

B L S Y o u t h C A N

# Newsletter

Climate Change Summit 2008





## The 2008 Global Climate Change Summit

Libby Shrobe

This year our Summit had a very diverse group of participants and speakers. We had roughly 230 attendees, spanning from 6<sup>th</sup> grade all the way to very experienced teachers. Our presenters ranged in background from network coordinators, to green architects to city planners. Our Keynote speaker was James Hunt III, head of the Boston's Environmental Department. We also had the Mayor himself, Thomas M. Menino, stop by to give the welcoming address. Susan Hockfield, president of MIT gave a welcome on behalf of MIT, encouraging everyone to keep up his or her hard work and dedication to the cause. Having these three diverse, high powered speakers helped give our Summit the seriousness it warranted.

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The day consisted of workshops led by people from all walks of life. We had Liz Soper of the National Wildlife Federation speaking about climate literacy for educators. Ted Landsmark led a workshop for students about green architecture. We had the New England aquarium do a presentation on effects of climate change in relation to the ocean. Corporate Accountability led a workshop on their initiative called "Think Outside the Bottle," promoting tap water and reusable containers over commercial disposable water bottles. Brian Rose from MIT led a session about the science of global warming, Amanda Fencel from the Stockholm Environmental Institute led a session on sustainable living. We had Paul Shoemaker from the Boston Public Health Commission address the health effects associated with global warming, and Lilah Glick of Clean Water Action lead a workshop on climate change activism. We even had a workshop about how the food we eat impacts global warming. All tolled, there were 12 workshops in session I and 12 more workshops in session II. All the workshop facilitators were from different professions and experiences, which ensured that a diverse range of knowledge would be shared. Feedback from the sessions was very positive, so it seems like we had a good mix!



The attendees of the Summit were just as diverse. We had people from over 62 different schools in attendance (more than 70 registered!) Student participants ranged in age from grades six through twelve. A majority were from Boston Public schools including Boston Latin School, Madison Park High, Boston Latin Academy, the John D. O'Bryant and the Timilty just to mention a few. But we also had students from Newton, Revere, Arlington, and Brookline. We even had one group from Maine!

However, the attendees weren't only students! We also had about 35 educators who attended in the hopes of learning how to incorporate climate education into their classrooms. The teachers too came from a wide range of schools and taught various grade levels and subjects. We had history teachers, science teachers, math teachers and a Latin teacher. There were four separate sessions for educators only, offering a variety of ways to approach climate change education. The diversity of all the participants of the Summit, presenters, students and educators made the day much more valuable as people were able to learn from each other and get new perspectives. Knowledge was shared and some new connections were formed. Without the diversity of the group, the Global Climate Change Summit wouldn't have lived up to its full potential.



## Advertising and Promoting the Summit

Michela West, Grade 8, BLS

There were lots of climate related events that Youth CAN members attended prior to the Summit to help get the word out about our event. In the fall of 2007, we went to the Alt Wheels Festival in September and manned a table handing out flyers about the Summit. We went to the Step It Up 2 Rally in November, and the MCAN Conference at MIT in November. In the spring of 2008, we went to the Boston Green Tea Party Building Expo at the World Trade Center on March 11th to get the word out, and to the New England Aquarium's Ocean Climate Summit on March 18th. We also met with MEOP students at Bunker Hill Community College on Thursday, March 20th and with the teen ambassadors for the Boston Nature Center on Wednesday April 16th to promote our event. One of the events that I attended was the Down 2 Earth Expo at the Hynes Convention Center, where Youth CAN also had a table for three days at the end of March. We handed out Summit flyers and talked to lots of different people who attended the event, explaining about our Summit. It was fun to walk around at the expo and talk to the vendors about our Summit. We got lots of free food and samples. I watched a green fashion show with environmentally friendly clothing. My favorite part was cooking demonstration area about alternative foods. A bunch of the Youth CAN students (me included) tried the fried grasshoppers served with rice! They actually weren't that bad. The grasshoppers were pretty tasteless. The little red bugs were a bit sour with a slightly lemony flavor. John Carney ate a ton of really ugly bugs, he was fearless! I took some home to my father and brother, but they wouldn't even try them. We had a great time at the D2E Expo. I hope to go again next year!



## Leading the Youth CAN Summit Planning Committee

Queen Arsem-O'Malley,  
Grade 11, BLS

Planning the 2008 Climate Change Summit was a completely different experience than I had during the planning for the first year. First of all, we were considering two different types of audience who would be in attendance: students and educators. This helped us decide what workshops were necessary, and changed the structure of the Summit. Instead of long workshops, we decided on shorter informative sessions to allow time for a networking session, where everyone participated in a brainstorming process. This seemed to be something that would be more interactive and beneficial with regard to our long term goals. This year's planning was also easier in some ways, because we had more contacts to reach out to for speakers and sponsors, as well as the materials from last year's Summit to show our previous work. Our priorities were better organized, and planning went faster and smoothly, after everything we learned from last year. Now, with our growing network, we can have still a bigger and better Summit 09!



## Overall Impressions of the 2008 Youth CAN Global Climate Change Summit at MIT

Michela West, Grade 8, BLS

I've grown up visiting MIT. My mom worked there, my dad worked there, and I was one of the first people to hear about MIT's new energy initiative. When I heard the Youth CAN's Climate Summit was going to be at MIT I thought it was a great location for an event about global warming. I liked it even better when I got to the Summit and saw how Youth CAN had used the space in the Stata Center. I had always seen the indoor "street" part of Stata as useless empty space, but Youth CAN had it filled chock full of vendors and organizations presenting information about climate change, energy, green programs, and more. As I walked past the different booths, and saw Clean Power Now, promoting the Cape Wind project, and Bikes Not Bombs promoting alternative transportation, I was really encouraged to see that Youth CAN was practicing what they preach. I was excited to see a tall banner stating that all the energy used at the Summit was being off set by a carbon offset donations from the Massachusetts Energy Consumer's Alliance. Even the cups we used at lunch were made of corn and were completely compostable! Seeing the partnership between MIT and Youth CAN gives me hope that large institutions can join us little people in saving the environment, one Summit at a time!

# Climate Classroom Teen Action Grants

For 70 years, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has pioneered environmental education and connected people of all ages with nature. Today NWF is working hard to raise awareness about the threat to people and wildlife from climate change, and teaching skills necessary to create solutions.

Youth CAN is proud that the National Wildlife Federation has provided a special opportunity to help encourage participation in our climate action network at this year's Summit. For youth interested in taking action to address the problem of climate change, ten,

## **\$1,000 climate action grants**

will be made available to summit attendees. Grant recipients will receive funding for the implementation of teen-led action projects. To be eligible for these grants educators and/or students with adult co-sponsors must apply to Boston Latin School Youth CAN.

