



ARE You a Climate ZOMBIE?

How can we walk together ■

A CLIMATE JUSTICE UNCONFERENCE

Thurs. Oct 25/12 • 10am - 3pm • 280N York Lanes

- An unconference is a participant-driven meeting
- Cost: Free! (Registration is free for all members of the York U community)

This unconference is brought to you through the joint efforts of:
IRIS - Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability, the Centre for Human Rights (CHR), CSBO - Campus Services and Business Operations, the President's Sustainability Council, York University - TD Community Engagement Centre, Net Impact, Regensis @ York, and the Climate Consortium for Research Action Integration.

RSVP at: www.iris.yorku.ca/unconference

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Figure 1 - Wordle created by IRIS Director Dawn Bazely, using words from this report

Participants

Faculty and Lecturers

- Dawn Bazely, Director of IRIS, Professor in Biology
- Steve Alsop, Core Faculty of IRIS, Professor in Faculty of Education
- Kaz Higuchi, Core Faculty of IRIS, Professor of FES
- Paul Antze, Professor of LA&PS

Undergraduate Students

LA&PS

- Enrique Miranda
- Kevin Boiragi
- Lada Kotova
- Brandon Bennings
- Ryan Oueini
- Andrew Fekete

Environmental Studies

- Bushra Noureen
- Magda Bobula
- James Mozotto

Schulich

- Hao Yang

Health

- Mitra Alizadeh

Fine Arts

- Sarah Fong

Science and Engineering

- Kita Navalyal
- Longbin Chen
- Renu Brar

Graduate Students

- Ana Maria Martinez (Education)
- Shishir Handa (Science)
- Don Yu (Science)
- Darnel Harris (FES)
- Swithin Aby (Schulich)

- Jessica Reeve (FES)
- Sindy Singh (FES)
- Masao Ashtine

Alumni

- Amit Lahiri

Other Students

- Samuel Awotundun
- Sydney
- Olivia

Staff

Vice-Provost Students

- Ross McMillan

Vice-President Finance and Administration

- Paul Mayol

CSBO

- Helen Psathas
- Ken Panaram
- John Wilson
- Chris Panagopoulos

Librarians

- Peter Duerr

LA&PS

- Mark Terry

President's Sustainability Council

- Canina Clifford
- Pavel Graymason
- Andrew Plunkett

Centre for Human Rights

- Anita Balakrishna

IRIS

- Annette Dubreuil, Facilitated the day

CC-RAI

- Stewart Dutfield

11am – 12pm Sessions

Session #1 – Waste

Location: York Lanes 242

Initiator: Masao Ashtine – mashtine@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Mitra, Enrique, Chris, Magda, Bushra, James

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

Change : students get behind it with a voice, the administration gets behind it more
staff and faculty are here because of students
do it before having to do it not because of legislation of money, but because of change
SFI more costly, but it's now part of York sustainability

LCD screening

recycled paper, simple to change. Little things you can do like duplex paper. Paper is the low
hanging fruit. LCD screen landfill, energy that it sucks.

Toners are now from recycled products.

Abstract wasteful, students not being mindful of where waste goes, where energy comes from
CSBO

contaminating recycled,
more recycling,

Food containers, soup stock

Recycling plants

Everything ending up in the same place
cleaners putting it all in one bin,

4Rs : REFUSE, the bag that you don't need when you get food that you are about to consume

People need to be scared,

2 kids, reusable bags, educating the future, home depot.
we have to practice what we preach

Measuring the waste in someone's office
having to pay for it, money incentive doesn't push as much change
energy star used too much it doesn't even matter

Thinking about it ahead of time, cultural change,
kids, and so much more time to make change

our generation not willing to change,
coffee contaminating change, employees

MAGNA

media, climate change
buy buy buy, consumption

Toronto star, anactica

Glass half air half water...positivism
pay for the waste, what they did with it
chain of custody, creating jobs for those companies dealing with the waste

plastic bottles being sold, versus making something from it
costa Rica, plastic bottles, shredded and turned into roofs, protects the trees that are usually
used for roots

Marketing, packaging
every croissants individually wrap

Planet in focus: the woman with one plastic bag

Packaging companies, private labels, Wal-Mart sustainability scorecard, Wal-Mart, more for
less...

don't need a container within a container, for protection and heft, responsibility back on the
supplies,

Wal-Mart is changing the world.

shrink wrapper, banding

Japan a leader with repackaging, none of the packaging was recycleable,
the plant, blow it up from small
water bottles

water bottles,
vitamin waters and energy drinks would increase.

