possible negative or positive impacts from solutions? What priorities or needs do we need to highlight?

- Ensure BCLA Statements/Policies include an equity lens in any proposed solutions/recommendations ****
- Use the terms Climate Crisis or Climate Emergency (instead of the more neutral Climate Change) in our internal and external communications, to align our message with science and the level of response we expect ***
- Foster strong relationships with local First Nations **
- Educate policy makers about Seth Klein's 4 markers and Gates' 5 questions **
- Recognize that settlers have ravaged ecosystems in this area for hundreds of years **
- Make visible to patrons available supports for accessing alternative heating/cooling, transportation (e.g. grants for electric vehicles, upgraded heating equip etc.) **
- Make information about consumer choices available (e.g. how to choose the most fuel-efficient [thing]) **
- How can we support unhoused citizens during heat waves? (shelter, cooling stations, sunscreen, potable water, etc.) **
- Seniors (and especially those who live alone) were inordinately impacted by the recent heat wave - how can we support them? **
- Listen to patrons complaints about environmental pollution impacting people most at risk, stand with them and amplify their messages. **
- Advocating gov solutions have an equity lens
- Solutions that are accessible to everyone
- Foster strong relationships with local First Nations

5. How can we contribute? What are the places where we can have influence or contribute?

- Libraries become climate emergency action centres *****
- Include climate emergency as continued strong BCLA conference theme. *****
- Sharing of resources (books, computers etc.) is fundamentally better for climate *****
- In assessing our own response and advocating for government response, let's use Seth Kleins 4 markers [of effective government institutional emergency response]: *****
 - It spends what it takes to win;
 - It creates new economic institutions to get the job done;
 - It shifts from voluntary and incentive-based policies to mandatory measures;
 - It tells the truth about the severity of the crisis and communicates a sense of urgency about the measures necessary to combat it.
- Incorporate climate emergency lens to all our other projects; incorporate in our planning models, templates, strategic plans. *****
- Hosting climate conversations/dialogues *****
- Ensure the BCLA conference is as sustainable as possible (e.g. options for remote participation, prioritizing green locations, incentives for sustainable travel to the conference venue, locally sourced refreshments). Continued virtual conferencing. *****
- Well developed library collections on the climate emergency/supporting education *****
- Annual climate emergency awareness week (like BC Shakeout) ***
- Culture shift and mobilization? Making climate change part of our consciousness ***
- BCLA continue hosting climate/library education webinars ***
- Further to awareness week idea. Could all BC libraries participate in day of climate awareness? Just to get the ball rolling. Could incorporate statements/commitments, displays, featured resources. ** (like idea above)
- Support libraries to reduce own emissions. (Upgrade heating/cooling, reduce travel, electrify fleets.), share successes **
- Permit staff to work from home where possible (reduce commute emissions) **
- Continue to raise climate emergency issues in sector conversations ; encourage libraries to include in strategic plans. **
- Might BCLA have an opportunity to help advocate/lobby to municipal governments for funding to make those changes? *
- Create resources for library staff with information on organizations, options for climate action focused programming (something to assist programmers looking for inspiration/resources) **
- Help libraries and funders make the direct connection between tackling the climate emergency and well-resourced libraries. **
- Permit staff at multi-location libraries to 'trade' positions if closer to home (reduce commute emissions) *
- Ensure proper bicycle infrastructure at our library locations (e.g., bike racks) *
- Purchase electric vehicles for library delivery fleets *
- Assemble and present info, facts, research *
- Cooperate with other types of orgs that also do sharing (Modo car sharing etc.)
Teen outreach to include climate crusaders (for lack of a better term) component
- Be proactive not mopping up (though emergency services are in the libraries' wheelhouse too)
- Convert library heating/cooling systems to electric, heat pumps, geothermal etc.

- Educate staff (and customers) about what is causing global warming (ie carbon dioxide emissions from the extraction of fossil fuels and the burning of fossil fuels for transportation, heating/cooling and industry) (majority answered wrong on national survey). Focus our efforts.
- BC/Fed governments for grants/transfers to help fund these costs?
- Tackle both internal and external spheres of influence. Lobby/support governments, partner with other associations/orgs, reduce our internal BCLA emissions, and support library members to reduce their internal library emissions.
- What are ways the sector can support and encourage each other
- Action at political systemic level
- What's possible within our systems and users
- Guest at WOSK centre U of Massachusetts and she has shifted her job to be about climate emergencies -- earthquake awareness week and they have a climate awareness week across Mass. They do all sorts of things, grab and go kits, education, plants, annual event -- bring her in to the dialogue series
- Encourage people to talk about it in local municipalities and supporting connecting people to talk about it
- Climate action plans for smaller municipalities - City of Nelson
- Make climate component as part of the annual conference. Facilitated conversation, check in, inspiration, support