



From Crisis to Hope: Building Just and Sustainable Communities

DRAFT Conference Schedule

This is a draft of the Parkland conference schedule. Changes in order and speakers may occur. Confirmed speakers are listed. More information will be available on the website in September.

November 16, 2007

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Doors Open

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Keynote

From Climate Crisis to Hope - Building Socially Just and Sustainable Communities

Horowitz Theatre, Students' Union Building

Patrick Bond **Why Market 'Solutions' Won't Fix Climate Problems: The Case of South Africa**

Patrick Bond addresses climate change and brings news from one of the pilot sites for the Clean Development Mechanism. The CDM's multiple failures in South Africa point to a broader problem: market solutions for market problems are rarely if ever effective. Developing the 'carbon trade' is tantamount to privatizing the air. In resistance, a global network of climate justice warriors has emerged, but they need more Canadian input.

November 17, 2007

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Doors Open

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Plenary

Why We Need to Make the Transition

1-001, ETLC

Paul Gunter **Is Nuclear the Answer?**

With growing global threats from rapid climate change and the proliferation of nuclear weapons materials the task of creating both a carbon free and nuclear world becomes ever more crucial. The Beyond Nuclear presentation will focus on providing a vision for the path forward while debunking the new mythology that nuclear power and fossil fuels can offer viable energy solutions for the 21st Century.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Plenary

How We Can Make a Just Transition

1-001, ETLC

Richard Heinberg **What Will We Eat When the Oil Runs Out?**

Global food production faces four simultaneous crises arising from our relatively recent pattern of dependence on depleting fossil fuels. The first consists of the direct impacts on agriculture of higher oil prices: increased costs for tractor fuel, agricultural chemicals, and the transport of farm inputs and outputs. The second is a consequence of high oil prices—increased demand for biofuels, resulting in farmland being turned from food production to fuel production. The third consists of climate change and extreme weather events caused by fuel-based greenhouse gas emissions. Finally comes the degradation or loss of basic natural resources (principally, topsoil and fresh water supplies) as a result of high rates, and unsustainable methods, of production stimulated by decades of cheap energy. Each of these crises is developing at a somewhat different pace regionally. As these crises grow and mutually interact, the consequences for humanity and the biosphere are likely to be profound and unprecedented in scope. The primary solution to each and all is a planned rapid reduction in fossil fuel consumption by society, though this presents economic and technical challenges of its own.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch

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1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Plenary

Interconnectedness: Travel in a Post Carbon World

1-001, ETLC

Jeff Berg *Energy, What Energy?*

The zeitgeist of our times is Energy and Emissions. If we are going to fulfill the ineluctable demands of these two irreducible physical constraints then we are going to have to revolutionize our every major human service system. This talk will deal with the future of transportation.

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM Break

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Concurrent

a Participatory Budgeting

1-003, ETLC

Shauna MacKinnon *Participatory Budgets - Much More Than a Technical Tool*

Government budgets are dry, technical documents that can be intimidating and overwhelming to the untrained eye. They are also highly political documents that articulate, through numbers, the values of the government in power. Alternative budgets can be useful tools to mobilize community, raise public awareness and demystify the government budget process and demonstrate that governments have choices in how they raise revenue and allocate resources. This session will provide participants with the basics of participatory budgeting including some tips on how to get started, how to access necessary information, and how to proceed, even with limited resources.

b Tools for Sustainability

1-007, ETLC

Mark Anielski *Measuring What Matters: The Genuine Wealth of Communities*

Mark recently completed his first book titled *The Economics of Happiness: Building Genuine Wealth*. In the book Mark proposes a new vision for economics and new system for measuring and managing progress based on the values and well-being conditions of households and business enterprises in our communities. The book also contains examples of how genuine wealth is being developed all over the world, including his recent Genuine Wealth Assessment of the City of Leduc. Mark will speak to how Alberta communities can build flourishing economies of well-being.

c Green Politics

1-013, ETLC

Laurie Adkin *Not Sustainable Development: Ecological Democracy*

Polling data consistently show that Canadians are very concerned about environmental degradation, climate change, and wilderness conservation. However, these concerns are rarely being translated into governmental action at municipal, provincial or federal levels. Governments take action only when pushed by durable, lively green publics. How healthy is Canada's "green public"? What mobilizes or demobilizes individuals as environmental citizens? What conditions or resources will strengthen and grow the green public? Are environmentalists failing to make connections that are important to ecological democratization?

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM Break

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3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Plenary

Spending Our Time Differently: Art, Culture and Recreation

1-001, ETLC

Myrna Kostash **Art, Myth and Ritual: Carbon-free Diet for the Soul**

Inspired by reading Karen Armstrong's examination of modern fundamentalisms in *The Battle for God*, Myrna Kostash wonders if secularism, unbalanced by spiritual expression, isn't a culprit in the degradation of the planet and the fracturing of human community. When was the last time progressive politics took myth and ritual seriously: the Sixties? Is Art all we have left now?

Stage Left Productions **No Sweat!**

Just how do we transform ourselves from passive consumers to active citizens in today's world of materialism, individualism, and greed? Stage Left Productions provides a dynamic, visceral, and highly interactive opportunity to explore the internal and external barriers that stop us from becoming more active champions of a post-carbon, socially just, sustainable world. We use a participatory performance activity, called Forum Theatre, as a catalyst for creatively charged explorations of how we can take hold of moments in our daily lives and bring about radical change in the world.