### Our Climate Action Grant Applicants

- Bromfield Environmental Group
- Milton Academy Youth CAN
- Red Grey and Green  
Fessenden, West Newton
- Runkle School Environmental  
Action Club
- Roots and Shoots Buttonwood  
Park Zoo
- Winthrop HS Project Verde
- Mission Hill School
- BLA Youth CAN
- 3rd Eye Unlimited New Bedford
- East Boston HS
- Revere H.S. Green Team
- Codman Academy Youth CAN
- Cambridge CAN (King School)
- Sprouts of Hope

The **Youth Climate Action Network** is a student-led initiative founded by students at the Boston Latin School. We currently have six schools in our network: Boston Latin School Youth CAN, Boston Latin Academy Youth CAN, Cambridge CAN (King School), Milton Academy Youth CAN, Codman Academy Youth CAN, and Arlington Youth CAN.

Our mission is to take effective action in our communities and beyond to address the problem of global warming. Becoming a Youth CAN group means that your group will collaborate with other Youth CAN groups several times a year to take action about climate change. The 2008 – 2009 Youth Climate Action Network Initiative is to plan and host a Public Hearing about requiring climate education in Massachusetts schools.

Sign up to receive a starter kit at [www.blsyouthcan.org](http://www.blsyouthcan.org) The starter kit will give you the resources and tools you need to get your group going. If you need extra support, feel free to sign up for an email buddy, or schedule a time for Youth CAN members to come talk to your group. All of these resources are on our web site's network page

<http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Networking.html>

## Visiting the Vendors at the Summit

Annie McDonnell, Grade 8, BLS

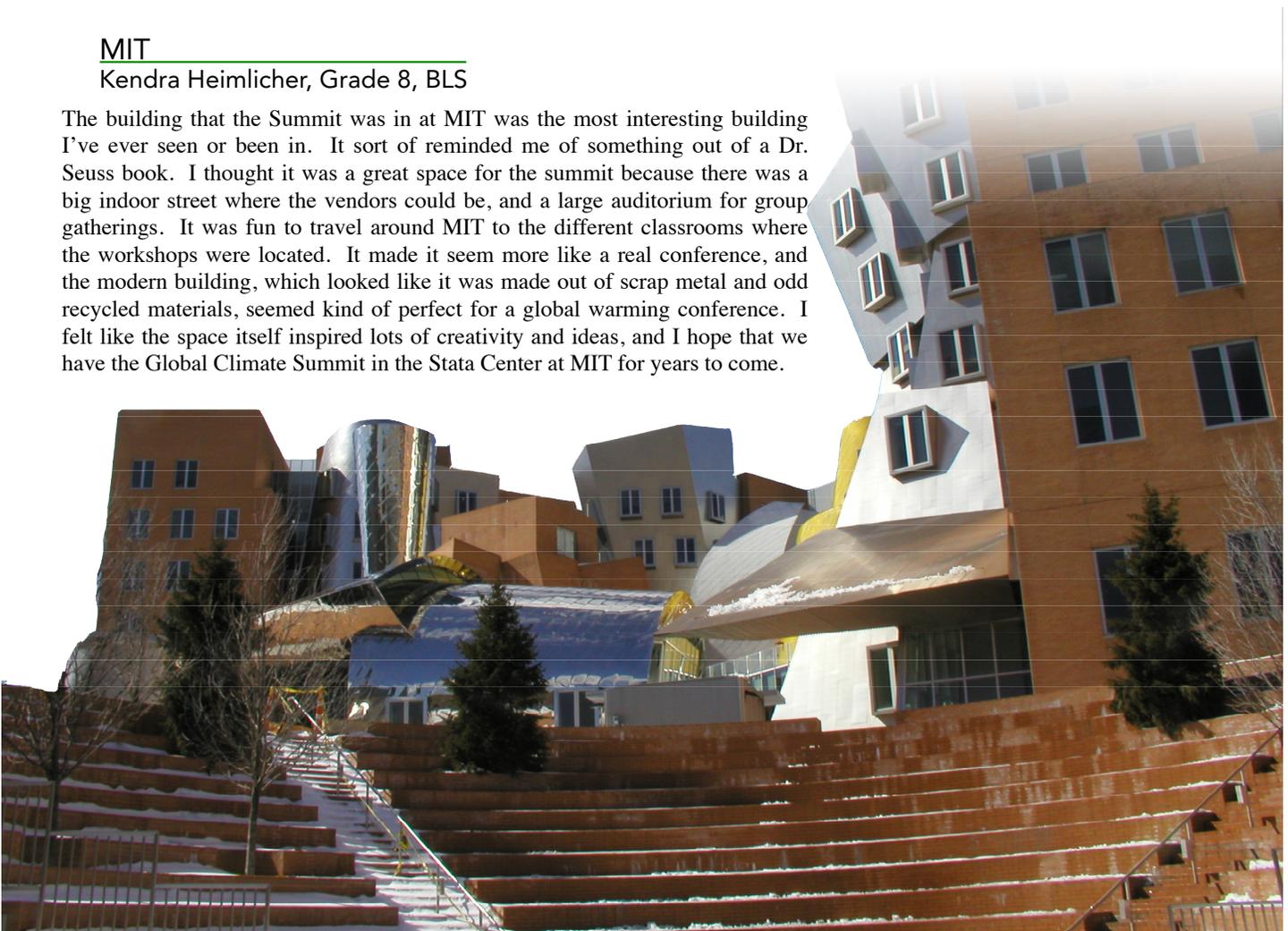
There were 13 different vendors who had displays at the Global Climate Summit. Each of them had interesting information about how to address global warming. Lots of them had things that they were giving away, and lots were also selling things. One vendor that really interested me was called Extras for Creative Learning. They collect and redistribute recycled materials available to any Boston Public School teacher for use in their classrooms. Their facility is located in the basement of Boston Latin Academy. The materials ranged from stickers to nail polish caps to yarn. I could think of lots of cool ways that teachers could use their materials for class projects and thought it was a really great idea to give a second life to all of those already used things. Another vendor that caught my eye were the people from Corporate Accountability International, who were there promoting their Think Outside the Bottle Campaign. They wanted people attending the climate summit to understand the negative impacts that the bottled water industry is having on the environment and on the privatization of public drinking water. They were selling reusable water bottles as an alternative to the plastic water bottles that are everywhere these days. From a flyer in their display, I learned that it takes about 1.5 million barrels of oil per year, which is enough to fuel 100,000 cars for that same year, to meet the American demand for bottled water. That's because PET, or polyethylene terephthalate, the plastic used in water bottles, is derived from crude oil. Unfortunately, once these bottles are made and used by us, most of them, four of every five, ends up in landfills, taking about 1,000 years to biodegrade, while they leak toxic additives from the plastics into our groundwater! I found out that incinerating the bottles instead of putting them in landfills causes an even bigger problem because the plastic bottles produces toxic byproducts such as chlorine gas and ash containing heavy metals. I really was inspired to start using a reusable water bottle instead of buying bottled water. It seems like such a small thing that I can do to help make a difference. I learned as much from visiting the vendor tables at the Summit as I did from going to the workshops! It was great.



