

ENVIR ACTION



Fall 2008

New online workplace auditing tool

So you think your workplace is green? There is plenty of talk these days about workplaces going green. Now CUPE has developed a new quick, online Eco-audit that lets you know how green your workplace really is.

The Eco-audit tool is easy to use. It's all point and click, with a "green" score generated for each person who assesses their workplace's environmental performance. The auditing tool looks at climate change, green

meetings, transportation, paper use, cleaning products, waste/recycling, lighting and other factors. The tool was launched on Earth Day 2008 to highlight environmental awareness and action at work. Hundreds of people have since conducted environmental audits of their workplaces using CUPE's Eco-audit. It helps show where you're doing well and where your workplace needs to make improvements. To see how green your workplace is, use this link: <http://cupe.ca/forms/ecoaudit.php>

HEALTHY, CLEAN & GREEN

A Workers' Action Guide to a Greener Workplace

Action guide wins award

CUPE's benchmark environmental publication is officially a winner. *Healthy, Clean & GREEN: A Workers' Action Guide to a Greener Workplace* won first place in the Best Flyer or Brochure category for the 2007 Canadian Association of Labour Media awards. If you still haven't read this publication, email mfirth@cupe.ca to order free copies.



Green language wanted

The CUPE National Environment Committee and its staff liaison are developing an online green contract language reference catalogue for locals. The Strategic Directions document from the 2007 National Convention in its "Meeting Global Green Targets" section, and the CUPE National Executive Board resolution on climate change from December call on our union to develop green contract

language to help combat climate change and to improve the state of the natural environment.

If your workplace has any contract or workplace policy language on climate change or any other environmental issue, please let Matthew Firth know at mfirth@cupe.ca or call the national office (613) 237-1590 ext. 240.



Green Activist Corner

This new feature reports on CUPE members who make a difference environmentally at their workplaces or in their communities. If you have suggestions for CUPE Green Activist Corner, write to mfirth@cupe.ca.

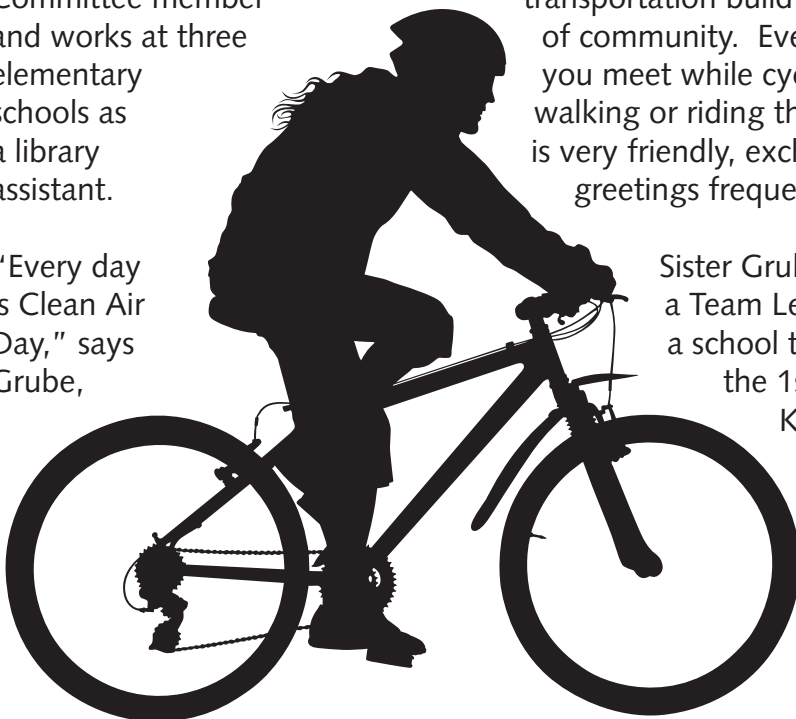
Every day is Clean Air Day for CUPE Local 3500 member

Anne Grube from Local 3500 in Kamloops, B.C. leads by example when it comes to green actions. Sister Grube is an avid bike commuter who uses the bus to get around town when needed. She is also a CUPE B.C. Environment Committee member and works at three elementary schools as a library assistant.

who takes the bus, walks and/or rides her bike to work throughout the seasons. "I don't have to drive to a gym and pay to exercise. I arrive at work and back at home energized. I also find that alternative modes of transportation build a sense of community. Everyone you meet while cycling, walking or riding the bus is very friendly, exchanging greetings frequently."

"Every day is Clean Air Day," says Grube,

Sister Grube was a Team Leader for a school team in the 1st Annual Kamloops Bike to Work Week in June 2008.



New environmental materials



The CUPE Health and Safety branch – which has responsibility for environmental issues – is developing new materials that emphasize environmental education and activism in CUPE workplaces. In the coming months, a new "Go Green" educational workshop will be developed. Also in the works are a kit to help Locals set up Workplace Environmental Committees and an online green bargaining language tool. Look for these new materials soon.