Water: hydration stations, washrooms,

Back to waste, we are not surrounded by landfill, disconnected from our waste: clothing,
IKEA: everything flat, bathroom stalls, generating turbine and producing energy.
non-recyclable plastic. Corn based packaging, bad corn? Recyclable?

Bushra

Europe, environment, climate change, small land

30 years ago in Croatia, waste wasn't even a word because everything was used,
do you need lettuce in a bag
banana perfectly

Order and objectivity

common sense: surveys and graphs, in the news, step outside, green trees/blue sky, picture
cant be disturbed common sense doesn't allow you to internalize the reality of waste

problems

garbage strike in Toronto, a lot of people noticed all the waste that they produce, ugly Toronto ! always ugly but we hide it.

Rational mind cant break away either,
religious belief with an explanation
break away
pin-point the end point,

life is too nice right now, Inuit community climate change is a real problem
live off the salmon, the water,

Farmers in chyrnobel,
flush the toilet out of sight out of mind
embrace catastrophe,
unless it becomes personal no one will care

Solution: not fear! TERROR IS NEEDED!

Information is not enough.
education and information doesn't allow internalizing

Capitalism,
destroyed a country and rebuilding

Field trips to garbage dumps

We don't need education anymore, we need action.
great country, true Canadians, friend and family who have immigrated, lose their identity and values in the north American culture.

Recycling problem everywhere, in amazing race all over the place.
China not a dirty country, not a place to go. By having the Olympic they were forced to change.
Beijing 100 times better than Toronto. Beautiful sunsets, smog.
energy used for electronic mail and news
world news: bombing is bad,
each department should pay, no Christmas bonus lol
water ban as of
leaching plastic
water coolers, being changed, January 1st,

Inconvenience, bucket of water.
change is so difficult for people.

packaging
Wal-Mart, shipping cost, landfill,

Costco: 2 for1, shipping box turned into display.

no packaging in the farmers market, paying more.
bananas, local fruit,

Jamie Oliver: pay more for fresh farm eggs, industrial
how the animals are treated

economically viable, cooped on in a cage,
sustainable local farm
animals

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

Student Engagement

Charging departments for waste

stop hiding/shipping waste off, it should be in our local communities so we are mindful of our
wasting habits

Session #2 – Climate Change Education

Location: 280A York Lanes

Initiator: Sindy Singh – susanah14@gmail.com

Who Participated? Don, Stewart, Kaz, Paul, Lada, Kita, Amit, Longbin

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

Americans' general opposition to climate change despite overwhelming scientific evidence is a concern. Is it fixation? A group dynamic? We have to consider the generation of a new norm. We must understand the problem (opposition, lack of understanding of the issue) before we can design a methodology to convey information

Climate change is not happening is one looks out the window → how do we overcome this?

Offering information in a convincing way is crucial!

What is happening with regards to climate change in Ontario with regards to climate change? Most graduates don't know (Stewart, when conducting interviews for positions in his organizations)

What can we do outside the university setting? At the municipal level.

Politicians know more than they claim with regards to climate change as they have to appeal to the electorate every four years. Therefore this has to be on their agenda...we have to put it there

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

Stewart: we should have climate literacy initiative at York. We could get York retirees and other community (non student and faculty) members involved.

Should there be a mandatory course? A science course?

We could consider building in climate change education into existing courses. It would be easy to do so in the sciences and social sciences but the challenge might exist in the humanities.

Maybe we should be focusing on improving the immediate environment, so that the emphasis is not purely on climate change so as to appeal more to the masses.