Join us as we examine seemingly simple moments of interpersonal interaction, reflect on their complexities, connect them to critical social issues, generate collective responses to them, and imagine alternate courses of action that we can each take and that contribute to the collective effort to achieve a post-carbon, socially just, and sustainable global community.

Don't expect anything traditional or predictable

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Break

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Film

Global Visions Film Pick

Deweys, Powerplant, Students' Union

Global Visions Festival **The Planet**

Denmark, Norway, Sweden, 2006, 82 mins
Director: Johan Soderberg, Michael Stenberg, Linus Torell

Filmed in 25 countries around the globe, *The Planet* presents a remarkable portrait of the Earth in crisis. With visually stunning imagery and incisive commentary from a range of experts, including George Monibot, author of *Heat*, and Jared Diamond, author of *Guns, Germs and Steel*, *The Planet* picks up where Al Gore left off.

Focusing on climate change and a range of other human-induced environmental challenges, including exploding human population, mass extinction, staggering levels of pollution, increased desertification and the loss of wild places, the film is a unique challenge to us all.

Far from simply a depressing litany of environmental ills, the film explores the latest facts and positive examples that are emerging around the world, and leads us to the ultimate issue of how we must cope with the future.

8:00 PM - 8:45 PM Plenary

Book Launch: Cause for Hope: Humanity at the Crossroads.

Deweys, Powerplant, Students' Union

Bill Phipps **Cause For Hope: Humanity at the Crossroads**

Hope lies in society becoming conscious and aware—even roused—about the fact that there is nothing inevitable about a growing gap between the rich and the poor, about the continued plight of our aboriginal communities, or the perilous state of our natural environment. *Cause for Hope* offers up an inspirational vision for social progress, one which compels us to bridge the disconnect between our values and our vision for a just society and the often dissonant direction in which our world seems to be heading.

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8:45 PM - 11:00 PM Social

Book Signing, Reception and Socializing

Deweys, Powerplant, Students' Union

November 18, 2007

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Doors Open

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Plenary

Where We Live and What We Eat

1-001, ETLC

Nettie Wiebe

Where We Live and What We Eat: Home Cooked Sustainability

The global food system delivers foods from around the world into our supermarket aisles and fast food lanes. What is the impact of this food system on our culture, our food tastes and our relationship to food? How has it changed farming and our local food economy? If 'environmentalism begins at the breakfast table', what should the breakfast menu look like?

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM Break

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Concurrent

a A Real Place Example Not Too Far From Home

1-003, ETLC

Rick Quail

Leave a Legacy - Sustainable Okotoks

In 1998, the Town of Okotoks became one of the first municipalities in the world to establish growth targets linked to infrastructure development and environmental carrying capacity. The carrying capacity of the Sheep River was identified as approximately 30,000 people. A comprehensive set of targets and initiatives was identified to ensure build-out population could be reached in a sustainable manner. Hence the articulation of four "pillars" of Sustainable Okotoks:

- 1.Environmental Stewardship
- 2.Economic Opportunity
- 3.Social Conscience
- 4.Fiscal Responsibility

More than 70 initiatives have been undertaken under the umbrella of Sustainable Okotoks, reflecting defining elements of the relationship between people and their environment: Water, Air, Energy, Land and Soul. World leading initiatives include the Town's wastewater composting process; a solar community that generates 90% of energy consumption from the sun and a water/waste conservation education program that has helped reduce per capita water consumption by 30%. Initiatives have demonstrated a deep commitment to partnership building with the community, among all levels of government and between the public and private sectors.

The future is not being projected in Okotoks, it is being created.

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b Designing Cities

1-007, ETLC

Noel Keough

A City Built for Everyone - What's Justice Got to do with Sustainability?

This presentation will discuss the vision of a just and sustainable city embedded in the Citizens Agenda - a policy and action document created by over 1000 Calgarians. The Agenda proposes twelve policies and actions to make a city a truly healthy, caring and vibrant place. The Citizens Agenda demonstrates the synergies between social policies such as living wage and inclusionary zoning for affordable housing and landuse and transportation policies such as transit oriented design, green buildings and renewable energy. The presentation will also discuss major impediments to just and sustainable cities.

c Local Food

1-013, ETLC

Mary Beckie

Row by Row: Growing Local Food Systems

The 100 Mile diet.... Slow Food....Foodsheds....Food Security....Community Supported Agriculture..... The local food movement is heating up, across Canada and around the world. This presentation will explore the meaning of local food, examine factors shaping the rise of this social movement, as well as some innovative initiatives taking place in and around the Capital Region.

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Lunch

1:15 PM - 2:45 PM

Discussion

Community Discussions - What We Think

2nd Floor Southside Atrium, ETLC

Pick up a discussion theme card from the conference table (main floor) on Sunday. This card has 3 questions, a meeting location and facilitator name. Your small group can submit its succinct responses to be posted later on www.ualberta.ca/parkland.

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Plenary

What is Progress?

1-001, ETLC

Dr. Ann Dale

Sustainable Community Development: A Vision for the Future

What is sustainable community development? Is there any one desired future or future(s) that are more sustainable than others? How do we get from here to there? Is there any one single definition that fits all communities? Join Dr. Ann Dale in a dialogue about the meaning of sustainable development for your community, based on her research over the last seven years in place-based and virtual communities.
