

NEWS RELEASE



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Laurier research team creates interactive lessons on climate change and maple syrup

BRANTFORD – Ontario teachers can sweeten their lessons on the impacts of climate change thanks to the Maple Syrup, Resilience and Climate Change research team at Laurier Brantford. Using information from their ongoing research, professor Brenda Murphy and concurrent education student Jennifer Angermann have teamed up to create interactive, technology-based lesson plans for Ontario teachers about maple syrup and climate change.

The lessons are designed for use with SmartBoards, and include the history of maple syrup in Canada, how its production and uses have changed over time, and the effects of climate change on production. The lessons are designed to help students understand the impact they as individuals can have on the environment, and how they can help reduce their ecological footprint. Each lesson contains expectations directly from the Ontario curriculum documents and can be altered to fit requirements for different grade levels.

"Getting students interested in, and passionate about climate change can be difficult," said Murphy. "We developed these lessons as a fun, interactive approach for students using the tangible example of how it is affecting something as common as maple syrup."

These lesson plans provide a unique approach to encourage students to be more environmentally conscious and to understand how climate change continues to affect so many aspects of our lives. In addition to the lesson plans, Murphy and Angermann have created a teacher's resource guide that provides teachers with further information such as sample questions and worksheets for students to complete.

The lessons are available online at:
www.wlu.ca/docsnpubs_detail.php?grp_id=12610&doc_id=50191

For more information regarding the impacts of climate change on maple syrup production, visit:
www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp_id=12610