

Ocean conservation is rising to the surface of public consciousness. The impact of climate change on the oceans, biodiversity and health of our planet as a whole has reached the status of a crisis. With the climate marches fresh on our minds and youth advocating for action, educators are well positioned to be critical players in making this sustainable future a reality. Through experiential learning, projects, and inquiry based literacy programs, educators can support a passion in youth for safeguarding the environment.

Ocean Wise is a leading ocean conservation

organization headquartered at the Vancouver Aquarium. Ocean Wise Education is leading the way in providing innovative educational opportunities for learners aged three to 103 on the topic of ocean literacy for ocean health. These comprehensive K-12+ education programs include a range of content designed to facilitate growth, drive passion and inspire action for a healthy environment. Here's a guide to how you can take advantage of the education opportunities that Ocean Wise has to offer, and be an ocean savvy educator!

Online Learning

Online learning is a fantastic way for both educators and students to deepen their understanding of the ocean in an accessible way. We have combined our passion, research and expertise on the Ocean

A Guide to Being An Ocean Savvy EDUCATOR

by
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Literacy Principles to bring you the Ocean Literacy Courses, online comprehensive programs for teachers and youth that are available across Canada and internationally. Ocean Wise draws on more than six decades of research, conservation and education to provide interactive online classrooms that help foster an appreciation of healthy oceans and pollution prevention. Online Learning offers an interactive environment that furthers understanding and connections to the ocean. You can access these opportunities at education.ocean.org.



Make it Mobile

Why not bring the Aquarium right to your door? Ocean Wise offers a number of mobile programs through our travelling AquaVan, which includes live marine invertebrates and educators on site. The AquaVan has travelled across Canada making hands-on ocean learning more widely available, and recently returned from a tour of Northern BC. These mobile programs are delivered both in classrooms and at community events. Educators can also arrange to book Aquatic Kits from the AquaVan with lesson plans that are ready for use.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, this year Ocean Wise Education will be operating a free bus to

transport local classes to our programs onsite at the Vancouver Aquarium between October 2019 and April 2020. Ocean Wise started this initiative to assist with the transportation barriers that teachers face with booking and paying for field trips. With this bus, we hope to make ocean literacy programming accessible to all! Visit the bus application page for more information: www.vanaqua.org/education/school-programs/free-bus-application.

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International Reach

The topic of ocean health spans international territories, and is highly relevant on the global stage. When educators are plugged into ocean health conversations around the world, they are better equipped to deliver the latest information to students and to highlight opportunities for learners to get involved in conferences and collaborative initiatives. Joining the Ocean Wise education community brings you into a global network of leaders, allowing both you and your students to interact with peers around the world.

The United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to promote ocean health and gather experts behind a common framework on this topic in order to ensure ocean science can be developed and supported to help sustainable development of the ocean across the globe. Ocean Wise will be an active

player in this decade of Ocean Science supporting through ocean literacy programs.

Ocean Wise is involved in a number of national and international initiatives around ocean literacy. Ocean Wise is the first and only Canadian organization in the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers Network, a grouping of 27 aquariums and marine science education centers located in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. From youth summits to multi-institution projects, the CELC Network works together to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.

Since its creation in 2018, Ocean Wise has been an integral member of the Ocean Heroes Network, a program for youth to gain the scientific knowledge, campaign development tools, coaching, inspiration and support they need to create change. Ocean Heroes work together towards creating significant collective impact and momentum to tackle single-use plastic. As a collaborating partner, Ocean Wise created an open-sourced curriculum to enable education institutions to implement the Ocean Heroes program into their youth programs. In June 2019, 300 11-18 year-olds from 20 different countries visited Vancouver for the Ocean Heroes Bootcamp.

The North American Association for Environmental Education is a great resource for discovering upcoming events relevant to your curriculum. This

year, Ocean Wise will deliver workshops on Online Learning and Blending Science Perspectives. For the second year in a row, Ocean Wise Education is presenting at the North American Association of Environmental Educators.

The Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition (COLC) is another example of a broad network that grew out of a small, informal ocean literacy consultation and national workshop. The project is supported by a national steering committee with representatives from Ocean Wise, CaNOE, Ocean Networks Canada, Students on Ice, Ingenium, and the Canadian Museum of Nature. Ocean Wise helps coordinate National events for National Science Literacy Week's ocean theme and is taking on a leadership role in a national strategy for World Ocean Week in June 2020.

Ocean Wise Education not only provides learning resources and opportunities around ocean literacy, but also brings participants into a comprehensive network of global leaders and educators who are passionate about our oceans.

Traditional Knowledge

Stanley Park sits on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. The Indigenous groups have passed along information over time to sustain and adapt themselves to the environment. "Traditional Knowledge" is a term that has been created to encompass this information that has been passed down through generations. The traditional knowledge of local Indigenous communities is a critical piece of the education puzzle as we move forward on a path of environmental stewardship. Traditional Knowledge has been incorporated

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into Ocean Wise programming, as it represents an important viewpoint that prioritizes sustainable living and a deep appreciation of the ocean. You can learn more about this, as well as ways you can share Traditional Knowledge with your students, on the Ocean Wise AquaBlog at www.aquablog.ca/2019/02/traditional-knowledge.

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Investing in Leaders of Today

Investing in both educators and youth is a vital step in working towards an environmentally friendly tomorrow. Ocean Wise offers opportunities for young professionals to develop their careers through teacher professional development workshops and Leadership Clinics. We want to ensure that educators are best equipped to share knowledge and ignite a passion for ocean health in their students. Youth development workshops are also available to help nurture young ocean champions. You can find more information on these workshops and clinics at education.ocean.org/youth. If you want to recognize an educator or organization that has demonstrated creativity and an exceptional passion for ocean learning, you can now nominate them for a 2020 Ocean Education Award. Read the Ocean Wise blog post on our Education Awards Night to

learn more about the 2019 winners!

These education opportunities are designed to best support BC educators in their journey to provide hands-on, engaging and practical learning. Fostering your own knowledge of the oceans, climate, and biodiversity all help to facilitate a better future.

We invite educators to join us in this global movement to inspire ocean champions.



If you have suggestions about how Ocean Wise can better engage youth or peers in the education world, contact
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