

## Update: Classroom Energy Diet Challenge 2020 and COVID-19

At Canadian Geographic Education, we understand that the extended closure of schools as part of the national effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 has, in some cases, created challenges for teachers to continue to participate in the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge (CEDC). We are dedicated to ensuring that the CEDC will continue unless, and until, it is no longer reasonable, or legally possible to do so. We are doing all we can to ensure that teachers and their students can continue to participate, and continue to gain and share knowledge about the sustainable use of energy.

**The current structure, deadlines, and prizing of the CEDC all remain in effect and unchanged.** We have provided additional information concerning the challenges in order that the challenges may be adapted to the current environment and applicable to the members of classrooms who are at home and self-isolating. On each challenge page on the [Classroom Energy Diet Challenge](#) website, you will see another option, “Option 2” or “Option 3” (depending on the challenge), where we have offered suggestions for how the activity can be completed at home. This addition does not remove or disqualify any of the previous challenge options. We are inviting classrooms to show off their creativity and ingenuity to complete any outstanding challenges, with virtual delivery, and at home completion. The adapted options only relate to the challenge activity. Teachers can decide how best to introduce the “energy” subject to their students and are responsible for determining the best manner in which to carry out the challenge.

### Safety and Responsibility

Safety is of paramount importance. If your students are able to complete the challenges safely and remotely, while adhering to all applicable requirements from municipal/provincial/federal authorities (including but not limited to any self-isolation, quarantine and/or physical distancing requirements), schools, principals, and school boards, continue to submit your proof of the challenges! Completing the challenges, and continuing to participate in the CEDC, **does not** require students to gather in groups, make purchases (of technology or other materials), or violate any governmental instructions/orders regarding safety and COVID-19.

As was always the case for the CEDC, teachers are responsible for ensuring that pictures or videos submitted in connection with the CEDC are only of those who have permission to have their photographs or videos submitted as proof and uploaded to the CEDC website. Faces and identifying features are **not** required to be in any proof submitted. A [media release/consent form](#) can be found on the CEDC website. Teachers should also ensure that the [rules and regulations](#) of the CEDC are followed throughout this process.

### Video Challenge

Videos for the Video Challenge can still be submitted after April 1. Public voting closes April 24 at noon (ET). We encourage as many members of the classroom as possible to contribute to this video to showcase numerous students’ learning. A reminder that the video still must follow the [Rules and Regulations](#) of the CEDC; including that the video must be a student’s work (words, art, ideas, etc.). This could possibly look like numerous students individually contributing small clips that are then compiled as a 60 second video. A reminder that those appearing in the video are required to submit a media release/consent form to the teacher; however, students’ faces and voices are not required to be in the video. Students are not to gather to film videos and must follow all applicable requirements/orders relating to self-isolation, quarantine and physical distancing.

### Prizes

As schools are currently closed, prizes will be delivered when it is reasonably feasible to do so.

### Future Changes

We are in unprecedented times and as the situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, further changes/amendments to the CEDC may be required. Should further changes/amendments/clarification be required, we will provide additional updates on our [website](#).

We understand that every teacher's situation is different. We acknowledge the unfortunate circumstances of some that due to some provincial/school board directions, teachers are unable to communicate with their students at this time. We are also aware that not all students have access to technology at home. No student is required to purchase technology for the CEDC. We encourage all teachers to be as creative as possible in order to keep as many students as is reasonably possible involved in the CEDC. We are hoping the program will continue to serve as an instrument through which active learning can continue to take place.

Canadian Geographic Education's CEDC team is here to support teachers and their students in the completion of this challenge. If you have questions, would like suggestions on how to complete a challenge, or have an idea that you would like to do with your students and would like to know if it would be approved, please contact [info@energydiet.ca](mailto:info@energydiet.ca). The CEDC team is also working remotely these days, but we will respond to questions/emails as quickly as we reasonably can.

We look forward to seeing the creative ways that teachers will use to complete the CEDC with their students, with an added opportunity for students to bring awareness around the sustainable use of energy into their homes!

Let's all finish the CEDC strong!

Sincerely,

Canadian Geographic Education