## MIT

Kendra Heimlicher, Grade 8, BLS

The building that the Summit was in at MIT was the most interesting building I've ever seen or been in. It sort of reminded me of something out of a Dr. Seuss book. I thought it was a great space for the summit because there was a big indoor street where the vendors could be, and a large auditorium for group gatherings. It was fun to travel around MIT to the different classrooms where the workshops were located. It made it seem more like a real conference, and the modern building, which looked like it was made out of scrap metal and odd recycled materials, seemed kind of perfect for a global warming conference. I felt like the space itself inspired lots of creativity and ideas, and I hope that we have the Global Climate Summit in the Stata Center at MIT for years to come.



# Report

## 2008 Global Climate Change Summit @ MIT

Number of attendees	230
Registered Online	222
Registered Day of	65
Number of registered schools	72
Number of schools who attended	62
Number of teachers registered	42
Number of teachers attending	36

### Praise

- Networking session great
- I learned a lot in my workshop
- Excellent non-passionate analysis
- of data & suggested solutions
- Good connections made
- Door Prizes; Entertainment fun

### Criticism

- Remote workshop locations
- Workshops had some overlap
- Too many morning speakers

"I loved coming away from the day feeling empowered and inspired!"

### Workshops

2 Separate workshop sessions;	12 workshops in each session	4 educator workshops, repeated in both sessions
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### Workshops for Students

- The Science of Global Warming - Brian Rose, MIT
- Health Effects- Paul Shoemaker, Boston Public Health Commission
- Cape Wind: The Story- Jen Filiault, Chelsea Harnish, Clean Power Now
- How to Start Your Own Climate Action Group- Sasah Fried-Snoad & Zoe Fahy, Youth CAN
- Activism: Current Global Warming Legislation & What You Can Do- Lilah Glick, Clean Water Action
- Sustainable Living- Amanda Fencl, Stockholm Environment Institute – US Centre
- Green Architecture & Green Design- Ted Landmark, Boston Architectural College
- Think Outside The Bottle - Deborah Lapidus, Corporate Accountability Int'l.
- Effects on Oceans- Jenna Sigman & Bronwyn Cooke, New England Aquarium
- The Story of Stuff & Too Much Trash Designs (both sessions) - Libby Shrobe, Ava Buchanan, Kyla Werlin, Youth CAN
- The Food We Eat & Climate Change- Sara Sullivan, RocknRenew
- Filming Public Service Announcements (both sessions) - Rob DiNinni, Stage Coach Improv, Joe Gels, Improv Jones
- Modeling Earth & Climate System Dynamics- Dr. Larissa Back, MIT; Amos Tai, Harvard Earth & Planetary Sciences; Joe Anderson, MIT
- Energy Programs- Janna Cohen-Rosenthal, Brandeis Univ., Adam Briggs Mass Energy Consumer's Alliance

### Workshops for Educators

- Climate Change Filmmaking in the Classroom For Educators- Mary Essary, Foresight Project
- Climate Literacy Curriculum- Liz Soper, National Wildlife Federation
- An Inconvenient Truth - Gore Slide Show- Ileana Jones, former teacher at Winsor School
- Climate Change for Educators- Pat Harcourt, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research

### Vendors & Organizations

- Bikes Not Bombs
- Corporate Accountability Int'l.
- Roots and Shoots
- Clean Power Now
- Do Something
- National Wildlife Federation
- NE Aquarium
- Marion Inst. Bioneers by the Bay
- Foundation for A Green Future (Green Roofs)
- Extras for Creative Learning
- NSTAR
- Transcendental Meditation Program
- Ethnic Pride Marketing
- Green Fox Schools, Inc. Environmental Solutions For Schools

### The Networking Session - Goals we talked about:

#### Expanding Youth Climate Action Network

One of the things we're also hoping to accomplish is to expand the youth climate action network by encouraging new youth climate action groups to form and become network member groups

#### Creating a Student/ Educator Coalition to Plan for a Public Hearing

We're also planning to create a coalition of youth and educators who will work together to promote climate change education in the schools by hosting a public hearing about requiring climate literacy curriculum in Massachusetts schools.

#### Climate Action Grant Applications

applications were available to Summit attendees for ten \$1,000 Climate Action Grants (funded by the National Wildlife Federation) to promote Youth CAN and climate action. 14 Groups submitted applications, four new Youth CAN groups joined the network!

### Morning Speakers

Mayor Thomas M. Menino | James Hunt III | Susan Hockfield (President of MIT) | Lynn Mooney-Teta (Headmaster of Boston Latin School) | Robert Keller, Keyspan Foundation | Liz Soper, National Wildlife Federation

### Specials

Boston Latin School Step Squad | Boston Events Imaging Photography Booth | Jonny Lives – a RocknRenew Band | Undecided, a green band from Andover HS | Tu Anh Phan, Spoken Word Artist | Teen Community Youth Organizers from the Hyde Square Task Force as guest speakers in the Networking Session | Boston City Councilor-At-Large John Connolly as guest speaker in Networking Session.

## The Vendor Displays Anonymous, Grade 8, BLS

My favorite thing at this year's Summit was new. I went to the Summit last year, but there weren't any vendors. This year, the minute I walked in, my eye was drawn to the rows of tables with colorful displays, flyers, and friendly people stationed all around the main area of the building. By stopping at a table and listening to the people at the table, you could walk away with a little knowledge about an amazing number of issues, and get free goodies like highlighters, buttons and pens. There were even organizations there, like the National Wildlife Federation, who was giving out applications for ten \$1,000 climate action grants to help youth groups who want to take action about global warming.



The Cape Wind table was giving out information about the windmills proposed for Cape Cod. There was a group from New York, the Do Something Organization, which has an online site where youth can organize and take action on lots of different issues ([www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)) They were encouraging students to create a public service announcement and enter it in a contest that they are currently sponsoring. The winners get to go to New York and meet the band Fall Out Boy! There were even vendors who were selling things like jewelry and t-shirts. The variety of tables really added a lot to the summit. Without them everyone would have gone home with much less knowledge and way fewer stickers!

