

VISUAL EDUCATION CENTRE

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOCIAL ISSUES CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Inspiring educational documentaries that connect the relationship between nature and the environment with humanity to provide a greater knowledge about sustainability and the natural world we inhabit.

NEW RELEASES



The Climate Blueprint

In December 2015, Paris will hold the COP21, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. For the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, participants will aim to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. This is the most important climate change summit since Kyoto in 1997.

All the international community efforts are focused in that summit to achieve a new global agreement against global warming that go will down in history as the Paris Protocol. For more than 20 years, united humanity has been fighting against the biggest challenge it has ever faced: climate change.

The Climate Blueprint is the first documentary to explore the history of the COP Climate Change Summit and the fight against our most challenging and powerful enemy. Under the framework of the United Nations, 194 countries will meet during two extremely hectic weeks at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**52 min. • 2014 • Gr. 6-12, Coll/Univ • GPF938 • Closed Captioned
DVD Price: \$149 Post-Sec. • \$89 Schools • 3-Year Streaming License: \$350**



**“The debate is over about whether or not climate change is real; it is now time to act to solve the problem.” -
David Suzuki Foundation**



Surviving Earth

Surviving Earth asks the questions “are we slowly committing mass ecocide by killing our host, Mother Earth?” - “how can we prevent humanity from killing itself by killing our host — the Earth? Featuring insight from Prof. Tim Flannery (2007 Australian of the Year, and leading writer of climate change), Ian Dunlop, Prof. Paul Ehrlich, permaculturalist David Holmgren, Aboriginal elder Uncle Bob Randall, Prof. Ian Lowe, Major-General Michael Jeffery (ret), and Bindi Irwin among others on the topics of resource depletion, climate change adaptation/mitigation and over population.

95 min. • 2014 • Gr. 8 -12, Coll/Univ • GPF905

DVD Price: \$195 Post-Sec. • \$89 Schools • 3-Year Streaming License: \$350



Thin Ice: The Inside Story of Climate Science [CC]

In recent years climate science has come under increasing attack. Concerned geologist Simon Lamb grabbed his camera and set out to explore the inside story of climate research. For over three years he followed scientists from a wide range of disciplines at work in the Arctic, Antarctic, Southern Ocean, New Zealand, Europe and the U.S. They talk about their work, their hopes and fears with a rare candour and directness, resulting in an intimate portrait of a global community of researchers racing to understand our planet's changing climate and providing a compelling case for rising CO2 as the main cause.

Awards: Princeton Environmental Film Festival, Audience Favourite; Baikal Int'l. Film Festival, Best Popular Science Film; Official Selection at Sheffield Doc Fest and San Francisco Green Film Festival,

75 min. • 2012 • Gr. 7-12, Coll-Univ • GRPL894

DVD Price: \$49 • 3 Year Streaming License: \$350

**“Your film was timely, and our thinking audience particularly, was delighted to have such a powerful, scientifically strong film.”
- Judge, Princeton Environmental Film Festival, 2014**

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Bluebird Man [CC]

Bluebird Man tells the story of 93-year-old Alfred Larson, a self-taught conservationist who has committed the last 35 years of his life to saving Idaho's bluebirds. In the late 1970s Al was inspired to join a growing movement of citizen scientists who over the past three decades have helped reverse bluebird declines by setting up networks of nest boxes specifically designed to provide nesting habitat for this emblematic bird. Breathtaking scenery, intimate conversations and stunning footage of all three species of bluebird create a powerful film that reveals the secret behind Al's longevity while providing inspiration for our next generation of citizen scientists.

28 min. • 2014 • Gr. 8-12, Coll/Univ • GPF942
DVD Price: \$100 Post-Sec. • \$49 Schools
3-Year Streaming License: \$350



The Family Farm



In its journey across the majestic Canadian countryside, *The Family Farm* explores the diverse agricultural pursuits of earnest farm families, and serves as a window into small-scale food production

that modern day consumers have become estranged from.

The film begins in Nova Scotia with egg farmer, Aaron Hiltz, who was confronted by the provincial egg board and asked to get rid of the majority of his flock. Hiltz's story highlights the issues many farmers face and the flaws associated with what he considers an outdated system. The Morgan farm crew of Québec draw attention to another issue, land cost and inaccessibility that many young, budding farmers encounter and discuss their proposed solutions to these problems. On the other side of the country, organic farming pioneer, Raymond Loo discloses his dream of creating a chemical-free Prince Edward Island, full of clean, organic food and demonstrates how his farm serves as a stepping stone towards realizing this goal. The exploitative side of farming is also exposed through Manitoba farmer, Carlyle Jorgensen's retellings of his experience working with an oil company who dug a well on his prime farmland despite his disapproval.

A season spent with these farmers reveals the key role they play in sustaining traditional farm knowledge, promoting environmental stewardship and maintaining food security. *The Family Farm* focuses on imbuing the importance of understanding where our food comes from and emphasizes the crucial role family farms play in ensuring the survival and well-being of local communities and environments.

