



# 2013 Annual Report

*Educating communities to monitor and take ecological action in response to climate change*



## Our Approach

Use long-term monitoring protocols to evaluate changes in biodiversity and share the data.

Community involvement is crucial to address the issue of adaptation to our changing climate.

Everyone can learn about current issues and what ecological actions they may undertake.

## President's Report

*Alice Casselman, B.Ed., M.Sc. Ed.*

The Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER), a.k.a. Climate's Sake is a not-for-profit organization. In 2013, we celebrated over 25 years of environmental education and monitoring. During this year, we expanded our outreach through the establishment of more tree monitoring plots in schoolyards and forests. We also created an easy-to-use citizen science tool that can analyze forest plot data. Our team started to develop a mobile app called "treecaching", designed for the next generation to help everyone go outside to learn about their natural surroundings. With the help of our partners, we held many community monitoring events and workshops.

Our charitable organization is thankful for all our hardworking volunteers, supporters, partners and funders who made 2013 a successful year.

### DONATE

online at  
[www.climatesake.ca](http://www.climatesake.ca)  
 (redirected to  
[www.acer-acre.ca](http://www.acer-acre.ca))

Charitable Number  
 89064 2515 RR0001

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## Planting for Change (P4C)

More schools in Southern Ontario embraced our Planting for Change (P4C) program. The P4C program allows teachers, students and community volunteers to build a climate change laboratory in their schoolyard by planting 15 trees and 45 shrubs.

In 2013, six schools were added to our P4C schoolyard tree-monitoring network. The schools were Armadale P. S. in Markham, Marydale Park Facility in Mount Hope, St. Joan of Arc S.S. and St. Gerard Separate School in Mississauga, St. Michael Catholic E.S. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Connaught P.S. in St. Catharines.

The P4C Five Year Report was released in 2013. Results are available on our website at [www.climatesake.ca](http://www.climatesake.ca). A map of the P4C school network and photos and data of each school site are available online.



## Go Global (GG)

Go Global (GG) is a network of one-hectare plots established to monitor changes in forest biodiversity in response to global climate change.

During the summer of 2013, our interns from University of Toronto Scarborough collected tree data for every single mature tree in the Humber Arboretum one-hectare plot. The data was then compared with the 2002 data for statistical analysis (Read more at <http://www.acer-acre.ca/programs/go-global/humber-arboretum>).

In November 2013, we installed a new one-hectare plot at Heartland Forest, Niagara Falls, for long-term tree monitoring. Heartland Forest is a provincially significant forest and a Carolinian forest, which means it has a rich inventory of unique bird, tree and amphibian species.

Since 1996, ACER has been collecting forest tree data through the GG program. In 2013, we consolidated and updated 13,000 tree data into a single file. We will launch an online database featuring a user-friendly interface on our homepage in 2014.



## OTHER PROGRAMS

### Tracking for Success (T4S)

Tracking for Success helps organizations determine the success rate of trees planted at community tree plantings. A percentage of each tree species is monitored by trained community volunteers over time to help communities track changes in biodiversity.

### Youth Stewardship Project (HYS)

Local youth are trained to restore and monitor natural areas of ecological concern through partnership initiatives. The Humber Youth Stewardship Project, which began in 2008, involved the removal of invasive species in a selected area, an inventory of remaining native trees and a community restoration planting at the Humber Arboretum.

### Measuring our Resources (MOR)

We teach volunteers how to inventory existing trees on their property for our climate change-monitoring network. Tree data can be collected from places such as a forest, schoolyard, park or neighbourhood. For teachers, this is a cross-curricular, hands-on program where students can learn about climate change and its impacts on trees.

# 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

## Ontario Trillium Foundation Niagara Regional Project

In October, we established a Planting for Change plot/climate change laboratory at Connaught P.S. in St. Catharines with the help of the entire student body. We also held a Community Mapping Workshop for concerned citizens and organizations in the Niagara region. Workshop participants mapped areas of ecological concern and developed a list of priority sites. These events marked the beginning of our 3-year project in Niagara region, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



**1190+**

**Students**  
that participated  
in our programs

## Dynamic Tree Report

ACER has developed a Dynamic Tree Report application. It consists of a "datasheet" page and a "report" page. Tree data can be entered on the "datasheet" page. A statistical report (species demographics, diameter distribution, carbon sequestration, etc.) is automatically generated on the "report" page simultaneously. Through this application, any volunteer or student can quickly review their tree measurements and leave the study site with a quantitative summary of their work.

