

# REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

## YOUTH CLIMATE CONFERENCE AN INSPIRING EXPERIENCE, WRITES LUKA SIMEUNOVIC



LUKA SIMEUNOVIC  
Column

Recently, the Halton Climate Collective hosted the "Generation Green Youth Un-conference" at Sheridan College.

Over 200 attendees, ranging from Grade 7-12 from schools across Halton Region, participated in the

day's workshops and panel discussions. The day focused on teaching students how to track, measure, and reduce the carbon footprint in their everyday lives.

It was an amazing experience, and I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to attend this fantastic event. We had a great panel of experts, including Chief Stacey La-

forme of the Mississaugas

of the Credit First Nation, Dan Scott and Francis Edmonds.

Each panellist spoke to us about what they have done and are currently doing in their lives to fight climate change - as well as providing insight into what we can also do to join the push for climate action.

It was especially great to have the lieutenant-governor of Ontario, The Honourable Elizabeth Dow-

deswell, as a keynote speaker. She discussed why it's important to stop climate change.

It was very inspiring to see such an important and admired woman come and talk to all of us. Along with Her Honour, we also had MP Pam Damoff, MPP Steven Crawford, and Mayor Rob Burton attend the event and talk to the students. It's really amazing to see big-shot politicians interested in an event like this.

We had some great workshops such as "How to Lobby Politicians," "Low Impact Development," and "How to Start a Youth Movement," along with many other really engaging and fun workshops facilitated by leaders in their industry.

These workshops taught us how to be more conscious of our carbon footprint as well as how to track our impact on the environment.

The best part about this event is that it's not too late to join! This is an ongoing event, with webinars happening every other week so that the students can stay up-to-date with what is go-

ing on. It's all leading up to an event in March where we will present our findings.

If you are a student or you know one who is interested in this kind of topic, it's not too late for them to join! This was a great experience for me and I know it can be for you too. You can go to [climatecollective.ca](http://climatecollective.ca) to learn more.

*Luka Simeunovic is a Grade 11 student at Garth Webb Secondary School and a youth stakeholder on the Halton Climate Collective, who's doing a co-op at the Halton Environment Network.*

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## WELCOME TO 2020

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We look forward to working with you in 2020.

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