## The Networking Session Roger Lu, Grade 8, BLS

This year's Summit was totally awesome. The events, workshops, and even the food were all top notch. But the one thing I really appreciated was the networking session at the end. Youth CAN split up the very large number of attendees into smaller 4-5 people groups which then thought about how to make a network and what things would be important to maintaining one. After that we heard from city councilor John Connolly and the Hyde Square Task Force students who pushed for civics education in schools last year. It was really amazing to hear from the Hyde Square students because they were a youth group, just like Youth Can! It was astounding to see just how far they went forward with their initiative, holding public hearings and talking with legislators. They were kind enough to share some of the lessons that they learned from their own experiences. Following that, we split up into our small groups again, this time to brainstorm on how to hold our own public hearing. It was fun working together with people I'd never seen before. The atmosphere was kept casual and we had a few laughs along the way. Finally, we wrote up our ideas on a giant poster sized notepad to share with the others in the auditorium. It was great to see that lots of the people there were really learning from the experience and were thinking about what it takes to make a network really work.



## The Networking Session Hannah Mogul-Adlin, Grade 11, BLS

One of the major goals of this year's Global Climate Change Summit was to form a strong network. In the upcoming years, we plan to hold a public hearing to propose mandatory climate change education in Boston public schools. We decided to start this initiative at the summit, harnessing the creativity and ideas of all the attendees by holding a networking session in which we broke into small networking groups headed by BLS Youth CAN members.

Leading a group was challenging, but I was amazed at the volume and quality of ideas my group produced, especially in such a short amount of time. I had students, educators, and youth group members and leaders in my group, and everyone brought their unique perspective to meet our goal of trying to map out a rough plan of what this curriculum would entail. Teachers discussed the logistical aspects: maybe we would need to create a whole new department in schools for climate change education. Students tried to figure out how to make the curriculum as interesting as possible, with hand on lessons, field trips, and real-world applications.

# 2007-2008 BLS Youth CAN Report June 5, 2008

Youth CAN was founded 1/23/2007

## Spring 2007 Youth CAN Initiatives

### 1st Youth CAN meeting 1/23/07 – 7 Committees were created

<http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Committees.html>

**The Public Service Announcement Committee** sponsored an idea contest open to all BLS students. Contestants submitted proposals for a 2 minute PSA about global warming. The winning idea (\$100 prize) was made into a two-minute Public Service Announcement. Youth Summit PSA @ [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Photos\\_%26\\_Video.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Photos_%26_Video.html)

**The Recycling Committee** increased recycling of foam lunch trays by posting signs and assigning students to patrol the lunches more at [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Recycling\\_Committee.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Recycling_Committee.html)

**The Communications and Partnerships Committee** created a weekly update about Global Warming using BLS TV morning news; generated a Youth CAN Spring 2007 newsletter, [www.blsyouthcan.org/Newsletter/Newsletter.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Newsletter/Newsletter.html) & a website [www.blsyouthcan.org](http://www.blsyouthcan.org) The Energy Committee [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Energy\\_Committee.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Energy_Committee.html) organized the NSTAR Save A Light Light Bulb Drive, raising \$5,000 by selling energy efficient CFLs. Funds were used to pay for a global warming Youth Summit <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/files/lightbulb.pdf>

**The Activism Committee** [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Activism\\_Committee.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Activism_Committee.html)

The Activism Committee put together a 14 page activist's tool kit that was included as part of the Youth CAN starter kits issued to all participants at the Youth Summit (in hopes of generating the formation of additional Youth CAN groups at other schools) The committee also circulated a youth petition to auto makers asking for more energy efficient vehicles. See Starter Kit @ [www.blsyouthcan.org/files/Activists%27%20Toolkit.pdf](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/files/Activists%27%20Toolkit.pdf)

**The Events Committee** organized Youth CAN members attending the following events: Climate Rescue Day March 24th 2007, Step It Up Climate Rally April 14, 2007; Wake Up the Earth, May 5, 2007 [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Events\\_Committee.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Events_Committee.html)

**The Youth Summit Committee** planned and hosted a Global Warming Youth Summit in partnership with the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT. The Summit took place at MIT on May 19th 2007. More than 225 students attended representing 47 different schools across Massachusetts. 17 Speakers participated, offering 10 different workshop. Participants enjoyed a variety of climate change workshops, entertainment, and door prizes. [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Summit\\_07.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Summit_07.html)

## Fall 2007 events Youth CAN Attended

- Northeastern University – Massachusetts Youth Climate Action Conference (MYCA) – 9/23/07
- Altwheels - Boston City Hall Plaza 9/28 & 9/29/07 <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Alt-Wheels.html>
- Tufts & Corporate Accountability International Think Outside the Bottle – October 2007
- Step It Up 2 – November 3, 2007
- MCAN Conference @ MIT – November 18, 2007
- MYCA Meeting @ BU – December 2007

## Fall, Winter, & Spring Initiatives

**Stop Vehicle Idling at BLS** – See letter to Mayor asking for No Idling Signs <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

**Promoting Awareness in BPS** – See letter to Superintendent of Schools <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

**Letter to Mayor's Energy Office** (Nancy Grilk for James Hunt III) Asking for advice with energy efficiency

**Promoting Growth of Youth Climate Action Network**

3 new member groups - BLA Youth CAN, Cambridge CAN founded in June 08, Codman Academy Youth CAN, founded June 08

Outreach to Summit 07 Participants Promoting Youth CAN membership and Network 07/08 Initiatives

20 Youth CAN Starter Kits Issued

6 New Youth CAN Partner groups – BNC, BCAN, MYCA, NEAQ, BEAN, NWF <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Networking.html>

**Reducing Carbon Footprint** – Creation of Psychlists – Cycling Club at BLS; Reduction of Computer-on time BLS Library

**Raising Awareness @ BLS** - 7 Original Public Service Announcements created, filmed & aired (see website)

**Think Outside The Bottle Pledge Initiative** – 400 pledges collected [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Think\\_Outside\\_the\\_Bottle.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Think_Outside_the_Bottle.html)

**321 Energy Reduction Pledge Initiative** – 340 pledges collected

[http://www.blsyouthcan.org/The\\_3-2-1\\_Efficiency\\_Pledge.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/The_3-2-1_Efficiency_Pledge.html)

**BLS Auction Fundraiser**, Youth CAN advised and assisted with recycling

**BLS Faculty Energy Use Survey** Issued <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

**Focus the Nation Teach-in at BLS** [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Focus\\_the\\_Nation.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Focus_the_Nation.html)

Roundtable With 8 Public Servants (City Councilors, Mayor's Energy Office, State Senate)

Faculty-wide Teach-in on climate change – 40 faculty participated [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/For\\_Educators.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/For_Educators.html)

