

Our World, Our Responsibility

Climate Change - Can We Make Sense of the Science?

Hosted by Saint John Paul II C.S.S. in association with UTSC

Location: UTSC Science Building, 1265 Military Trail, Toronto, ON

Date: Friday May 13, 2016 Time 8:30 a.m. – 2.45 p.m.

Hosts contact info:; Joanne.Maier@tcdsb.org; Stephanie.Silliker@tcdsb.org; Thomas.Pickett@tcdsb.org

Registration 8:45a.m.-9:15a.m. Lunch 12:15 noon – 1:00 p.m.

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Morning Workshops: 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Afternoon Workshops: 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks: 2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

DEBATE: Room AC233 9:15 am – 10:45 am

Debate question: “Should we be skeptical about the science suggesting that GHG emissions are the primary cause of global climate change?”

Proponent:

Dr. Bill Gough

Dept. Physical & Environmental Science

University of Toronto

Moderator:

Dr. Tanzina Mohsin

University of Toronto

Opponent:

Dr. Ross McKittrick

Economics Dept.

University of Guelph

Workshops: Cultivating a Rural Metropolis

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Workshop A – Room AA204 11 a.m.

Faith and the Common Good

Presenter Donna Lang Title: Biodiversity:

Edible Gardening in Your Backyard and Community (Maximum capacity: 40)

Synopsis: “Prepare to Get your Fingers Dirty” Practical Edible Garden Workshop –Participants will plant “four week” lettuce seedlings in containers, and they’ll also take home a free copy of the “Edible Gardening Guide”, a practical guide to gardening; Planning, Planting, Maintaining and Harvesting.

Workshop B – Room AA 205 11 a.m.

Live Green

Presenter Megan MacLean Title: Live Green

Toronto Climate Conversations (Maximum capacity: 40)

Synopsis: The City of Toronto has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050 to help address the impact of climate change. Through community conversations, we’re exploring how we can change the ways we live, travel, work and consume goods and services. Students in this workshop will be sharing their ideas on how we can, together, reach our emissions reduction goal and what a low-carbon Toronto will look like in 2050.

Workshop C – Room HW 402 11 a.m.

Factory Farming Awareness Coalition

Presenter: Tanzil Islam

Title: Factory Farming and the Environment (Maximum capacity: 46)

Synopsis: This presentation will explore the impacts of factory farming on farmed animals and the environment. It will focus on the environmental issues that have resulted from factory farming (e.g. climate change, deforestation, pollution, the overuse of pesticides, antibiotics and GMOs). It will also offer simple alternatives to meat and animal products.

Workshop D – Room AA 208 11 a.m.

University of Guelph

Presenter: Dr. Ross McKittrick

Title: Climate Change: Who's Arguing About What? (Maximum capacity: 40)

Synopsis: There is widespread agreement that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, that increased levels in the atmosphere can cause warming and that the climate has warmed since the 1700s. But once we begin to ask how much warming there will be in the future, or whether it will pose problems for the world, the uncertainties grow very large and the consensus breaks down. This talk will explain why the climate system is so difficult to analyse, how current evidence suggests that warming will be modest at most, and why policies to try and stop global warming almost certainly cost more than the warming itself.

Workshop E – Room AA 209 11 a.m.

The Big Carrot

Presenter: Sarah Dobec

Title: Current and relevant research in organics: nutrition, economics, social and environmental impact (Maximum capacity: 40)

Synopsis: For the last 60 years the organic sector has worked hard to promote an alternative to the chemical and conventional agricultural system. In spite of it being the way we grew food for centuries, there was very little research and science to prove its advantages. This workshop will summarize and explain some of the most recent and relevant research on organics including the areas of nutrition, economics, social and environmental impact.

Workshop F – Room AA 206 11 a.m.