Kaz: we need to design and develop “packages” of education for generational change. This overall change has to target people from a very young age. It must extend beyond formal education. Kaz spoke about work he has done with Lake Simcoe. And getting kids into the water from the kindergarten level splashing around in the water, cultivating value for the water and the lake from a young age.

Paul: we can also do much with transit. This might be the lowest hanging fruit for climate change. How do we get people to get into transit and out of their cars and get them to see the benefits of this. People have to realise how they can benefit personally and they must be willing to pay for it. We must create public will.

More taxes? People are generally opposed to the idea of more taxes. However, some might be necessary to pay to avoid long-term damage. How do we convince people that there are long term benefits that we have to do things now to avoid future damage?

Politicians think compartments, and often their departments and ministries compete for funding and budget allocations → how do we confront this?

Should we be considering top down education or bottom up education? Top down is generally used to get information on a mass scale but is it effective?

How do we get the media to focus on climate change on a more mass scale? More positive light? Rather than fuel more beliefs that there is scientific uncertainty about climate change science. We must remember that media depends on funding and funding comes from corporate companies such as oil companies. E.g. the heartland institute is funded by petro companies and they spend a lot to fund climate deniers in the media.

Kaz: Scientists are by nature taught to be sceptics. So the media plays on the uncertainty with the causes of climate change. Where it is caused by natural and anthropogenic causes?

In educating people, we must take into account psychology. People are vulnerable to accepting the uncertainty about the cause.

We have to think about what we are gambling if we do nothing.

There is concern about the relationship between science and politics and how scientific uncertainty fuels political inaction. There are vested interests in maintaining uncertainty.

What action can we take at York?

Get the youth on board. They are the future politicians and CEOs. There should be a bottom up approach.

We should be promoting not just learning about the environment but also learning environmentally.

We must consider whether education behaviour change? And if so how?

There is Powershift happening right now but no activities at York and none of the students in the group knew about it. A Canada wide youth initiative trying to shift the sources of power.

Focus on issues more relevant at the local level. Things that affect people at the personal level (if it affects them, they would care). Local problems have to be framed in the global context though.

Making the global matter. Thinking globally, acting locally. Climate does not know boundaries.

The president's council on sustainability rep noted that one of the biggest problems on campus is outreach. They used las nubes and gave out free coffee but linked where the coffee came from, who grows it etc to link it back to sustainability.

We identified one key action which should be taken in the near to immediate term: Waste → organic waste bins more available. And more importantly, we hoped that there can be a climate component in each program at York. As stated before, this might be easier in the science and social sciences but we might have to find more creative ways to build in climate change into the humanities.

There is currently an initiative being undertaken for a climate change certificate → we should try to include outside faculty in this (it is a FES initiative)

Clubs and student organizations can participate and it is important for them to have action plans which immediate effects to appeal to students on the go.

Session #3 – How are going to deal with the “Climate Refugees”?

Location: 280E York Lanes

Initiator: Kevin S. Boiragi – kevin_shourav@hotmail.com

Who Participated? Renu, Amit, Lada, [someone else, forgot the name though – Stewart?]

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

“Climate Refugees” are those who are forcefully displaced out of their livelihoods, and means of subsistence due to the negative effect of the Climate Change. Much often these people are counted as economic migrants, as they travel frequently inland in search for means of livelihoods in order to support themselves financially. However, this term are not granted by the UN body, and International Community since it connotes the Rights of these people. Our topic of discussion today is how we can overcome this issue?

It's not going to change suddenly. It will take time. In this process, what we can do is to make sure we fill in the gaps and continue in raising the awareness to all over the world. We also have to

acknowledge and consider the man made effects of climate change, which will bring us to be more aware of our own responsibilities.

It's the responsibility of the developed countries in the Global North to guide the countries in the Global South in such a way so that collectively, all the countries in the world exploit environment less, so that none of the developing nations compete in the name of Development by actually harming environment to a greater extent.

Most of the MNC's who sign for contributing sustainable development, actually contribute 0.1% of their total profit for the cause. We think, they should be made more responsible about what they preach and about what they are supposed to do.

