



## Toronto Consultation on Rio+20

Tuesday 7 June 2011

Evergreen Brickworks, 550 Bayview Avenue

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



On June 7, 2011, Evergreen, the Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN), and the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA) hosted a Toronto Consultation on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Approximately 35 participants from various sectors including business, industry, NGOs and government took part in the consultation to contribute their expertise and perspectives to the development of rich and practical outcomes relating to Canada's contributions to Rio+20.

### Background

The Member states of the United Nations agreed to hold a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 4-6 2012 – 20 years after the "Earth Summit" that took place in 1992 (hence "Rio+20"). The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The Toronto Consultation was one of 10 regional consultations held throughout Canada from May to November 2011 coordinated by the RCEN. The Toronto session had the purposes of: briefing Canadian stakeholders on Rio+20 and the opportunities that it presents; and receiving input from Canadian stakeholders on the key themes of Rio+20. The inputs from Canadian Stakeholders are intended to inform the Canadian UNCSD delegation as well as UNEP and the UNCSD Secretariat.

## Programme

- 9:00 – 9:10 Welcoming remarks by Cam Collyer of Evergreen and Carolyn Webb of CIELAP
- 9:10 – 9:40 Presentation on the Green Economy and Institutional Governance by Amy Fraenkel, Director, UNEP Regional Office for North America
- 9:40 – 10:30 Practical experiences and solutions:
- Local governance, Megan Meaney, ICLEI Canada
  - Food and agriculture, Lauren Baker, Toronto Food Policy Council
  - Green buildings, Robert Plaitt, Evergreen
  - Clean technology, Amy Fraenkel, UNEP RONA
  - Mobilizing finance and capital, Alex Wood, Sustainable Prosperity
- 10:30 - 10:50 Break; participants to identify small group preference
- 10:50 - 11:50 Small group discussions:
- How can this sector provide opportunities in terms of readily available techniques and positive environmental impact in advancing the Green Economy?
  - What kinds of commitments are needed to increase investments in this sector, and what barriers (financial, technological, etc...) to green investment in this sector need to be removed?
  - Other relevant topics for discussion?
- 11:50 – 12:15 Reporting back – key insights from morning discussion
- 12:15 - 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:30 Summary of morning; moving from the local to the global, Amy Fraenkel, UNEP RONA.
- 1:30 – 3:00 Small group discussions – global context (Rio+20):
- What is the single most important thing governments, business and others can do to move the world towards a Green Economy?
  - What steps can Canada take to advance Green Economy initiatives both domestically and internationally?
  - Are there specific sectors or initiatives on the Green Economy where agreement at Rio +20 would help advance Canadian interests?
  - Is there a need for a new global facility and/or funding to help mobilize the Green Economy and Sustainable Development?
  - How can local governments be better integrated into the process of international negotiations for Sustainable Development?
- 3:00 – 3:50 Report back and discussion in full group about key points of interest
- 3:50 – 4:00 Closing remarks by Amy Fraenkel

## Welcome

### *Cam Collyer, Evergreen*

Cam welcomed the group to the Evergreen Brickworks and outlined the process for the consultation. He noted that there would be a strong focus on small groups to highlight local projects and networks and to allow for active discussion. He explained how the morning would focus on discussing what is making a substantial contribution to moving the Rio+20 themes in the right direction and how they could be better advanced, while the afternoon would provide a time to look broadly at the international context, how Canada can make the best possible contribution and what this contribution can be. Cam thanked all those who helped make the consultation a reality.

### *Carolyn Webb, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP)*

Carolyn provided context about the consultation: originating with support from Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Canadian Environmental Network selected representatives to host 10 consultations across Canada culminating in a final event in November in Ottawa. She explained how these meetings will be important: for the Government of Canada – to hear from Canadians about their perspectives on Rio+20; for participants to advance ideas on sustainable development; and for the global community as the discussion will channel into the broader conversation. Carolyn proposed a query to the group that had been discussed by the organizers the evening before: could these sessions help Canada help the rest of the world become more interested and engaged in the Rio+20 process?

