Cool Tools for Scaling Up Collective Climate Action Through Neighbourhoods and Schools
Stephen Sheppard and Kanchi Dave, Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning, University of British Columbia

Wednesday November 20
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Offered at no charge

This workshop introduces 'Cool Tools' for place-based climate action that can be used to support community-led programs with trained volunteers such as neighborhood champions, Climate Ambassadors, and middle-school students. Drawing on previous research reviews and successful pilot programs (e.g., Greenbloc, Cool Block, Cool Climate Network, Green Ninja, Citizens Coolkit), the workshop will introduce the principles behind the tools, the tools themselves, and how such tools can be embedded in ongoing social mobilization programs. Leading innovators and behavioural action practitioners will provide their insights on what works and what doesn't in scaling up use of such tools.

The hands-on component of the workshop will focus on the fun exercises, place-based experiential learning and digital media/visuals that have been effective in engaging, capacity-bullding, and motivating action within communities. Case study examples include mapping & rating exercises for your city block (Coolkit/R.E.A.C.H. program), interactive websites for comparing home energy demand with neighbors (Community Energy Explorer/Cool Climate Network), future visioning for your neighborhood, and curricula/lesson plans for energy efficiency and renewables (Green Ninja/Coolkit). Various calculators and educational videogame tools for carbon, energy and climate change will also be showcased.

Workshop format: Lecture; hands-on activities, group discussion, and case studies

Who should attend: All experience levels

About the instructors:

Stephen Sheppard, Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning, University of British Columbia
Stephen Sheppard, PhD., ASLA, is a Professor in Forest Resources Management at the University of British Columbia, teaching in landscape and climate change planning, community engagement, and visualization. He has served as Director of UBC's Bachelor of Urban Forestry program and directs the Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning (CALP), an interdisciplinary research group which works with communities on developing climate change and energy solutions. He has over 30 years experience in environmental assessment, aesthetics, landscape planning and public involvement. He has published four books, including Visualizing Climate Change from Earthscan/Routledge. His research interests include engaging citizens in low-carbon resilient communities, sea-level rise planning, energy effects of urban forests, and videogames as an educational tool on climate change. He leads UBC's Research Cluster of Excellence on Cool Tools: Social Mobilization on Climate Change using Digital Tools.

Kanchi Dave, Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning, University of British Columbia
Graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Earth Sciences and a minor in Environmental Sciences from the University of British Columbia (UBC). Experience in geographical Information systems (GIS), geology, sustainability, and environmental science. Kanchi has worked in both research, as an Undergraduate Researcher in a geo-microbiology lab, and the environmental services industry, as a Community Energy Specialist and Climate Planning Coordinator for the University of British Columbia.

Being a strong believer in equity, Kanchi has also volunteered as a peer supporter, mental health advocate, active witnessing workshop facilitator, homework club tutor for English as a second language (ESL) high school students, and as a student leader organizing large scale academic and professional development events for her science peers.