Finally, we come up with a major solution which is we have to shift our minds in becoming more aware of what our responsibilities are and aware about our own contribution in climate changes.

Once we have done bringing that shift in our mind-sets, we think then, we can commute a meaningful walk in grounding the term Climate Refugees into the discourse of refugee and migration.

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

We have to change our own mind-sets towards our own contributions to climate changes. Once we have done that, we can enact global involvement to achieve what we have to achieve in order to sustain ourselves globally, by dealing with effects of climate change such as Climate Refugees.

Session #4 – Energy Conservation

Location: 280N York Lanes

Initiator: Paul Mayol – pmayol@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Great People who care! Shishir, Dawn Bazely, Hao, Bushra,

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

York U is a small microcosm of the GTA

Since lighting is a major user of energy York U should adopt the objective of 0.8Watt/m sq. @ say 300 Lumens as an objective for classrooms and other task lighting

Bottom line look at the most energy efficient technology and implement where economically feasible

We are affected by built-in obsolescence

York U should look to achieve energy production through green options such as biomass, solar, wind – we already have 2 cogeneration plants (natural gas fired turbines waste heat is used to generate electricity)

York is fortunate to have a district heating set up; we should capitalize and build on this infrastructure

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed/Action plan:

We need more a way to engage the community in energy conservation, one way to do this might be to have smart boards displaying building energy consumption in real time.

Smart metres are already in place for all buildings at both campuses, so the expensive difficult part is already in place we need to either purchase or better yet build (in house)the smart board technology

Ideally we could build smart board display technology in house with student involvement as a form of experiential learning opportunity

The smart boards could piggyback on existing emergency display boards

We need champions to push from within the administration for positive change – IRIS is a natural choice

New faculty of engineering could bring about some of this change

York could try to integrate a transportation card with a one card (new card technology to integrate proximity, ID, debit, parking card)

PRESTO integrates transportation systems across various systems York could try to integrate the transportation features of PRESTO with new one card York card

York should integrate transportation cost within tuition; this would heighten number of potential public transit users and make it easier

Session #5 – Should have a sustainability plan? Climate action plan? Why? How?

Location: 353B York Lanes

Initiator: Andrew Plunkett – aplunkett@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Pavel, Ross, Ana Martinez, Enrique, Anita, Sarah, Annette (for a bit)

Summary of the Discussion / Main Facts:

Andrew provided overview

Lots of people engaged and actions. But not systemic. Not planned in a comprehensive way.

Discussion about planning that is taking place.

What are the barriers to creating either of these plans

Resources to develop

If you have a plan, accountability follows

Culture and culture of change

Good example: Last buildings in past 10 years have been LEED silver? Why, is this in writing?

Example of being in the plan.

Risk, but also an opportunity. How will this change our silos?

Questions:

What is the role of the Presidential Sustainability Council in this?

Where is the balance of values vs. practical?

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

Yes, we should.

Opportunity to engage wide grassroots / community as well as active players. Systematic and transparent Climate Action Plan would be part of overall sustainability plan

(Let's do away with meetings.)

Solution: Communication vehicles. Learning from past – what has created systematic change at York? How do we embed it into our structures (e.g. institutional resource plans)?

12pm – 1pm Sessions

Session #1 – Fair Trade, Climate Justice & Developing Countries

Location: 242 York Lanes

Initiator: Amit Lahiri – alahiri@centennialcollege.ca

Who Participated: Ana Maria Martinez (PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education), Kevin Shourav Boiragi (BA Candidate, Development Studies), Amit Lahiri (Alumni, FES)

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts :

1) How the fair trade movement and global supply chains and climate justice are inter-twined and the relationship is critical to our understanding of the rationale behind the 'Fair Trade Movement' which aims at sustainable livelihoods in the 'third' world.

2) Anna provided examples of the coffee fair trade movement at York primarily through the Las Nubes project; she linked the theory and practice of fair trade to the plight of the Latin American coffee farmers with commodity prices falling and rising profits of major brand name retailers like Starbucks, Tim Hortons, Second Cup, etc.