## Presentation on the Green Economy and Institutional Governance

### *Amy Fraenkel, Director, UNEP Regional Office for North America*

Amy provided the group with some history about Rio+20 and a brief overview of its 2 themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

#### Rio+20 Background and Overview

- UNEP was established in 1972, the same year as the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (the first major international environmental meeting) in Stockholm (thus, Rio+20 is also sometimes termed Stockholm+40). The 1992 meeting in Rio was an unprecedented event, referred to as the Earth Summit, that drew heads of state, including President Bush. A major output of the summit was Agenda 21, a document that detailed how the world was to move towards sustainable development. The event was shaped and led by a Canadian, Maurice Strong, who was the first Executive Director of UNEP. Canada has always been very engaged with UNEP.
- In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (or Rio+10) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The United States had a strong role in shaping the outcome of the meeting. No new agreements were made but partnerships were formed to try to implement what was already agreed to.
- The United Nations General Assembly agreed on the following objectives for the 2012 conference: renewed political commitment for sustainable development; the assessment of progress to date; and addressing new and emerging challenges. Furthermore, two more focused themes are to be

discussed: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

- Potential outputs from Rio+20 are likely to fall into 3 categories:
  - high-level political statements (e.g. agreement that sustainable development is key, grand statements about what needs to be done);
  - specific policy commitments (next level of specificity, e.g. specific sectoral goals, target dates, etc); and

voluntary public-private initiatives and partnerships (any range of arrangements that seek to achieve a common goal).

### Green Economy

- A major question is - what is a green economy? The idea is to speak the language of economics in order to make the case for sustainable development. We need to figure out how to deal with the extremes: that many people are still living in poverty and there is a lack of access to basic needs such as electricity, yet environmental data indicates that we may have reached the tipping point in terms of planetary limits. A green economy can help us deal with the environmental issues but also allow for the growth and eradication of poverty.
- A green economy is one whose growth of income and jobs is driven by investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhances efficiency, and invests in natural capital. This is essential for eradicating poverty and many countries are beginning to see that this is in their self-interest.

### International Framework for Sustainable Development and International Environmental Governance

- The UN framework for addressing the environment is very complicated. UNEP was created in 1972, but many different organizations are doing work on the environment. There are many treaties and a range of actors. It is very different from the World Health Organization or the World Trade Organization, which are focused on single issue and have ownership of the issue.
- Many people believe that the current framework is overly complicated and inefficient, and that reform is needed.
- Governance can also be looked at with a small 'g': a critical part of what needs to be addressed at Rio+20 and beyond includes: basic regulation; national and city policies; the involvement of citizens; environmental impact statements; and actualizing commitments made at Rio+20 and other meetings.

How to get from the theoretical to reality is the challenge of Rio+20. We only have one year until the meeting (June 4-6 2012). How do we organize? There is not yet any organizing agenda. UNEP was asked by the General Assembly to contribute to preparations for the meeting but there is no text and not many formal preparatory meetings. UNEP's goal is to nurture ideas and to help bring about an effective outcome at Rio+20.

### Questions:

Q - What is the scale of the meeting?

A - Brazil wants this to be a heads of state meeting, but whether this will happen remains to be seen. The General Assembly is thus being careful not to call the meeting a 'Summit'; however, a forum for global dialogue is essential. It will try to be focused and implementation rests on many different parts of society and institutions.

Q - Is climate change a part of Rio+20 and will it be used as an opportunity to fix what happened in Copenhagen?

A – It is a separate track from the climate change COP. Some entities have been talking about using Rio+20 to discuss what didn't happen at the climate talks but there are risks to doing that, including losing some of the benefit of it being a non-polarized venue. There is a difference between negotiated text and the development of partnerships. The focus of Rio+20 is on developing partnerships and approaches for moving toward a green economy.

Q – What is the integration between the Rio+20 agenda and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as they relate to sustainable development and health?

