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## CLIMATE CHANGES

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ISSUE: Building on the environment

### ITINERARY 3A

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Location: Bury Armoury

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## PROMOTERS

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Robert Cyr and Edith Cournoyer, Centre de services éducatifs populaires du Haut-Saint-François | E-mail: [csep@videotron.ca](mailto:csep@videotron.ca)

### **Presentation of the issue:**

In MRC Haut-Saint-François, 40% of the population has no high-school diploma. Community engagement by these undereducated adults is limited.

### **Project description:**

The Centre de services éducatifs populaires du Haut-Saint-François - CSEP (Popular Education Services Center) offered a public education training to develop in undereducated adults their capacity to engage in the community. This project was conducted in partnership with the Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Estrie - CREE (Regional Environmental Council), the University of Sherbrooke (UdeS), and the CSEP. For 26 weeks, three hours per week, educators from UdeS and CSEP delivered training tailored to their customers, with a particular focus on climate changes. This teaching was done in the prospect of transforming a global problem into a local reality that the participants could influence.

### **The key elements to remember according to the promoters:**

To integrate the knowledge, complementarity between the players was essential and field activities were conducted in parallel with the lectures. An educational approach was adopted, very open to discussion among the students and aiming to foster critical thinking.

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## RESEARCHER

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Carine Villemagne, University of Sherbrooke | E-mail: [carine.villemagne@usherbrooke.ca](mailto:carine.villemagne@usherbrooke.ca)

### **Summary of the researcher's presentation:**

Mrs. Villemagne focused particularly on the following issue: why undereducated people do not have access to education on the environment? Within the scope of the project, the issue of climate changes was selected because, despite its global impact, it could be presented under a very local point of view. Indeed, the East Angus territory is itself affected by the phenomenon, especially in terms of the heat islands and the water level of the Saint-François river.

### **The key elements to remember according to the researcher:**

Undereducated adults are very concerned about the environment. They feel they have little control over everything. Such a project gives them understanding and the ability to act locally on the issue of climate changes.

Following this experience, a teaching guide was prepared. It is divided into six modules available for trainers working with an undereducated population.

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## QUESTION PERIOD

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Q.: Was the link between climate changes and land management presented?

A. (Carine Villemagne): The project is not limited to individual changes, but also aims to have an impact in the community. As such, the project included an inventory of the community partners conducted both within the students' school and community environments; the organization of a community celebration helped bring everything together. This eco-friendly event aimed to raise awareness for several key-players, including the young students.

Q.: Were the impacts on the participants measured?

A. (Carine Villemagne): An ecological footprint test, at the participant level, was performed at the beginning and the end of the project.

Q.: How did you select the participants?

A. (Edith Cournoyer): Students were attending the CSEP as part of a broader program.

Q.: Is this type of educational environment project applicable to developing countries?

A. (Carine Villemagne): Yes, it is. The instructional guide developed could be used.

Q.: What were the perceived improvements in the students with respect to global thinking about an issue like climate changes?

A. (Carine Villemagne): There has been improvements in the understanding of the issue and in taking a critical look on all aspects. Overall, it gave them the power to act, whereas these participants are rarely brought to position themselves on such matters.

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## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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**NOTE: All linked documents (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) are only available in their original French version.**

[Transport Capsule](#) directed by Kevin Morin, student at CSEP Haut-Saint-François