3) She also provided the example that although the difference between a fair trade cup of coffee and its non-fair trade equivalent is only 5 cents (CAD), brand name retailers are still reluctant to undergo the 'fair trade' certification

4) Then the discussion shifted around 'fair trade certification' and Kevin provided the example of developing country small manufacturers temporarily complying with the fair trade certification audit (e.g. by withdrawing their child labour from their factories during the audit) and then reverting back to their 'usual' business practices. Hence the question was raised about the credibility of the certification process?

5) Anna commented how the fair trade certification label was also used by brand name retailers to enhance their 'brand image' in the market. But all three agreed that at least the minimum compliance with fair trade standards ensure some amount of human equity and climate justice.

6) Amit raised the question as to why major universities like York U don't include the issue of mandating their purchase and procurement of 'Fair Trade' products as part of their 'Climate change' initiatives/education/awareness?

7) Amit further raised the point that it is essential to raise consciousness amongst the

university students that by the university mandating 'fair trade' products in their campus procurement practice is also making the point that climate change justice goes back all the way to developing countries where although the ecological footprint is much lower than the developed countries on a per capita basis, the impact of climate change is much more severe on the poorer people. Hence, students will remember the link between procurement via fair trade and climate justice.

8) Finally, it was agreed that CO2 emissions, international trade, global supply chains, 'third' world production, 'first' world consumption and climate change were inextricably linked events. Therefore, to raise awareness of climate change primarily via the 'clean energy' theme was an incomplete approach to the crisis. Fair trade, climate change justice and 'third' world livelihoods need to become part of York University's Climate Change mandate.

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed /Action Plan

That major universities like York University in Canada who have taken a leadership initiative around 'Climate Change and Justice' issues should make 'Fair Trade' procurement, awareness and education a central part of the debate. Otherwise, the 'first world' and 'third world' silos in an inter-connected crisis such as 'Climate Change' will continue to persist in the minds of even the most educated and privileged citizens of the 'North', notwithstanding the vast public ignorance surrounding such issues and their inter-connectedness.

Session #2 – What Guerilla tactics can we use to engage the climate zombies?

Location: 280A York Lanes

Initiator: Ross McMillan – rossm@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Andrew, Pavel, Paul, Sydney, Chris, Canina

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

- Ross screened a short TEDx video – “City’s Most Remarkable Speakers: Taxi Drivers”
- Creative use of video – i.e. York ‘Gangnam Style’ video–reaches a wide audience rapidly
- Value of competition – create a more vested interest

What stops us from being more creative? – Assumptions (this is the way we have always done it), culture at

York (fear of change, fear of unknown), skills, capacity, fear of putting yourself out there

What events have caught your eye recently? Why? Transit summit – because of big names. Plan Canada coffee event – the idea that people can come together to share ideas (“seeking creative souls”). If we get students excited, then that can help get the rest of the community involved.

We typically resort to conventional awareness raising. What about organizing a zombie walk? It comes back to school pride – need to help foster a sense of belonging.

Usefulness of crowdsourcing – give who you are to the community. Allow them to decide what it looks like, where it goes.

Need to put climate change dialogue into every part of the university. Shouldn't be just in FES or IRIS etc. AASHE presentation – WAKE THE EFF UP! – Being aggressive, assertive to engage people. But needs to be

Done carefully – people could tune out.

Need a 'freak out' moment to grab people – but you also need something positive that they can do.

How to relate climate change effects to the average person? Immediate? Long range? Local?

Global? Camera on smog, showing poor air quality to the community.

How to bring opponents on side? Ignore them, and work with those who are interested.

Incentivize/dis-incentivize. Parking rates. Charge for energy and waste by department. Competition.

Recognition.

Where does our food come from? How to improve sustainability, local food? Build into food contracts.

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

- Need to incentivize/dis-incentivize
- Should audit how energy is used, how food is procured, how waste is generated and disposed of etc.
 - and then how to incentivize/dis-incentivize
- Need more creative ways to get people engaged.