Educator Resource Sheet <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

Climate Change Street Theater in Lunches  
Rising Sea Level – Water Line in Building Marked with blue tape and sea creatures  
Poster Campaign (over 150 informational posters created and hung at BLS)  
Climate Change Film Series After School – 4 Films Screened  
FTN Photos [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/FTN\\_Pictures.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/FTN_Pictures.html)

#### **2nd Annual Global Climate Change Summit @ MIT** [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Summit\\_08.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Summit_08.html)

Programming for Youth and Educators (over 230 attended, representing 62 different schools, even more registered)  
Programming to Promote Growth of Youth Climate Action Network Member Groups (see flyer for networking session)  
Programming to Promote Youth/Educator Coalition aimed at planning a public hearing to advocate climate change education-follow up meeting scheduled during MCAN Conference on November 18, 2008 at MIT  
Ten \$1,000.00 Climate Action Grants made available through National Wildlife Federation Funding  
See grants page at [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Global\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Grants.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Global_Climate_Action_Grants.html)  
Check out 2008 Summit Schedule, as well as vendors, donors & detailed descriptions of workshops at 08 Summit pages

**Climate Action Grants** – thanks to generous funding from the National Wildlife Federation, Youth CAN has ten \$1,000 Climate Action Grants available to middle and high school groups who apply by June 6, 2008. Winners will be announced June 20, 2008 applications available at [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Global\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Grants.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Global_Climate_Action_Grants.html)

**Solar Challenge** – Mass Energy Consumer’s Alliance & New England Wind Fund, donation drive to earn solar panels for BLS see more at [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Solar\\_Challenge.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Solar_Challenge.html) and Mayor Menino’s support letter at <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

**Greening BLS** –Meeting w/NSTAR for Benchmarking – BLS Approved by NSTAR as Benchmarked School, scheduling of comprehensive energy audit is pending (fall of 2008); Solar Panel Capital Campaign preliminary planning

**Earth Day Computer Recycling at U Mass Boston for Mayor Menino**, Saturday, April 26 (over 500 pledges signed) see flyer at [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Events%3A\\_Earth\\_Day.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Events%3A_Earth_Day.html) and Jim Hunt’s thank you letter to Youth CAN @ <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

#### **Climate Change Film Series**

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## **Competitions Entered**

**Keyspan Foundation’s Do Something Environmental Sustainability Competition** - Winner! \$1,000 [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Do\\_Something.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Do_Something.html)

Daily Public Service Announcements in Library  
Letter to Faculty Asking For Support  
Think Outside the Bottle Pledge Campaign  
Recycling of Cans and Bottles at BLS  
Paper Drive – Competition Between the Classes  
Cycling to School  
Carbon Footprint Quiz Promotion [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Take\\_a\\_Carbon\\_Quiz.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Take_a_Carbon_Quiz.html)

**NWF’s Campus Climate Challenge Chill Out Competition** [http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Chill\\_Out.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Chill_Out.html)

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## **Spring 2008 Events**

Think Outside the Bottle Community Meeting **Thursday March 6th, from 6-7pm in the MassPIRG office at 44 Winter St.**  
Public Forum “The Boston Green Tea Party: An Energy Revolution” NESEA Building Expo World Trade Center **March 11<sup>th</sup> 6-8**  
Public Hearing Cape Wind Project UMass Boston **Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2008** from 4-8  
New England Aquarium’s Ocean Summit – **Tuesday, March 18, 2008** – UMass Boston  
Youth CAN Speaking Engagement – **Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** Bunker Hill Comm. Coll. MEOP Youth 3 – 5  
Youth CAN Speaking Engagement – Boston Nature Center – Speaking to Teen Ambassadors - 4:00, **Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Down2Earth Environmental Expo - **March 28-30<sup>th</sup> 2008** at the Hines Convention Center  
Mass Power Shift - **April 11-14** at Boston University – Youth CAN led workshop on how to start a Youth CAN group  
Alicia Zip (BLS School Site Council) Mtg. – proposal to City of Boston (Susan Cascino) for BLS YCAN to pilot recycling program  
Earth Day – Recycling Computers with Apple at U Mass Boston **Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008** – 500+ Mayor’s Climate Pledges collected  
Wake Up The Earth Festival – **Saturday, May 3, 2008**, Jamaica Plain  
Youth CAN’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Climate Change Summit **Saturday, May 10, 2008 @ MIT**  
Codman Academy 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Energy Awareness Open Studio – 6 – 8 Tuesday, **May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Planning Mtg. Northeast Climate Confluence – **Thursday, May 29 7PM** – 565 Boylston Street  
Urban Ecology Institute’s Green Teen Day – City Year Boston , 287 Columbus Ave. Saturday, **May 31<sup>st</sup> 11:30-3:30**  
Bikes Not Bombs’ 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Green Roots Festival – Sunday, **June 8<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 5:30** Stony Brook T - Park, Jamaica Plain  
Chelsea River Revel – Saturday, **June 14<sup>th</sup>** Meridian Street Bridge, East Boston, 10 – 3

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## **Fundraising Efforts**

#### **5 Grants Sought:**

Choosing to Participate Community Grant - denied  
Plum Grant - denied  
New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund Grant - denied  
Keyspan Foundation Grant – Received!  
National Wildlife Federation Grant – Received!  
Solicitation Letter to BLS Alumni

**Youth CAN in the News** - Argo, Herald, Globe, E-Magazine, West Roxbury Transcript, WBZ TV News & more  
[http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Youth\\_CAN\\_in\\_the\\_News.html](http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Youth_CAN_in_the_News.html)  
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**Youth CAN Brochure** - <http://www.blsyouthcan.org/Downloads.html>

## The Music

Kristen Wall, Grade 8, BLS

The music at the Summit was very entertaining and fun. It was an exciting experience to hear music from bands that are fighting to prevent global warming! I had never heard of the Jonny Lives band before the Summit, but their music was just as good as (if not better than) as many of the bands that I normally listen to every day. While I was listening to them play, I kept thinking to myself, if all of the bands I listen to fought to help a good cause like Jonny Lives does, the world would be a much better place. I was really impressed with the local band too. Undecided was very good, and even wrote an original song about the problem of climate change just for the Summit! Both bands gave great performances, all for a good cause. Bravo to Jonny Lives and Undecided. I wish they'd been selling cds!



## The Door Prizes

Anthony Betances, Grade 8, BLS

A great finale to my day at the Summit were the door prizes. Everyone was gathered in the auditorium, not knowing what was coming next. The MCs began to pull numbers out of a hat. They were raffle ticket numbers. Everyone scrambled to dig out their raffle tickets that they'd been given at registration. There was silence as each number was read, and then a steady stream of people began to get up and go down to the front of the auditorium to collect their prizes. At first people were pretty subdued, but soon the tension began to build. People began sitting on the edge of their seats, anxious to win. Pretty soon, every time there was a new winner, they'd start screaming and jump up and run down to collect their prize, even if the prize was just a gift card to Quiznos. By the end everyone was so excited, we really wanted to win more so that we could scream and run down than because we really wanted the \$5 gift card to Cold Stone Creamery! This was a funny and rewarding way to end a fun day.

