



BCTF

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Environment and Sustainability Video Resources

The videos listed below are available for borrowing from the [BCTF Information Services Department](#).

Please [click here](#) to view additional recommended titles that may be acquired from other sources.

The Cost of Cool: Youth, Consumption & the Environment examines teenagers grappling with conspicuous consumption and its environmental price.

Crude Sacrifice: You Can't Reclaim Humanity looks at how the community of Fort Chipewyan in northern Alberta is affected by the exploitation of Canada's Tar Sands and how the federal and provincial governments are dealing with local concerns. People in the community can no longer drink the water or eat the fish and game that have sustained them for thousands of years. Leading scientists and Aboriginal residents discuss the environmental and health issues surrounding the world's largest construction project.

For the Price of a Cup of Coffee: What is the cost of convenience? This film is full of information that all consumers should know about the products that we use every day, and the steps we need to make towards a more sustainable world.

Fractured Land: What would it be like to live alongside one of the shapers of human events, in their youth, before they transformed history? In *Fractured Land*, we follow Caleb Behn, a young Dene lawyer who may become one of this generation's great leaders, if he can discover how to reconcile the fractures within himself, his community and the world around him, blending modern tools of the law with ancient wisdom. As 350.org founder, Bill McKibben, puts it, "Anyone who can throw a hatchet and sue you is a force to be reckoned with."

Gardens of Destiny explores issues such as genetic engineering, terminator seeds, and the pitfalls of industrial agriculture. It offers solutions on how to achieve sustainable food production in North America.

Hungry for Change: Focusing on emerging issues on food and food security, Hungry for Change offers lesson plans that engage students in topics such as food safety, agricultural ethics and technology, the politics of hunger, and great bio-fuel debate.

Shop 'Til You Drop: The Crisis of Consumerism: Are we too materialistic? Are we willfully trashing the planet in our pursuit of things? And what's the source of all this frenetic consumer energy and desire anyway? Taking aim at the high-stress, high-octane pace of fast-lane materialism, the film moves beneath the seductive surfaces of the commercial world to show how the flip side of accumulation is depletion—the slow, steady erosion of both natural resources and basic human values.

Sweet Crude examines the humanitarian, environmental and economic devastation caused by 50 years of oil extraction in Nigeria's Niger Delta. Filmmaker Sandy Cioffi, who was imprisoned by the Nigerian military during the making of this film and released only after an international outcry, uncovers an international web of oil politics, big business and media manipulation.

Waterlife follows the epic cascade of the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. This feature-length documentary tells the story of the last huge supply (20 per cent) of fresh water on Earth. The source of drinking water, fish and emotional sustenance for 35 million people, the Great Lakes are under assault by toxins, sewage, invasive species, dropping water levels and profound apathy.

Additional video resources

Addicted to Plastic (85 min) c2009

Addicted to Plastic is a film about solutions to plastic pollution. This documentary captures three years of filming in 12 countries on 5 continents, including two trips to the middle of the Pacific Ocean where plastic debris accumulates. The film details plastic's path over the last 100 years and provides a wealth of expert interviews on practical and cutting edge solutions to recycling, toxicity, and biodegradability. These solutions, which include plastic made from plants, will provide viewers with a hopeful perspective about our future with plastic. This documentary does not address the demand side of the proliferation of plastic and can seem long. Teachers may want to feature parts of the film.

A Crude Awakening (90 min) c2006

This award-winning documentary examines our dependence on oil, showing how oil is essential for almost every facet of our modern lifestyle, from driving to work to clothing and clean tap water. *A Crude Awakening* asks the tough question, "What happens when we run out of cheap oil?" Through expert interviews, the film spells out in startling detail the challenges we would face in dealing with the possibility of a world without cheap oil—a world in which it may ultimately take more energy to drill for oil than we can extract from the oil the wells produce.

DIRT! The Movie (79 min) c2009

DIRT! The Movie brings to life the environmental, economic, social, and political impact that the soil has. It shares the stories of experts from all over the world who study and are able to harness the beauty and power of a respectful and mutually beneficial relationship with soil. Made from the same elements as the stars, plants and animals, and us, "dirt is very much alive." Though, in modern industrial pursuits and the clamor for profit and natural resources, our human connection to and respect for soil has been disrupted. Drought, climate change, even war, are all directly related to the way we are treating dirt. More than anything, the film tracks the decline in topsoil and is a call to action.