Session #3 – Do York People Really Appreciate Our Trees

Location: 280N York Lanes

Initiator: John Wilson (championed by Dawn) – jwilson@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Darnel Harris, Bushra Noreen, Paul Mayol, Enrique, Mitra, Sindy, James, Swithin, Ken, Brandon, Ryan, Andrew Fekete

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

We had a very wide-ranging discussion and lots of student voices and opinions!!!

Dawn kicked off by explaining that the UFORE (Urban Forest Effects) research approach allows us to put a value on our urban trees – and has been done for York U Keele. Also, Human Ecology lab. at Chicago (William Sullivan) has shown how important urban trees are (grades go up and crime goes down).

We learned that at York U, there is no dedicated staff who steward and champion the trees – John Wilson, an arborist, who organizes the annual tree planting on arbour day, actually, runs the York U mailroom- talk about multi-tasking!

Students would like to see a more aesthetic value put on trees and greening.
We noted that trees are a natural carbon mitigation technology – grow more of them.

Need to encourage students to get outside more

Concern expressed about the declining tree canopy in the municipalities around York U.

Ken, CSBO, took a day off – “I am here to represent 6 of my grandchildren” (Ken was a student at York beginning in 1984 and has worked here since 1989)

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

Ken – have students study the trends in tree canopy cover both on and off the campus, in surrounding municipalities – e.g. Oakville has a 60% tree canopy cover goal for development north of Bloor

Give people reasons to love trees by talking to them when they are on common, etc. sitting under trees, and appreciating them. This will connect them directly to the value of the tree.

Have more tree ceremonies on campus. Cindy – asked for more demonstration projects for trees

Work with CSBO on developing Tree Stewardship-Champion teams

Redevelop the Ross Podium to have planters and a more greenish roof –Regent Park 1 Cole place has some cool pavers

Reach out to students and other community members on getting involved with planning and Master Plan update (note that YUDC leads this process) (note that in 2010-11, the Planning students in FES asked students for input to the campus planning)

Write about the architectural and landscape history of York U – its brutalist architecture, for example – and make available through Yorkspace

Get away from the “one champion” model to make activism on trees more sustainable

Use YFS methods of campaigning for trees

Link campus security to sustainability

York should reach out to and include the Retirees Association and Alumni in the community engagement

Darnell – have authentic community-led engagement, where the university admin is one of the stakeholders and not the leader – which will help to build trust and perhaps more likely that people will champion the trees

Session #4 – How Will Climate Change Affect Access to Water Resources? (Global)

Location: 353B York Lanes

Initiator: Shishir Handa – shishka@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Kaz Higuchi, Annette, Hao

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

Political upheaval because water transgresses geopolitical borders

We have a good understanding of the relationship between CO₂ and temperature but the real question is how will increased temperature affect water access, quality and quantity

Change of physical landscape affects water access are being enhanced by temperature change but this notion is not well understood from the physical or social sciences

What are the policy strategies that could be implemented with water cycling and climate change

Scientifically, focusing water research at the watershed scale is most beneficial

How will water consumption and use change geographically and temporally

How will water borne diseases change with climate change and water resources?

What and how will the distribution and magnitude of hydrological events change spatially and temporally?

Are people aware that water resources accessibility will become the most serious issue of the future?

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed/Action plan:

More education of hydro meteorological processes such as evapotranspiration and precipitation

Local technological solutions to water consumption and waste reduction

Policy strategies (green policy?) and management plans (adaptive management?) that will allow for better access to limited water resources

Respect for share and care of equity and justice to water resources

Learning from respective water resource solutions

1pm – 2pm Sessions

Session #1 – Food

Location: York Lanes 242

Initiator: Mitra Alizadeh – mitraa@yorku.ca

Who was involved: Jessica Reeve, Lada, Kita, Olivia, Sam, Chris, Darnel Harris

Discussions:

- start with the purchasing aspect of York

What are the different considerations around food access?