## Entertainment

Sophia Sirage, Grade 8, BLS

For entertainment this year, there was a positive twist: music. Two bands, Undecided, and Jonny Lives performed. When the first note was played from Undecided, you could see that everyone liked what they were hearing: a high school group who wrote their own songs, in our age group, and that sounded really good! It was pretty cool. Some people in the audience, myself included, were even bobbing their heads and tapping their chairs. When Undecided was finished with a few songs, a lively cheer rose from the crowd, followed by whistling, and lots of smiles. Then it was time for the featured band, a group called "Jonny Lives" from New York. I had actually heard about them before and even seen them on Late Night with Conan O' Brien. Jonny Lives played a lot more songs than the previous band, but again, people liked it. One interesting thing about Jonny Lives is that the lead guitarist (Jonny Dubowsky) actually started the band, and with it an organization called Rock 'N Renew which helps performing artists use their celebrity to help raise awareness about global warming. You could tell that the audience thought that Rock 'N Renew was a pretty awesome way to help out! Both bands added a lot to the overall enthusiasm for the day.



## Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks: The Summit Food!!

Jessica Charles, Grade 8, BLS

Throughout the day at the Summit, there was always plenty to eat. Starting with breakfast, where we were supplied mountains of bagels, muffins, fresh fruit and juice, the food seemed to spring from an endless supply! We came out of the morning workshops to find a huge spread for lunch with plates of sandwiches, chips and desserts, they even had vegetarian choices. Towards the end of the day, I treated myself to an afternoon snack of goldfish and candy on my way out. Yum! The food at the Summit was the icing on the cake for a really nice event.



## Composting Bins for Our Cups

Anna Spack, Grade 8, BLS

I was impressed to see that at the Summit there were bins during lunch for composting our cups. The cups looked like plastic and felt like plastic, but apparently they were made out of corn, and were completely compostable. I thought this was very cool and really important to have at the Summit because it showed that Youth CAN was not only interested in educating about global warming, but also in paying attention to the size of the carbon footprint generated by their event. Way to go Youth CAN.

## My Day at The Summit

Kenechukwu Abajue Umeh, Grade 8, BLS

The Global Climate Change Summit hosted by BLS Youth CAN and MIT was lots of fun this year. Even though it started at 9:00 AM (which is far too early for me) I was glad that I had dragged myself out of bed. In fact, I was unnaturally pumped up by the time I got to the MIT Stata Center and met up with a few of my friends. While we were standing in line to register (yes, there were enough kids there on a Saturday to cause a back up at the registration table), I took a look around me. It was surprising to see that there were so many people there, and most of them I didn't know! There were some really enthusiastic Youth CAN kids selling shirts, and several tables from other organizations promoting their ideas and products and handing out give aways. By the time I had made my way around to all of the vendors, I had so many stickers and pins on me that one of the people photographing the event for Do Something.org took my picture! She said that the caption would read something like: "walking billboard!" There were also several speakers that I enjoyed at the Summit. I was surprised that the Mayor and the President of MIT was there. The Mayor seemed impressed that so many young people were there. I was too. Taking a look around the auditorium was impressive. There were all kinds of kids in all grades from 6-12. There were also a bunch of teachers who had registered for the event. After the welcoming remarks, we heard a pretty cool speech from James Hunt, the Environment and Energy Chief for the City of Boston. He was pretty inspiring about what we can accomplish if we all work together. Then it was off to our workshops. I had a lot of fun in my PSA workshop making a movie about global warming using pirates, parrots, and cactuses.....yeah. Lunch was yummy (and free) just like breakfast, and then it was time for the entertainment. I loved the bands, I was in the front row!!! Not to mention that we finished with door prizes! Woohoo! All in all it was a great day!



# YouthCAN wants **climate education** required in our Massachusetts Schools!

Help us plan for a public hearing about making climate change education mandatory.

Calling all students, teachers, parents, youth groups, and interested parties:

Come to a planning meeting  
**November 16th, 2008**

@ MIT Building 32 on Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA  
(time tba)

## **contact**

Youth CAN Faculty Advisor | [catebarnold@aol.com](mailto:catebarnold@aol.com)  
Network Coordinator; Loie Hayes | [loiehayes@verizon.net](mailto:loiehayes@verizon.net)

### *Hosted by:*

Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network in partnership with Boston Latin Academy Youth CAN, Cambridge CAN, Milton Academy Youth CAN, Codman Academy Youth CAN, and Arlington Youth CAN

### *With the support of:*

Boston City Councilor-at-Large Sam Yoon, and Boston City Councilor-at-Large John Connolly

# Workshops

## Workshop: The Food We Eat and Climate Change

Rose Alloca, Grade 8, BLS

Anika Lamb, Grade 8, BLS

I went to the 2008 Global Climate Change Summit expecting to hear more about how cars damage the environment and leaving lights on wastes electricity. Imagine my surprise when I wound up in a workshop about FOOD. Who knew that food consumption and food processing is one of the BIGGEST contributors to green house gasses?! I learned that if we could eat less meat, and buy food grown more locally, and more organically, we could make a huge difference in our carbon footprint. Planting your own vegetable garden is a great way to start! Here's an awesome fact: if we all stopped eating meat just one day a week, it would save as much energy as not driving 6,000,000 cars all day! I loved the food workshop. I even got my own edible marigold plant!

In the food workshop we learned that food industries produce more CO<sub>2</sub> gasses than cars, trucks and SUV's all put together. I was even more surprised to find out the ways that we humans strive to create fatter and fatter cows so that they will be more satisfying to us as food. The workshop was like a real seminar with interesting information that was fun to learn about.

## Leading The Youth CAN Workshop

Sasha Fried-Snoad, Grade 11, BLS

One of Youth CAN's main goals is to expand our network and make it an effective and powerful youth force in Boston. As organizers, we also wanted to help other kids start environmental groups at their own schools. We feel that we've learned a lot from our experience over the past year and a half, and that we want to share it with others. So we decided to prepare a workshop that would teach students how to organize a YouthCAN group in their own schools. The workshop would

be a great way for us to give others the tools they need to create a group of their own that would hypothetically become part of our network. So Zoe Fahy, Vice - President, and I developed a presentation that would do just this. The content was drawn largely from the Activist's Toolkit, a packet that we developed for our first Summit to put in starter kits that we gave out to each attendee. It focused on key elements of organizing and resources necessary to getting started. We first presented the workshop at Mass Power Shift, an event held at Boston University that consisted of a day of workshops and mobilization of lobbyists. This gave us a great opportunity to get practice teaching the workshop, and we also made connections with some of the students that attended the workshop, some of whom were already in environmental groups. We then got the opportunity to teach the workshop at the Climate Summit. It went really well, and I think we helped some people get groups started. The Summit was great, and we were so happy to present at it in addition to helping organize it.