A – Some have argued that the date of Rio+20 should have been later when the Millennium Development Goals are due to be finished. There is a direct connection between what governments may be able to commit to and partnerships that may be able to address the MDGs.

Q – Can you give us a sense of the overall process of consultations and formulating recommendations for government?

A – Today's meeting will be captured in a report that will go to the Federal Government (specifically to DFAIT, who is leading the delegation for Canada). The Rio+20 Secretariat in New York has asked for governments, NGOs, private institutions, and other stakeholders to submit proposals for negotiating text by 1 November 2011. Some groups have already put out documents (ex: Pew Environment Group) and position papers are already available. UNEP is trying to capture and nurture ideas into potential deliverables at Rio+20. There are also many bilateral discussions taking place with Brazil (the Rio+20 host). There are thus many formal and informal avenues to bringing ideas forward to the meeting.

## **Presentations – Practical experiences and solutions**

Five speakers presented on how practical ideas and experience might transfer into concrete outcomes at Rio+20:

- Local Governance – Megan Meaney, ICLEI Canada
- Food and Agriculture – Lauren Baker, Toronto Food Policy Council
- Green Buildings – Robert Plaitt, Evergreen
- Clean Technology – Amy Fraenkel, UNEP RONA
- Mobilizing Finance and Capital – Alex Wood, Sustainable Prosperity

### ***Megan Meaney, ICLEI Canada speaking on Local Governance***

Megan is the Director of ICLEI Canada. ICLEI is an association of local governments that has made commitments to sustainable development. Its basic mission is to help local governments achieve tangible improvements through local action. They look at the cumulative impact of local initiatives, run various programs that relate to sustainable development, represent local governments at UN meetings, act as a facilitator to bring the message of local authorities to meetings, and seek to recognize the impact that local authorities can have on sustainability.

The UN system is currently very fragmented and there is a lot of confusion about how it works. Megan spoke to a paper written by Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, ICLEI, entitled *Embarking on Global Governance*:

*Thoughts on the Inclusion of Local.*<sup>1</sup> This paper proposes how local stakeholders can have a stronger influence at UN meetings including shifting the concept of global environmental governance so that there is less of a focus on 'international' (i.e. between nations) and more of a focus on 'global' (i.e. all actors). We may wish to develop a process where, instead of countries coming together, there are congresses where diverse actors can come together.

Megan closed her presentation with three questions for the group:

1. How can we continue to encourage local governments to affect sustainable development so that have cumulative impact globally?
2. Would a lead role for local governments be appropriate for the UN system?
3. Is the UN system flexible enough to accommodate this?

***Lauren Baker, Toronto Food Policy Council, presenting on Food and Agriculture***

Lauren introduced three points to consider with respect to food and agriculture in the context of Rio+20:

1. how food and agriculture can directly address disparity, vulnerability and equity
  2. food as a key driver of the green economy transition
  3. idea of linkages beyond jurisdiction in the governance context (food systems governance)
- There is a growing income polarization in Toronto. We can talk about the three cities phenomenon where the richest communities are getting richer, the poorest are getting poorer, and we're losing the middle class. Food is often inaccessible and low income communities tend to be less likely to have access within 1.5km to a supermarket.
  - Significant and persistent health inequalities exist in communities in Canada and this is true globally. Food is directly connected to health, income and other social determinants of health.
  - Toronto has developed a food strategy and some priorities for action around addressing food issues including identifying the municipal levers that can improve access to affordable and nutritious food.
  - At the global level, most of our food is produced by small farmers who are directly affected by issues of poverty and hunger. Food is a key driver of the green economic transition. The food sector is huge economic driver and many more jobs exist in this sector than others (such as motor vehicle sector). Many of these jobs are in the form of small and medium-scale food enterprises and the payroll is similar to the unionized auto sector.
  - Questions become how to create regional food clusters, how to create corridors of activity, how to create enabling policies and measures (outcome or incentive based versus prescriptive regulatory frameworks).
  - Social enterprise is connected to the green economy and there is a cluster of opportunities for people to connect with food.
  - In looking at food systems governance: we can look at examples of how ecological goods and services are being experimented with in Ontario (e.g. through Norfolk Alternative Land Use Pilot Project).
  - We can look at a potential governance model that focuses on regional stewardship groups that can be supported through local communities. People can help define what is appropriate for their local