- proximity
- price

- quality
- quantity
- preparation – access to kitchen
- transit

Factors preventing good food access on campus:

- long term contracts with food providers
- office of risk management: adhering to guidelines and standards
- food company monopolies (Aramark)
- lots of different mechanisms (food vendors) – diff agreements
- less supply (from farmers) and more demand in terms of providing food to a whole university

What can we do?

- shuttle bus going to a supermarket chain/farmers market
- more healthy food options, some on campus
- food providers on campus – need to be flexible by going to a number of different farmers to get the quantity needed. Talking to farmers individually (kind of like the Scarborough hospital project), diversity of menu options based on seasonal food provision
- student lobbying: strong force, if you ask some will cave in to fair trade and local
- procurement debts
- comprehensive university plans
- community kitchens on campus
- mobile food markets on campus – food share, city of Toronto, need to consider risk management

Points of discussion:

- legal problems in terms of building a farmer's market or changing the food provision (contracts)
- healthy food on campus: how do we improve accessibility of healthier, sustainable food?
- options: las nubes café, green campus coop, freshi
- with the Las Nubes café issues with timothy's in terms of rights to access to the space

What we need:

- Leverage with York region farmers,
- take examples from innovations in hospital food provision: Scarborough general hospital, 30cents more per day for local seasonal food, showed that providing local food does not have to be more expensive

Issues for students in residence: access to healthy food, berries and blooms, food box program, no fresh good food that you can prepare yourself.

- one solution to expand on: because of subsidized TTC fares: Pond, once a month does a grocery store run with the dons, but this is not enough, this would be an easy thing to expand on, an easy target

- Compost:

in the offices we do have that, but the green bins outside don't accept meat products

waste management group

residents compost

coordinating with the Maloca Garden

What we can find out more about: joint-health and safety inspection with the university, city of Toronto inspection, can we get a health inspector that visits from the municipality? Requirements for food handling certificates for small-scale vendors

Projects we are passionate about and may take on:

- green roof student garden with a rainwater barrel

Why this discussion is important within the broader context of climate justice?

- reductions in GHG emissions, agriculture is one of the largest contributors

- poisoning from pesticides, health repercussions

- global food supply seems too broad to talk about but we can talk about local food

Session #2 – How do we Reduce / Conserve Water? (local)

Location: 280E

Initiator: Peter Duerr (suggested), Enrique Miranda (convened) – pduerr@yorku.ca, emiranda@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Paul Mayol, Kevin Shourav Boiragi, Ana Maria Martinez, Kita, Lada, Hao Yang

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

The way the discourse on water is framed today often undermines the real practices leading to the rapid depletion of fresh water resources (i.e. agriculture, extraction of fossil fuels, etc.)

Arguments to minimize household consumption of water often neglect persons from low-income families who are forced to rely on products that waste an enormous amount of water

The research by the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition shows how much Universities are involved in funding tar sands production. This work reframes the debate to ask what agents are most involved for water waste, even inadvertently.

Besides washrooms and cleaning facilities, what other areas and processes demand an enormous amount of water waste?

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

Rainfall capturing systems and the installation of products that depend less on water always serve as positive incremental change.

Campaigns to reduce household water waste only capture a snapshot of the seriousness of the issues at hand.

Could water considerations be integrated into a Campus sustainability plan to avoid ad hoc approaches for sustainability?

Could a grading system be employed to measure water waste per each building at York?

Session #3 – Green Buildings: How Do We Make it Happen?

Location: 280N

Initiator: James Marzotto – jamesm31@yorku.ca

Who Participated? Lada, Kita, Kevin, Sindy, James, Swithin

Summary of the Discussion/Main Facts:

Buildings emit 30% of greenhouse gases. Why aren't there more green building regulations/ a better building culture/ answer for green building demand/ green building planning.

We discussed why green building policy in Canada and in Toronto is lacking. At the end of the day it was determined that green building policy in Canada is weak because of the upfront cost. E.g. If the payback period for building green is long, then companies, investors etc. will not be for it.

Another problem is the way buildings are operated today. Computers are left on; heaters of apartment buildings are turned on in September.

People who want to work in green buildings are replaceable.