70 min. • 2014 • Gr. 10-12, Coll/Univ • GPF943
DVD Price: \$150 Post-Sec. • \$89 Schools
3-Year Streaming License: \$350

New Farms Big Success [CC]



This inspiring documentary presents three ecologically responsible farms in the USA and Canada. Their unique business plans eliminate the middle man, use sustainable



methods and few fossil fuels, and show that a decent living can be made! These new farming practices avoid the destructive trap of industrial food production and its financial burden. With the participation of Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations and leading

USA environmentalist, author and educator, Bill McKibben, this documentary provides critical information to develop an enduring, local food network in a time of climate change. The 3 rock star farmers are: Kristin Kimball, author of "The Dirty Life" and farmer of Essex Farm, Jean-Martin Fortier, author of "The Market Gardener" and farmer of Les Jardins de la Grelinette, Québec, Lauren Rathmell, greenhouse manager of Lufa Farms.

This documentary includes the official point of view of The Convention on Biodiversity, the UN office specialized in the protection of life on Earth, about the links between climate change, biodiversity and farming. *Produced by Monde Films*

52 min. • 2014 • Gr. 8-12, Coll/Univ • GPF917
DVD Price: \$225 Post-Sec. • \$89 Schools
3 year streaming rights: \$350



Great White Lies [CC]

Focusing on the Western Australian Government's decision in January of 2014 to hunt and kill the white shark, a protected species in Australia, filmmaker Skyler Thomas visits Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand to learn more about shark culling practices in each of those locations.

Interviewing scientists, politicians, surfers, and activists, *Great White Lies* thoroughly examines the history of shark culling and ultimately asks the question, "Is this really about human safety or is something else taking place here?" When science, statistics, and history all tell us that shark-culling is a flawed and ineffective strategy in managing human and shark interactions, we are then forced to ask the next logical question; if it doesn't work, why is it still happening? The apparent answer to that question will leave viewers not only rethinking mankind's relationship with sharks, but with the planet in general. *Produced by White Shark Video.*

50 min. • 2015 • Gr. 12, Coll/Univ • GPF936
DVD Price: \$149 Post-Sec. • \$39 Schools
Community Screening: \$99
3-Year Streaming License: \$350

 Green Planet Films

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Red Ice [CC]
On July 12, 2012, an unprecedented event took place in Greenland which triggered all alarms. For the first time ever 97% of the frozen surface of Greenland had started to thaw.

Global warming threatens to change the Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems even faster than in the rest of the world. The situation is becoming more dramatic each year and we're approaching a point of no return: entire cities could end up under the sea; Europe could suffer another glaciation; extreme weather events such as the cold outbreak that hit Eastern US on January 2014 could be much more frequent. But a bigger, silent menace is rising because of the thawing: the release of the methane trapped in the permafrost could eventually accelerate the unstoppable climate change.

The Polar regions are being affected by global warming much more intensely than any other part of the world. The global mean temperature has risen around 1.1 °C since 1990, however in the Arctic it has risen more than twice. Global warming threatens to change that whole fragile ecosystem even faster than in the rest of the world. The situation is becoming more and more dramatic each year and we are approaching a point of no return. What would happen if it occurs? *Subtitles in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and German. Produced by Intuitive Prod. & Somadrome.*

52 min. • 2014 • Gr. 6-12, Coll/Univ • GPF937
DVD Price: \$149 Post-Sec. • \$89 Schools
3-Year Streaming License: \$350



The High Cost of Cheap Gas: Fracking in South Africa [CC]

The environmental problems caused by fracking in America have been well publicized but less known are the gas industry's plans for expansion in other countries. This investigation,

filmed in Botswana, South Africa, Alaska and North America, reveals how fracking plants are quietly invading some of the most protected places on the planet – including Africa's national parks.

Deep in the Kalahari desert, fracking operations take place across the migration routes of Africa's largest elephant population – threatening their survival. Plans to allow fracking in the Karoo in South Africa, a region of natural beauty, have been condemned as "completely irresponsible". Water is extremely scarce and people are concerned about an industry that sucks up and potentially pollutes the little available water there is. Speaking to experts, campaigners and affected communities, we discover the real cost of this much touted "cheap" gas. *Produced by Jeffrey Barbee & Mira Dutschke*

56 min. • 2014 • Gr. 6-12, Coll/Univ • GPF939
DVD Price: \$159 Post-Sec. • \$79 Schools
Community Screening: \$149
3-Year Streaming License: \$350

The Ethics of Fracking [CC]

This program looks at the ethics of the natural gas extraction process known as "fracking". The film covers the political, spiritual, scientific, medical, and educational points of views of hydraulic fracturing. It also takes a look at the deceiving advertising the gas industry heavily relies on.

48 min. • 2014 • Gr. 9-12, Coll/Univ • GRPL892
DVD Price: \$39.95
3-Year Streaming License: \$350

The Cost of Oil

The pressure to drill for oil in the Arctic has intensified with the increasing prices of crude oil. But the potential for lower oil prices is at what cost? In this feature-length documentary the Alaskan Inupiat show how oil drilling in their nearby seas will



forever alter their subsistence-living lifestyle and adversely affect their struggle to preserve their rich cultural history. Members of the oil industry and expert scientists also highlight the predicted effects of oil drilling on the delicate Arctic ecosystem, and

in turn, the effects on a society dependent on that ecosystem. Through this film viewers discover the irony of drilling for oil in order to become a more self-sustaining nation, and in doing so, likely destroying one of the last remaining self-sustaining cultures.