## Workshop: The Science of Global Warming

Colin Flynn, Grade 8, BLS

Brian Rose, an MIT graduate student led a workshop at the summit about how global warming works, why there is global warming and how it will affect us. He started off with a short introduction saying who he was and why he is interested in global warming. Then he led a discussion using slides to explain the science behind climate change. He discussed each slide, breaking it into parts so that we could understand it better. At the end of the activity he took questions and there were a lot of them. Overall I found this workshop really informative, and even though I was already a member of Youth CAN, I still learned a tremendous amount of information about global warming from Brian Rose!



# Workshops

## Workshop: Trashion

Conrad Ennis & Abby Calish Grade 11, BLS

This year at the 2008 Summit one of the workshops I chose was based on the effect global warming has on oceans. The leader, Jenna Sigman from the New England Aquarium, was both friendly and effective in engaging everyone in conversation. As a group, we started off by collectively identifying the effects that climate change is having on the oceans. Then we talked about who we thought were the people who are responsible for the outcomes. We engaged in a short role play about an imagined "meeting" at City Hall, gathered to make a decision that would have an impact on the issue, the extent of their impact being contingent upon how much influence the particular legislator had. We were each given a card with the profession or character of an imaginary stakeholder, with varying degrees of power and resources. Our job was to say a few things about ourselves, including how we planned to use our power/ resources, etc. Then we voted about who should be voted out, and who should remain. Even though my group, the Arctic Nations was voted off, I enjoyed this workshop. It was well-rounded and surprisingly fun. In the process we also learned some things about the issue and about each other.



## Leading A Workshop: Trashion

Ava Buchanan, Grade 11, BLS

The workshop that I led at the Youth CAN Global Climate Change Summit (along with Libby Shrobe and Kyla Werlin) revolved around the basic premise that excessive consumerism takes a huge toll on our environment in this country. This is true starting with the problematic wasting of the natural resources that are used in the production of the goods we consume, to the energy that is used to actually create the goods, as well as the energy it takes to transport the goods to the end consumer, and the final problem of disposing of the goods once we're done with them.

At every step of the way, the process of American consumption has profound consequences for the natural environment. Furthermore, because most of American culture is totally embedded in this unsustainable pattern of production, consumption and disposal and very few Americans seem to be aware of or concerned about the effects that their consumerism has on the environment, we thought we'd try to offer a sort of wake up call to our workshop participants.

Our session was entitled, "The Story of Stuff & Trashion Designs." We started by showing a short film called "The Story of Stuff" that's available for free online at [www.thestoryofstuff.com](http://www.thestoryofstuff.com) The film was followed by a discussion of the pros and cons of consumerism; what we learned; and ways that each of us can make changes in our lives that will have positive impacts on this problem by reducing, reusing, and recycling. After the discussion, workshop participants made mosaics out of materials from the recycling center as a means of emphasizing just one creative way that it's possible to reduce consumption by reusing materials!

## Workshop: Public Service Announcement with Improv Coaches

Ilda Plasari, Grade 8, BLS

I signed up for the PSA Workshop; it was very exciting and a brand new experience for me. We started out the workshop with a couple of warm-ups and the professional improv troupe members, Joe Gels from Improv Jones, and Rob Dinni of Stagecoach Improv, talked a little about their jobs as improv coaches. Then we were given a prop (ours was a parrot, other groups had a giant rubber duck, and a cactus. Each group was required to use the prop they were given in filming their public service announcement about climate change. Our team had only 30 to 40 minutes to make the PSA, which was a challenge, but it made the process all the more exciting. We ended up making a short film about environmentalist pirates! Not only was the experience of making the PSA fun, but meeting the people, learning about the environment and about how we can help save the earth were also highlights of the workshop.

# Workshops

## Workshop: Modeling Earth's Climate

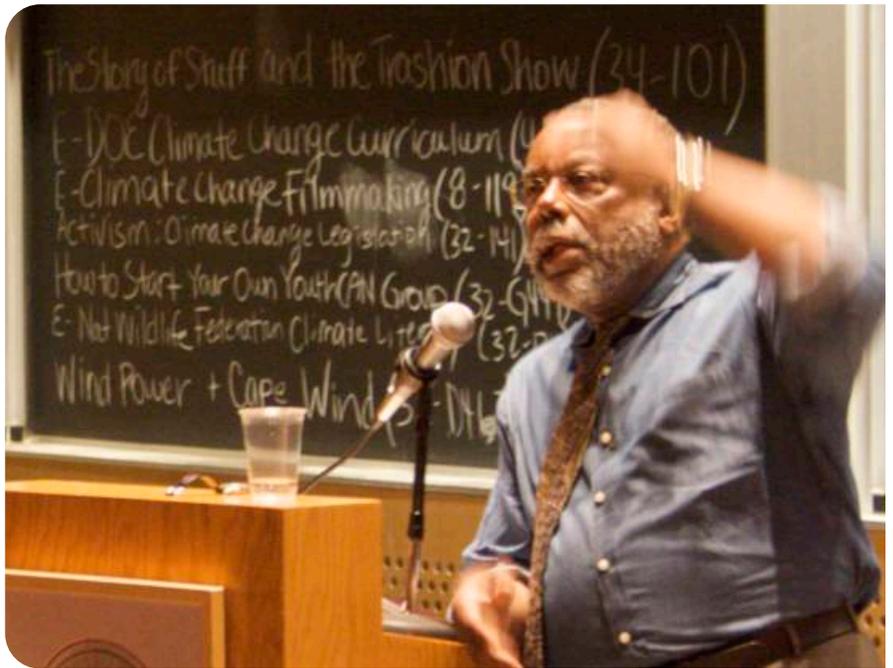
Jillian Baker, Grade 8, BLS

In modeling Climate Earth, we learned how different changes in climate affect other elements of the climate. The workshop was very hands-on and included movement. It was kind of like a game. Two people played the role of scientists and were asked to leave the room while the rest of us were given our assignments as parts of a dynamic system. Then the “scientists” returned and were supposed to try to figure out what processes were in operation and driving the behavior of the various elements, including identifying what the particular elements in interaction actually were. It was interesting to see how difficult the scientists’ jobs really are as they figure out why certain changes in climate happen and what the possible causes might be. In the game, the way you would react to the elements you were following was by staying a certain distance between both of the elements you were following. It was complicated, but it made you think, learn, and have fun. I enjoyed this workshop a lot.