Solutions and Recommendations Proposed / Action Plan:

Government building incentives (Financial, marketing, legal)

Green building Regulations: Need to be implemented in increments so that we do not scare away business and investment. (Mandatory green roof policy – City of Toronto)

Demonstration effect (If governments build green, can demonstrate that it is effective, then other companies/organizations will want to build green)

Education is needed to communicate effectiveness of green building.

In terms of green building on universities, implement STAR program. Promote buildings with LEED certification.

Final discussion and reflections:

Hao – transit systems and their integration

- we have a lot of power, we just don't know it, and we can shape how York commons looks

Sam – farmer's market discussion – health and safety regulations, but open up the school community through access to a community garden and a farmer's market

Kevin – there is lots that we can do – how we are contributing to climate change personally, not just the fault of corporations, once we are able to empower ourselves we can take personal actions to mitigate climate change, engage with social community of students

Lada – climate education talk – the biggest issue is that people are not informed, working towards motivating and educating others

Kita – climate refugees talk – this is a pressing issue and one that affects us all

Ana- sustainability and climate change potential plans – make these inclusive to the whole community, how to engage students, engaging with people in the administration in these discussions, encouraging that there is a venue to have these conversations – looking forward to actions and blogs to engage students

Steve Alsop- powerful to bring a group of people together – speaks to the possibilities and power of this particular event – prospect of being part of broader social coalitions, conversations that we are having here are entwined with conversations happening elsewhere, the power and voice available at York is enormous

Dawn – great to have reports documenting what went on here today, for next time we need to advertise that it is ok to just show up for a short period of time, getting people engaged with a flexible way of discussing these topics – David Miller – you can use the rules to change things, learn the rules and you can use them, liability issues

Mitra – need to stop getting caught up in regulations, how we can move forward towards the goals that we have, in the waste talk – about our disconnect from the waste system – it is good to expose ourselves to the ugliness

Stuart – education group – one of the staff members from York had taken the day off to come, looking to the future of York, interesting that this is a priority, shows that this is an important event

Jessica – there is the passion and the willingness to engage

James – has been focused on how other people view his view on the environment (being from environmental studies), reminded that we need to find a way to get others to engage and how to understand their perspective on climate change issues, bridging the divide, thinking about different schools of thought when tackling and environmental issue

Andrew – liked the format, great to accommodate different people's schedules, the power of technology that we have at our disposal - energy metering building by building and room by room – there is a huge amount of potential to change our relationship to energy – the power of marketing through smart phones – how we can continue to harness these technologies to our benefit – the size of York, strengths and weaknesses, economies of scale – open up communication, working against silos, but lots of people who are doing great work on these issues

Shish – format is very engaging, great to meet others who are engaged from other disciplines, there is equity and respect within this group, we are like minded and recognize that there is a dire need to have these discussions, empowering through our ability to generate these discussions – weakness would be that this is only the first time – we need to have more of these so that we can come up with more solutions

Darnel – love – this is an important reminder for how we approach things – we are all here to work together to achieve things, approach a situation with love in your heart as a basis to achieve confidence building - happy to see that this came together, community led engagement – hope that this will lead to engaging in more topics at the university

Student- looking forward to engaging and learning more

Student- know a bit and find this conversation interesting – we need to save the environment but people also say that maybe we have gone too far – is it possible that we have entered a line where we can't fix things anymore

Enrique – interesting to see what everyone can contribute from different disciplines, changing the way we engage in these issues

Annette – we would like to repeat this again

How did you hear about this? – Newsletter/email, IRIS email, Centre for refugee studies, Enrique, saw the posters, PSC student sub committee, Steve, Enrique

Any insights into how we can get more people out next time?

- alcohol
- get the word out that you can come for just 10 minutes
- get the word out that this is an inclusive event – engagement – there is not a determined agenda, no authority
- so many FES events – we want people from all faculties – emphasize that we want everyone's voice
- zombie video – viral video – getting students engaged through gimmicky something
- consider the different languages between different faculties
- face to face promotion
- get Woody Harrelson

Considerations for next time – maybe introduce a transition time period between sessions