Toronto Environmental Alliance

Presenter: Dusha Sritharan

Title: Tackling climate change at the local level (Maximum capacity: 40)

Synopsis: Climate change and the resulting severe weather events will damage our cities, our economy and our health. We have the opportunity to work in our communities to reduce our emissions and prepare for the impacts that climate change will bring. Find out how you can help advocate for change at the local level.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**Workshop G – Room AA 209 1 p.m.****The Ecologos Society****Presenter: Bob Isenberger****Title: We've always got water at our house – so what's the problem? (Maximum capacity: 40)**

Synopsis: It's easy to think all is right with the world when an issue doesn't obviously affect us every day, but increasing signs tell us we should be concerned. Learn why we must care, and what we can do in our daily lives. Yes, you can make a difference.

Workshop H – Room AA 204 1 p.m.**Friends of the Rouge Watershed****Presenter: Leigh Paulseth****Title: Environmental Campaigning: Methods to Save our World (Maximum capacity: 40)**

Synopsis: This workshop will provide a synopsis of environmental campaign tactics to achieve positive change in our communities. Storytelling is a fundamental part of any successful campaign. After studying the story of efforts to save the Rouge, participants will develop their own stories of environmental change to spark their own campaigns.

Workshop I -- Room HW 402 1 p.m.**Factory Farming Awareness Coalition****Presenter: Tanzil Islam****Title: Factory Farming and the Environment (Maximum capacity: 46)**

Synopsis: This presentation will explore the impacts of factory farming on farmed animals and the environment. It will focus on the environmental issues that have resulted from factory farming (e.g. climate change, deforestation, pollution, the overuse of pesticides, antibiotics and GMOs). It will also offer simple alternatives to meat and animal products.

Workshop J – Room AA 205 1 p.m.**University of Toronto****Presenter: Dr. Tanzina Mohsin****Title: Reality Check on Climate Change: Evidences and Misconceptions (Maximum capacity: 40)**

Synopsis: This session will focus on some recent observational evidences on climate change based on the findings of the report by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2013), *The Physical Science Basis*. It will also explore the common misconceptions that people have about climate change science. The session will suggest some actions that can be taken at individual level to reduce the impact of climate change.

Workshop K –Room HW 408 1 p.m.**Canadian Organic Growers****Presenter: Ayla Fenton****Title: Young farmers, food security and climate change (Maximum capacity: 46)**

Synopsis: Young people across Canada are taking on some of our society's biggest challenges by starting new, environmentally-focused farms. We are farming in a way that is trying to solve the problems of hunger, inequality food insecurity, climate change, soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and corporate control of the food system. Most of us grew up in cities, not on farms, and were drawn to farming because of our activism. Come learn about today's young, ecological farmers, what we are doing to save the world, and how you can get involved in this powerful movement.

Workshop L – Room AA 208 1 p.m.**Youth Action Network****Presenter: Jenny Edwards****Title: The Global Water Crisis: Prioritizing Water Conservation and Purification (Maximum capacity: 40)**

Synopsis: Today we are facing a global water crisis as a consequence of the unsustainable management of water. Various issues with our fresh water, such as water contamination, the creation of dams, the bottling of water, the depletion of groundwater, and the privatization of water are ultimately leading to a scenario in which there is not enough clean drinking water to meet the needs of the world's population. Furthermore, some of these human-inflicted problems are creating dire consequences for our ecosystems, contributing to such issues as global warming and the occurrence of natural disasters. Salt water is also at risk, as water pollution and overfishing in the oceans is leading to the depletion of ocean life and the disruption of food cycles. If our current water processes are not altered, we will face a global water crisis in which safe drinking water will become increasingly inaccessible and ocean life will diminish.

Workshop M – Room AA 206 1 p.m.**Ontario Nature Youth Council****Presenter: Sarah Hedges****Title: What's the Buzz About? (Maximum capacity: 40)**

Synopsis: Wild pollinators like bees and butterflies are in decline and need our help! Join Ontario Nature's Youth Council to learn about how they started their first youth-led advocacy campaign to protect pollinators. Get tips and tricks from these young eco-leaders to find out how you can take action for pollinators in your own backyard and beyond.

Closing remarks 2:15 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Thank you for attending our Environmental Conference. We hope it was informative and provided time for networking.

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You may register on our Google Form for the conference at: <https://goo.gl/HD2dCq>