**1158**

**Trees Monitored**  
by ACER staff, interns  
and volunteers



**384**

**Native Trees and Shrubs**  
planted by ACER volunteers

## Biodiversity Experimental Plot 2

In November, St. Joan of Arc S.S. students went to Humber Arboretum to plant sycamore and yellow birch trees and took benchmark measurements at our new experimental plot. There were 18 trees planted from three different nurseries in Ontario. The goal of this experiment is to compare the growth of the yellow birch and sycamore trees in the different latitudes in Ontario to the growth at Humber Arboretum.



**6 Schools** joined  
Planting for Change (P4C)

The P4C schoolyard-monitoring  
network grew to

**16 Communities**

## Treecaching Mobile App

In 2013, with the help of our volunteers and interns, ACER began the development of an exciting mobile application. This app will allow you to locate QR-coded tags on tree species found on trails and schoolyards. Our vision is to encourage everyone to go outside, learn about their natural surroundings, and test their knowledge while having fun on healthy walks!



**1765+**

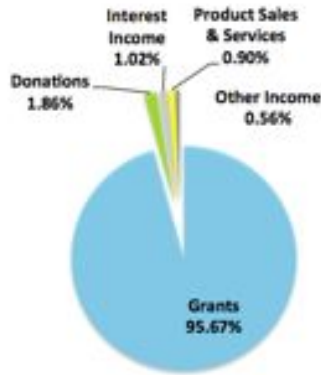
**Volunteer Hours** contributed through  
ACER planting and monitoring programs

## Community Solutions in a Changing Climate: Coping with Change in our Backyard Symposium

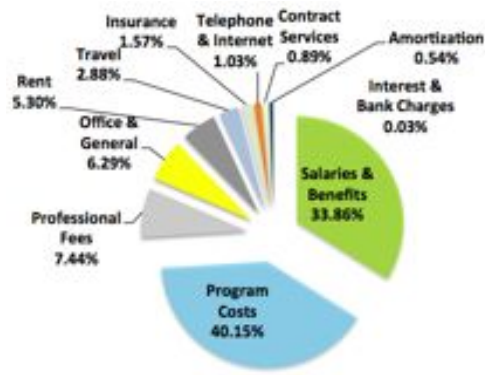
Our climate change symposium, held at Humber College in partnership with Ontario Urban Forest Council and Carolinian Canada, was a great success. Presentations were delivered by top Canadian climate change scientists Heather Auld, Neil Comer and Nobel Prize winner Don McIver. Participants included students from our youth monitoring network, concerned community members and representatives from other organizations.

The symposium concluded that community monitoring is essential to combat the increasing rate of biodiversity loss, support greater educational programs and identify research, policy and planning needs to sustain strong, adaptive and resilient communities. The symposium was a call for community action by all levels of society.

2013 Total Revenue: \$124,848



2013 Total Expenses: \$114,971

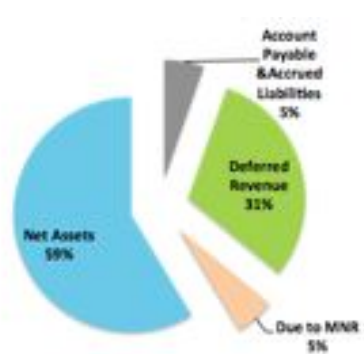


2013 Excess of Revenue over expenses: \$ 9,877

2013 Capital Assets: \$156,791



2013 Liabilities and Net Assets: \$156,791



The condensed financial statements are extracted from the financial statements examined by our auditor Tinkham & Associates LLP. A complete set of the financials is available upon request.

## Board of Directors 2013

Irene Katkov  
Vanessa Alsop  
Leah Casselman  
Peter Ledger  
Karen Damley  
David Galvin

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to Sarojni Persaud, Naila Amreen and Caitlin Hanley, 4<sup>th</sup> year interns from University of Toronto, Mississauga campus (UTM). Your time and support in the field, office and warehouse are greatly appreciated!

Special thanks to University of Toronto Scarborough interns Talent Huang, Amy Chen, Yafei Deng, Sam Xing and Daniel Kim who re-measured the entire Go Global forest plot at Humber Arboretum. The team also reported on the health of the forest in their research papers, available online.

Special thanks to our volunteers, Sonal Pandey, Arin Bakht, Linda Casselman and Alice Hayhoe for assisting our team in the field and office.

## Thank you!

Thanks to all of our volunteers, partners, students, teachers, and organizations who donated their time and supported our programs. We wish to acknowledge the funders who made our programs possible:



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