Awards: Best Documentary, Festivus Film Festival • Best Documentary, East Lansing Film Festival

42 min. • 2009 • Gr. 9-12, Coll/Univ • GRPL639
DVD Price: \$149
3 Year Streaming License: \$350

Extinction in Progress

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is still struggling to get on its feet from the disastrous 2010



earthquake. But the real problem Haiti faces in the near future is the complete degradation of its natural resources. Today, forests cover less than two percent of its territory and scientists predict a mass extinction of Haiti's biodiversity.

Over a three-year period, a team of scientists and naturalists travel to the most remote locations in Haiti to investigate the current state of its biodiversity. Surprisingly, they discover almost 50 new species and rediscover species thought to be lost, including one of the most endangered mammals, the Hispaniolan solenodon. The extent of discoveries is extremely rare in the world of natural science. *Subtitles in English & Spanish. Produced by Dr. Blair Hedges & Jürgen Hoppe*

Awards:

Official Selection in the following festivals: "Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, Washington", "Ecozine Intl. Film Festival, Zaragoza", Spain; "Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival"; "Life Sciences Film Festival, Prague, Czech Republic

56 min. • 2013 • Gr. 8-12, Coll/Univ • GPF932
DVD Price: \$169 Post-Sec. • \$79 Schools
3 year streaming rights: \$350



Hunger in America [CC]

50 million Americans go to bed hungry every night. *Hunger in America* breaks down the clichéd ideas of who the hungry are today. Narrated by James Denton.

What does the face of hunger look like? Is it a child in Ethiopia? An aging man in Somalia? A family in poverty-stricken India? This eye-opening documentary will change your whole perception on what hunger looks like. In America today, one in six people, including hard-working men and women, suburban families and children are struggling with hunger. Tonight, over 50 million Americans won't have enough food to eat by day's end. The face of hunger in America is not just the homeless - the face of hunger in America is the single mom, it's grandparents raising babies, it's the elderly, it's the infirm. This is their story... *Produced by Skydive Films*
52 min. • 2014 • Gr. 8-12, Coll/Univ • GPF911
DVD Price: \$149 Post-Sec./Schools
3-Year Streaming License: \$350



Saving the Life Keepers: The New Science of Sustainable Beekeeping [CC]

From the forests of Mexico to the farm lands and cities of North America, learn how successful beekeepers

overcome challenges and develop sustainable practices to improve the quality and quantity of honey bee populations. "Saving the Life Keepers" reveals how local citizens, farmers, small and large businesses, as well as beekeepers, can help protect and preserve bee populations throughout the world.

The program offers several practical solutions, including: utilizing the biodiversity of plants; mass plantings of protein rich flowers; queen bee organic mating yards; how to fight bee parasites and diseases without chemicals and antibiotics; how beekeepers work successfully with productive, resistant Africanized bees.

62 min. • 2013 • Gr. 7-12, Coll/Univ • GRPL848
DVD Price: \$250 • 3-Year Streaming License: \$350



Trashed

Jeremy Irons sets out to discover the effects and the extent of the global waste problem as he travels around the world to



beautiful destinations tainted by pollution. This is a meticulous, brave investigative journey that takes Irons (and us) from skepticism to sorrow and from horror to hope. Irons showcases the individuals, activists, corporate and advocacy groups around

the world who are working to effect change and reform the current model.

97 min. • 2013 • Gr. 7-12, Coll/Univ • GRPL872
DVD Price: \$250 • 3-Year Streaming License: \$350



Little Miss Dewie

Little Miss Dewie: A Duckumentary is a story of compassion and humanity caught in action. What started out as a few hours of time to help an orphaned duck led to a journey to find the right home for a helpless animal. Sacrificing the comforts

of her home, work schedule, and even facing eviction from her apartment Mira Tweti was able to make a difference in one animal's life. This funny, heartwarming, and true inter-species love story also examines important animal welfare issues.

Awards: Accolade Award, Moving Pictures Short Film Contest
30 min. • 2009 • Gr. 2-12, Coll/Univ • GPF933
DVD Price: \$69 Post-Sec. • \$49 Schools
3-Year Streaming License: \$350

Growing Cities [CC]

From rooftop farmers to backyard beekeepers, North-Americans are growing food like never before. *Growing Cities* tells the inspiring stories of these intrepid urban farmers, innovators, and everyday city-dwellers who are challenging the



way we grow and distribute food. From those growing food in backyards to make ends meet, to educators teaching kids to eat healthier, viewers discover urban farmers are harvesting a whole lot

more than simply good food. *Subtitled in Spanish.*

60 min. & 90 min. (both versions on one DVD)
2014 • Gr. 8-12, Coll/Univ • GPF913
DVD Price: \$295 Post Sec. • \$195 Schools
No Streaming rights available.

For more information on Green Planet Films programs, or related programs, contact:
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