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<sup>1</sup> Available at:

[http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/ICLEI\\_Global\\_Governance\\_Local\\_Govt\\_Zimmerman.pdf](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/ICLEI_Global_Governance_Local_Govt_Zimmerman.pdf)

communities and regions; diverse sectors have been brought together to define priorities and action plans; a people's food policy was developed with a number of recommendations; we want to see citizen engagement, participation and democracy; linkages need to be traced from local communities to global context; we need to be moving from consultation to facilitation.

***Robert Plaitt, Evergreen, presenting on Green Buildings***

- Robert noted the key issues at play regarding green buildings: how to minimize energy and resource use both in the construction and operation of buildings.
- We are very much at the beginning of a transformation and need to understand what kind of a transformation needs to take place in terms of shifting to low carbon. Even though the idea is becoming mainstream, the practice is not. LEED is the main framework. There are growing grassroots movements, primarily out of the architectural and engineering industry.
- Utilities are working together to reduce the impacts of buildings. The not-for-profit sector is also participating; however, sustainable buildings only represent a fraction of total buildings that are being constructed.
- This is a land use planning issue more than an issue for specific buildings. Commercial and residential buildings consume and produce about a third of greenhouse gases; by 2025, this is expected to exceed transportation and industrial sectors. Currently, computer and electronic use in buildings is contributing to significant increases in power consumption despite gains in efficiency.
- Incremental change is happening, but not fast enough, some movements are looking for more aggressive changes; there are huge opportunities to make aggressive progress.
- Canada and the United States are far behind in energy use as compared to the EU, which has more strict regulatory codes and building requirements. There are more green buildings in the EU and it is more integrated into the culture.

***Amy Fraenkel, UNEP RONA, presenting on Clean Technology***

- Investment in clean technology is a key element in a shift to a green economy. There are many barriers, however: many countries are not putting a lot of money into R&D, which is necessary; some of the risks need to be offset by the government but there is not a lot of funding for that.
- UNEP is focusing on taking ideas from innovation to market (many good ideas end up dying because the researchers can't transfer them into a marketable product). There is a focus on scaling up to bring good marketable technologies to where they're needed throughout the world.
- Discussions are underway to deal with issues of intellectual property.
- The developing world wants to move towards a green economy but they have less access to technology and technologies that may be appropriate for their needs
- Options for moving forward include: trying to mobilize private sector investment and matching it with public money; taking ideas and getting them to market (institutions such as the World Bank are looking at this and many countries such as China and India are investing a lot on their own); and developing collaborative partnership that can be managed regionally or globally to make sure that appropriate investments are being made.

### ***Alex Wood, Sustainable Prosperity, presenting on Mobilizing Finance and Capital***

- Sustainable Prosperity is a new(ish) national think tank with some international presence that focuses on the green economy.
- The need for financing is enormous and a whole-scale transformation of the global economy is needed. As large as the financing need is, however, the capital is there to meet it as long as it is aligned the right way.
- We know that most investment to date has been public in nature – large amounts of money have been poured in by nation-states including China, Brazil, India, and the US but not Canada as much.
- We have to recognize that public investment is unsustainable in the long term for political and other reasons. Governments can't subsidize the creation of the green economy, it is not realistic. The economics have to change so that private investment, which is much larger, will be made available.
- A key question becomes: what are the necessary conditions to incent private investment flows? We need to recognize that the economics of sustainability are not positive right now – we can't compete against some of the traditional options currently available. There needs to be a rethinking of economics as a discipline and the kind of institutions and signals that should exist as part of the economy.
- In the absence of a shift in market signals to reflect environmental concerns, we need to raise questions about the role of governments in setting policies. There is a need for governments to get into the business of pricing carbon, water, use of ecosystems because current market prices don't reflect the costs of using natural capital. Governments have to be involved by setting policy. This does not exist internationally; there is a huge agenda for how we will move to a system where such incentives and signals are present in economy.
- In large parts of the economy, the green technology is already there but adoption is not what it could be because the economics are not compelling. We know what the policy needs to be and capital is available so there is a fundamental disconnect.
- A challenge is the political process for getting politicians to convince voters that the benefits of short term costs are worth it in the long term. Getting politicians to understand and communicate this is very difficult. The investment and financing issue is about how to engage with citizens and how to lay out the case for the kind of transitions that we think are necessary. Without policy, none of this can happen.
- A non-policy scenario: give up on governments' ability to move this as quickly and as far as we want them to and start doing these things collectively. There is real potential for a green economy to move us forward on a number of fronts.
- It is all about the economics of sustainability / green economy. There is a role for UNEP but also a role for all of us. We need to focus on institutions. It's a question of engagement, both from top-down and bottom-up, to create the kind of political constituencies that will take us to a place that politicians feel comfortable moving forward on these issues.