## Workshop: Green Design

Hannah Mogul-Adlin, Grade 11, BLS

One of the biggest things lately in the environmental movement is green design. It was so exciting this year to have Ted Landsmark, president of Boston Architectural College, lead a workshop on green architecture and design. In his presentation, Mr. Landsmark challenged some of the fundamental principles of architecture. In order to build truly eco-friendly buildings, he said, we need to learn to embrace natural elements such as wind and water rather than trying to shield ourselves from them. In an interview after his workshop, Mr. Landsmark said that he came to speak at the summit because he recognizes that youth are the voice of the future. We are much less consumerist than our parents, he said, and that is why we are the ones that can start making changes.



## The Summit

Jen Filiault & Chelsea Harnish, Clean Power Now, Workshop Leaders and Vendor's Table

Thank you so much for having us! I have to say that Chelsea and I have attended several climate summits with missions similar to Youth CAN's and we were SO impressed with every aspect of your summit. The website was very clear about conference time, location, and workshop details. Any questions I had beforehand were answered in a timely manner. Signs leading to the event (in the MIT buildings) were very obvious and helpful. Registration was coordinated and organized in an easy and efficient way. Volunteers were easy to find and helpful. We didn't have a table when we arrived but two students took care of that within a matter of seconds. We were very impressed with the turnout of students (and adults) that attended. When our workshop began, there was a student available to help with the setup of the computer and projection screen (this was VERY helpful). Food was great, entertainment was great, and the attendees were interested and engaged. All of these things may seem like minor details but each is incredibly important to successfully run a whole day of activities. We have attended events run by people/organizations who are older and more experienced who have overlooked some (or all) of these details and the lack of thorough, detail-oriented planning has left us feeling frustrated and disheartened. We know you all put a lot of thought, time, and effort into your second Climate Change Summit and it really showed!

## Vendors

Boston Events Imaging	
Do Something	
Roots and Shoots	
The New England Aquarium	
Boston Nature Center	
Marion Inst. Bioneers by the Bay	
Corporate Accountability International	
Foundation for A Green Future	
Extras for Creative Learning	
Transcendental Meditation Program	
Green Fox Schools, Inc. Environmental Solutions For Schools	
NSTAR / National Grid	
Optical Shop of Aspen - Boston	

## Acknowledgements

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**Youth CAN Executive Steering Committee:**

Libby Shrobe – President  
 Sasha Fried-Snoad – President  
 Ava Buchanan – Vice President  
 Zoe Fahy – Vice President  
 Queen Arsem-O'Malley – Ad Hoc  
 Hannah Mogul-Adlin – Ad Hoc  
 Megan Hiserodt – Ad Hoc

**Youth CAN Committee Leadership:** Queen Arsem-O'Malley (Climate Change Summit Planning Committee), Sophia Sirage (Climate Change Summit Planning Committee), Ella Mahony (Climate Change Summit Planning Committee), Hannah Mogul-Adlin (Media Committee), Louisa Gag (Energy Committee), Denise Nguyen (Energy Committee), Xenia Pantos (Energy Committee), Kyla Werlin (Graphic Committee), Silvana Vivas (Education Committee), Wendy Popakostandini (Education Committee), Libby Shrobe (Networking Committee), Shannon Casey (Networking Committee), Ava Buchanan (Program Layout, Database), Saul Slezas (Photography and Video Committee), Michael Sahagian (Webmaster), Kathleen Pierre (Door Prize Donation Coordinator), Megan Scipione (Focus the Nation Committee), Megan Culbert, Mackenzie (Focus the Nation Committee), Megan Riley (Focus the Nation Committee), Chris Campbell-Orrock (Speaker's Bureau), Chris Keenan (Events Committee), David Calixte (Events Committee)

**Youth CAN Summit Emcees:** Megan Hiserodt & Korey Mclsaac

**Spoken Word Artist,** Tu Anh Phan

**Photography and Videography:** Many thanks to Saulius Slezas, Edmond Poon, Maya Jonas-Silver, Danny Spinetto for documenting the day for us again this year.

**Summit Banner & Web:** Thanks to Mike Sahagian for designing the Climate Change Summit banner and maintaining the website.

**Door Prize Committee:** Thanks to Kathleen Pierre, Kathleen, Isabel, and Colin Flynn for collecting door prize donations.

**Thank you to all Youth CAN members for working throughout the year.**

**Also special thanks to Cate Arnold – BLS Youth CAN Faculty Advisor**

## Acknowledgements



Youth CAN offers our highest appreciation and thanks to Patricia Weinmann and the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT. Our ongoing partnership with Ms Weinmann and T&C is what makes the Summit possible. T&C donates extraordinary levels of in kind services, as well as the remarkable and inspiring space in the Stata Center, all of the av support and technical supplies, the vendor tables, web design for Summit registration, and the invaluable advice and consultation necessary to make the Summit a yearly success. We are very grateful for this wonderful partnership.

We offer extra special thanks to the National Wildlife Federation. The NWF's generous grant of \$10,000 has made many of the special attractions at this year's Summit possible. Furthermore, the NWF provided an additional \$10,000 that will be made available to Summit participants in the form of ten \$1,000 Climate Action Grants. The intent of the action grants is to make it possible for real youth led climate action to continue after the Summit ends. The NWF's remarkable level of support for Massachusetts youth who seek to address climate change, is greatly appreciated.



Very special thanks to the Keyspan Foundation for their generous \$9,000 grant in support of the Summit and Summit initiatives. The Keyspan Foundation's grant is in part funding this year's Summit. It is also making possible some of the Youth Climate Action Network's initiatives that will serve as follow up to the Summit, including network outreach aimed at organizing and holding a public hearing next year about the need for climate change education in the schools. We are very thankful for this support.

We offer our sincere appreciation to the Boston Latin School and our headmaster Ms. Mooney-Teta for supporting Youth CAN and our efforts to make BLS greener.

Many thanks to Mayor Thomas Menino for agreeing to welcome Summit participants again this year, and for his continued efforts to make the City of Boston greener.

Thank you to MIT President Susan Hockfield for addressing our Summit participants on behalf of MIT.

Special thanks to James Hunt, III, the Chief of Energy and Environment for the City of Boston for offering our keynote address.

We thank City Councilors At-Large Sam Yoon and John Connolly for their time during the Networking Session, as well as the three volunteers of the Hyde Square Task Force.

Thanks to RocknRenew and Johnny Lives for donating a large portion of their performance to make the Summit extra green and fun.



Thanks, too, to Undecided for their original song and for agreeing to play.

Thanks to Priscilla Lavin of Fidelity Investments for printing our Summit programs.