

# Moving towards Net Zero through Community-Engaged Learning

The **Network to Net Zero project** is building pathways for students to support climate change mitigation efforts in communities. Partners from the University of Victoria, the University of Alberta, the University of Regina, and U-links Centre for Community-Based Research are creating climate change-themed placements for almost 1400 post-secondary students across Canada.

## What does net zero mean?

The net zero approach aims to reduce further global climate change, through activities that reduce carbon emissions (e.g., using alternative energy sources) and remove carbon from the atmosphere (e.g., expanding forests).



## What is community-engaged learning?

Community-engaged learning offers opportunities for students to work directly with community-based organizations as part of their coursework and reflect on their experiences within classroom learning. This is sometimes called “community-service learning”.

## How are communities contributing to net zero?

Some examples:

- Carbon reduction technologies
- Nature-based solutions (e.g., protecting greenspaces)
- Climate change/sustainability education, advocacy, and policymaking
- Exploring broader social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of climate change



## How can students help communities reach their climate change goals?

Some examples:

- Help organizations develop a net zero pledge
- Measure carbon emissions/reductions within an organization or sector
- Conduct literature reviews about climate change
- Create communications to encourage climate change action
- Plan climate change-themed events



## Community-campus climate change projects across Canada

University of Victoria students led arts-based activities with high school groups in the Living with Climate Change project

Western University students issued a survey to London, Ontario residents about low-carbon transportation options as part of the Community Energy Knowledge-Action Partnership

University of Toronto students supported the City of Toronto Economic Transition to a Net Zero City initiative

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