### **Small group discussions - Practical experiences and solutions**

Participants were asked to identify, by placing a dot next to their preferred option, one of the following groups for small group discussion:

1. Green buildings
2. Green space and city planning



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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 3. Clean technology                   | 7. Transportation                            |
| 4. Food and agriculture               | 8. Natural capital (e.g. ecosystem services) |
| 5. Renewable energy                   | 9. Local governance                          |
| 6. Water resources and infrastructure | 10. Mobilizing finance and capital           |

Based on the interests expressed by the participants, breakout groups were formed on the following clusters:

1. Mobilizing finance and capital
2. Green buildings, green space / city planning and transportation
3. Clean technology and renewable energy
4. Food and agriculture, water and infrastructure, natural capital
5. Local governance

Groups were asked to discuss:

- How can this sector provide opportunities in terms of readily available techniques and positive environmental impact in advancing the Green Economy?
- What kinds of commitments are needed to increase investments in this sector, and what barriers (financial, technological, etc...) to green investment in this sector need to be removed?
- Other relevant topics for discussion?

***Mobilizing finance and capital – notes and reporting back***



The group highlighted the following summary points:

1. A green economy is not a cost – it is a benefit
2. Need to educate and mobilize the general public to lobby government for greater investment
3. Can focus on REDD and the inclusion of Boreal and Temperate forests
4. Need the creation and implementation of the Global Climate Fund to advance technology transfer to developing countries.

Other discussion:

How can this sector provide opportunities in terms of readily available techniques and positive environmental impact in advancing the green economy?

- Financing: a tool and fundamental requirement to implement ideas in different sectors
- Social finance from the bottom up – interesting model; politicians will only move if citizens do.
- Micro-financing: people taking a higher risk and getting lower return
- Implementation of a Green Economy: billion \$ economy
- When people think ‘green vs. environment’ they think costs and not benefits. The message needs to be switched to ‘job creation & growth’ instead of ‘environment & social benefits’. Need to change the message from social and environmental costs to economic benefits. A politician can easily get behind this message. The Green Economy will revitalize our economy.

- Green Energy Act in Ontario: first benefit has been job creation. There are more jobs in Ontario than before the recession. 'Environment gets me smiles; jobs get me votes'
- We can use success stories nationally and globally to advance the Green Economy idea.
- Impact on local citizens: 'Green Matters' (Bayer Canada) has become a mechanism for hiring new/the 'right' people. This is about doing well and doing 'good' at the same time.
- Sustainability is about 'waste elimination' (Walmart perspective).
- Bayer: mindsets are changing with generations - conversations need to happen with NGOs (partnerships & team work). We are now not only talking about costs, but also benefits.
- New discussion: citizens are asking businesses to be more responsive to social and environmental impacts. Educational programs should be promoting the environmental initiatives of businesses.
- Political will is influenced by citizens and various stakeholders, such as businesses
- Governments will have to focus on health care and so won't have the money to put towards a green economy. Use carbon pricing, reduce tax on returns on investment.

