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Making Sustainability at Home in B.C.: *a toolkit*

Together The Natural Step, Lighthouse Sustainable Building Centre, and David Suzuki Foundation have created "Sustainability at Home: A Toolkit". It's a one-stop shop, designed to help with everyday decision-making – offering solutions to challenging questions that save both time and money.

This toolkit provides tips to help BC residents understand the impacts of their decisions and answer tricky questions about the choices and tradeoffs we all make when trying to do the right thing. Is a local apple better than a foreign organic banana? Should I replace my computer with a more efficient one or try to hold onto it for as long as possible? With some guidelines to help answer these and other difficult questions and by working through an action checklist, homeowners and renters alike can not only reduce their impact on climate change, they can save money and help British Columbia lead the rest of Canada to a more sustainable future. "Small actions can really make a difference. This toolkit shows how you can transform your home into a healthy and sustainable one" said Lindsay Coulter, the David Suzuki Foundation's 'Queen of Green'.

"Sustainability can't be achieved by any one organization or community alone. It's only when we all work together and all do our part that we'll start to see the big changes we need. We hope this toolkit will inspire thousands of changes in household decisions across the province," said Kelly Baxter, Executive Director of The Natural Step. The free toolkit can be downloaded from our websites at www.thenaturalstep.org/canada, <http://beta.davidsuzuki.org> and www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com.

The B.C. *Sustainability at Home* toolkit was generously supported by The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia and Vancity Credit Union. Input was gathered from a diverse editorial committee which included Toxic Free Canada, City Green Solutions, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and many others. "The Real Estate Foundation of B.C. was pleased to make a grant for the B.C. sustainability toolkit," said Stephen Mullock, the Real Estate Foundation Chair. "When sustainability begins at home, everyone is part of the solution."

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To learn more about the involved organization or talk to a person, contact us:

About *The Natural Step Canada*

The Natural Step Canada is part of an international non-profit organization that helps communities and businesses journey more efficiently and effectively toward sustainability. TNS Canada works with municipalities, businesses, and other community stakeholders using a science-based framework that elegantly describes sustainability – connecting stakeholders with a common language and empowering



them with a democratic process to vision and achieve sustainability. Visit www.thenaturalstep.org/canada for more information.

Anouk Bertner

Director of Communications
The Natural Step
613-748-3001 ext. 223
abertner@naturalstep.ca
www.thenaturalstep.org/canada

About Light House Sustainable Building Center

Light House Sustainable Building Centre is an enterprising non-profit society dedicated to advancing and catalyzing sustainability in British Columbia's built environment. Visit us at the only green building Sustainability Showcase and Resource Centre in Canada to learn more about the benefits of green building or to develop your green building skills. We work to provide education, training and outreach programs to develop green building knowledge and skills; support public sector programs and private sector initiatives; and facilitate and accelerate market transformation and economic development activities for the sustainable building cluster in BC.

Amanda McCuaig

Manager of Operations and Communications
Light House Sustainable Building Centre
604-677-3593
amanda@sustainablebuildingcentre.com

About the David Suzuki Foundation

The David Suzuki Foundation is an environmental think-tank that works through science and education to protect the diversity of nature and our quality of life. With a goal of achieving sustainability within a generation, the Foundation collaborates with scientists, business and industry, academia, government and non-governmental organizations. Visit: <http://beta.davidsuzuki.org>

Lindsay Coulter

David Suzuki's 'Queen of Green'
David Suzuki Foundation
604-732-4228
lcoulter@davidsuzuki.org