



## BCGEU's Cool Communities Campaign

**T**HE BCGEU HAS embarked on a campaign to fight global warming. Global warming threatens us all - our environment, our health, our economies, our social services, and our children's future.

Significant reductions in greenhouse gases are required if we are to slow and reverse the warming trend in our atmosphere.

### **Global Warming will affect food systems**

Productivity of some important crops is projected to decrease and livestock productivity to decline, with adverse consequences for food security.

Changes in precipitation patterns and the disappearance of glaciers are projected to significantly affect water availability for human consumption, agriculture and energy generation.

### **And our food affects the climate**

Between 1970 and 1990, direct emissions from agriculture grew by 27 per cent. Agriculture contributes 4 per cent of B.C.'s total greenhouse gas emissions, and over 13.5 per cent of global emissions.

And that's just the emissions from growing food. Before food gets into your plate it is packaged, processed, and shipped across the world, traveling the average distance of over 1,500 kilometers. For each kilogram of food you eat, just as much or more carbon is released.

### **Food systems are also part of the solution**

Our current food system is part of the problem, but changing our food system is part of the

### *Did you know?*

- A pound of grapes flown in from Chile gives off 6 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Growing and packaging a pound of frozen peas requires 10 times as much energy as the peas contain.
- Packaging a box of breakfast cereal requires seven times as much energy as the cereal contains.

solution. Here are some examples of choices you can make:

- A meal made with imported ingredients produces five to 17 times the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as a meal made with locally grown ingredients.
- Organic, low input agriculture uses far less energy and less chemicals than industrial equivalents, while at the same time produces more food.
- Reducing the quantity of red meat and poultry you eat can significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

### **What can you do?**

*Join the Cool Communities Campaign!*

The BCGEU is working on food security in your community. We're working to help union members on concrete projects so that we can make a difference.

This is your opportunity to get involved in the most important issue of our day. If you are interested in getting involved, send an e-mail to: [coolcommunities@bcgeu.ca](mailto:coolcommunities@bcgeu.ca)