Tools that government can use to increase investments in this sector:

- Tax, credits for green energy and green buildings
- Develop a framework for a market
- France: tax on the 'negative' product and gives back to 'positive' products

Canada: will have the lowest corporate tax from the G8 countries.

- Reduce corporate tax to be more competitive nationally and globally particularly for businesses involved in the green economy sector

### ***Green buildings, green space / city planning and transportation – reporting back***

The group highlighted the following summary points:

1. A sense of urgency needs to be communicated in the context of opportunity
2. Opportunities are enormous re: the Green Economy and Building sector contribution to GDP is massive. Technology is there, we now need to implement it.
3. A transformation is largely driven by a voluntary market. How do we better support and mobilize it?
4. Policy and regulatory support:
  - a. Carbon and natural resource pricing
  - b. Tax incentives and rebates
  - c. International green building standards
  - d. Case of technology transfer
  - e. Building codes to include resource efficiency standards
5. Education: mandatory green building training; investment in training installers; curriculum at primary level; sustainable education.

Other discussion:

- There are 2400 science centres in the world. They can come together to educate the public about overconsumption. Apart from educating the public, science centres are used as demonstration sites to show practical ways of promoting to a sustainable community.
- Regarding green buildings the greatest implementation that can be applied is communications to educate the public about actual initiatives, such as informing them about LEED certifications.
- Science and technology centres can educate the public and help people change their behaviour. Overall, grassroots movements are changing daily routines, which would largely escalate to an overall public change. However, the emotional connection is missing.

- Where exactly can we make the largest impact and how can we create and implement the change? David Miller, past mayor of Toronto, set out a platform in 2003 regarding renewable changes that can be implemented, yet political changes create setbacks.
- Rio +20: There is an **urgency to implement sustainable development** as urban populations are increasing. Retrofits need to take the aesthetics of present buildings into account. Sprawl is taking place across Toronto; urban planning is being poorly executed.
- The objective: to develop a **culture of conservation and sustainability** through changes in behaviour. Changes are coming from grassroots movements. We must strengthen associations and enhance our communication so that it is consistent.
- We must **create linkages through the education system** – when students come about in the world they need to be educated to implement sustainable changes.

### ***Clean technology and renewable energy – reporting back***

- The group noted that the clean technology discussion is much broader than renewable energy



- Green generation – solar and wind
  - Solar panels are used in Mongolia, in rural areas, to generate enough electricity to run the basics
  - This is interesting because, in the developed world, solar is viewed as too costly and we are having to work on access, cost, and affordability (it's a barrier issue); why is it such a big deal for western governments?
  - The cost balancing out through the years would

make it more accessible and affordable, but the government has to be ready for this

- Developing countries are able to avoid the whole infrastructure of power lines and dams; they have the opportunity to grow and leapfrog beyond such infrastructure (e.g. stand-alone panels); they can become more resilient
- Why are we not doing much of this in Canada?
  - Is it because our resources are readily available (why bother) vs. developing countries where resources and infrastructure don't exist?
  - We don't pay the true costs of energy use in Canada (relatively); renewables are only more expensive against conventional fuels if we don't take into account subsidies for fossil fuels paid by taxpayers. Having this comparison available would make it easy for people to understand the true costs.
  - What's the added value in a decentralized, diversified, resilient system? We need to value the risk factor and capital investment needed for these large infrastructure projects.
- Climate change and renewables:
  - There will be a significant impact of climate change on infrastructure, including the power grid and actual physical infrastructure, also on extreme weather events and rising sea levels, etc
  - We need more sharing between provinces to help future-proof the system