Flow: For Love of Water (93 min) c2008

This documentary investigates the world water crisis. Exploring the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, and human rights. *Flow* draws attention to the emergence of a domineering world water cartel. Interviews with scientists and activists reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale. The film introduces many of the governmental and corporate participants behind the water rush, while begging the question, "Can anyone really own water?" This film's in-depth look at water makes apparent the link between issues of social and environmental justice.

Food, Inc. (94 min) c2008

Food, Inc. is a comprehensive documentary exploring the complexities of the industrial food model. This critical analysis of the corporatization of food explores the economic, environmental, social, and health implications of an increasingly centralized and homogenized food system. By looking closely at issues of genetic patenting, food-borne illness, pesticides, farm-worker rights, animal rights, food labelling, etc, *Food, Inc.* presents a thorough overview of where our food comes from and how it affects not only us as individuals, but also the environment and the rights and freedoms of others.

Educational resources available on the *Food Inc.* [website](http://www.takepart.com/foodinc/index.html), www.takepart.com/foodinc/index.html

Fresh (72 min) c2009

Fresh celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across North America who are re-inventing our food system. Each has witnessed the rapid transformation of our agriculture into an industrial model, and confronted the consequences: food contamination, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, and morbid obesity. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

The Man Who Planted Trees (30 min) c1998

The Man Who Planted Trees is a short animated film about Elzeard Bouffier who, after his son and wife die, spends his life reforesting miles of barren land in southern France. Bouffier's planting of thousands and thousands of trees results in many wondrous things occurring, including water again flowing in brooks that had been dry for many years. The brooks are fed by rain and snow that are conserved by the forest that Bouffier planted. The harsh, barren land is now pleasant and full of life.

The author of the book, Jean Giono, hoped that his tale would make people love trees, or more precisely, would make them love planting trees. Within a few years, the story swept around the world and was translated into at least a dozen languages. It has long since inspired reforestation efforts worldwide. *The Man Who Planted Trees* is not only a wonderful story; it will inspire you and your children to care for the natural world.

A teachers' activity guide is available [online](#). 

Suzuki Speaks (45 min) c2004

Suzuki Speaks is an educational video about the essence of life. In this film, Suzuki delivers an important message about what it means to be fully human in our interconnected universe. The film's stunning motion graphics weave a tapestry that transforms Dr. Suzuki's wisdom into a complete sensory experience, literally creating new worlds and new ways of seeing. *Suzuki Speaks* will leave you feeling renewed, challenged, and alive.

Vanishing of the Bees (87 min) c2009

Honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing across the planet, literally vanishing from their hives. Known as Colony Collapse Disorder, this phenomenon has brought beekeepers to crisis in an industry responsible for producing apples, broccoli, watermelon, onions, cherries and a hundred other fruits and vegetables. Commercial honeybee operations pollinate crops that make up one out of every three bites of food on our tables. Filming across the US, in Europe, Australia and Asia, *Vanishing of the Bees* examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between mankind and mother earth.

What's on Your Plate? (76 min) c2009

What's on Your Plate? is a witty and provocative documentary about kids and food politics. Filmed over the course of one year, the film follows two eleven-year-old multi-racial city kids as they explore their place in the food chain. Through visits to local farms, fast-food restaurants, and landfills, the two friends address many complex questions about the food they eat and formulate sophisticated and compassionate opinions on the state of their society. In so doing, they inspire hope and active engagement in others.

White Water, Black Gold

This movie is a useful resource and may be purchased from [White Gold Productions Inc.](#) The accompanying [study guide](#) follows David Lavalley (a North Vancouver teacher) on his three-year journey across Western Canada in search of the truth about the impact of the world's thirstiest and dirtiest oil industry. This is a journey of jarring contrasts, from the pristine mountain ice fields that are the source of the industry's water, to the Tar Sands tailing ponds, where thousands of migrating birds have unwittingly landed and died.