- Need a national energy policy / strategy
- Is there interest in investing in the sector for money, if not for efficiency?
- There are questions about certain renewable energies, whether a certain renewable is beneficial in the long run (using a cost / benefit analysis).
- The approach in Ontario / Canada tends to be piecemeal, and investment comes mainly from the private sector; there is a lack of public investment in R&D. Applying for grants is very difficult and players have to work through complex paperwork, which makes it difficult to get people on board. For smaller businesses this is cost prohibitive because they must hire consultants, etc just to complete paperwork.
- Information is a problem: it is fragmented; there is bureaucracy; there are issues of selling power back to the grid (very prohibitive). This excludes the average person from being able to take full advantage of programs. There is a lack of openness and accessibility. Money may be available for incentives / programs but it is difficult for the public / businesses to access it.
- Costs: Environmental action is often motivated by alternative costs, such as the cost to pollute. Where costs are high enough, green programs / technology works, but in areas where it is cheap and easy to pollute, these programs and technology won't take hold.
- Need conservation and efficiency measures: both infrastructure, and to affect human behavior. We need to make the issue visible and therefore easier to act upon.
- Information and behaviour change:
  - Unless information is shared, and people understand and agree, progress won't occur.
  - A poll was done about what motivates households to reduce energy. It found that the most effective motivator is cost (e.g. a neighbor paying less). The issue comes down to the bottom line and self-interest. Homeowners might take action through incentives, coupons, credits. Incentives have to be substantial and worth consumers' efforts. It is a key issue of time; consumers don't have the time to devote to understanding and undertaking green efforts.
  - Companies offering services need to bring clarity and simplicity.
  - There needs to be a centralization and sharing of information (consolidation); if people have the information, they can make better choices.
  - Poverty issue: it doesn't matter how much information people have, if they can't afford to make green decisions they can't participate in a green economy; this has to be dealt with.
- Planned obsolescence: There is a reluctance to make technologies that last long because it will limit profits / revenues.
- Need full-cycle costing as things seems cheap up front, but may actually be more expensive in the long run. E.g. older car has worse emissions but does it exceed the emissions caused by building a new car? Maybe a better option would be to drive the old car for another few years.

### ***Food and agriculture, water and infrastructure, natural capital***

The group decided to begin its discussion at the local level.

Water:

- There is a lot not happening and there are big challenges in terms of our individual perceptions. There has been no real effort to date across Canada on a municipal level to advance water conservation (beyond rain barrels); no water conservation efforts by local retailers, or utility companies providing energy/water savings kits.
- There is an enormous water scarcity issue; Canada has the opportunity to be a leader because it has such an abundant supply of the natural resource. We should put forward solutions to better manage and use water.

- Need to look at the progress made municipally around energy conservation, gas conservation and the approaches taken (e.g. metering). We should take similar policy / framework approaches to water use – let's have a central agency that deals with electricity, energy, and water conservation.
- Water will be a main point of discussion at Rio.
- The Walkerton incident resulted in the O'Connor Inquiry, which recommended how water could be more used more sustainably way so that such a situation doesn't happen again. As a result the Ontario government put forward many legislative changes on water source protection and controls for water quality. Ontario, in many ways, is a leader in North America.
- North Americans use 5-10 times the amount of water Europeans use; that is because we don't have a good price on water. A good step forward would be to put a price on water that reflects its value.
- There should be incentives for water conservation in Canada. Some energy conservation models have worked in Canada. We need to look to these re: commercial and industrial water conservation.

#### The Right to Water

- The UN General Assembly approved the human right to water last year; Canada did not sign on to it. Why? Maybe the government wants to keep the option open of bulk water supply to the US. Can you sell water?
- Rio might consider how to make the concept of 'a right to water' more entrenched; how do you put it into operation and enforce it? How do you socialize it? (i.e. so that on an individual level we all understand the 'human right to water' and what it means for you, your home, your workplace).
- The right to water does not necessarily conflict with pricing.
  - The right to water is not about unlimited water supply; it is about having enough clean water to survive; this is more of a 'right to water' in the developing country context.
- Canada also has natural water access issues in Canada, particularly in aboriginal communities. This can be an area for opportunity for Canada.
- The South has developed many community-based water filtration and water provision programs which are building local economies. These are simple technologies being applied to community programs; Canada can take signals from the South and others that are leading in community-based water filtration and provision programs that can be applied especially to aboriginal communities.

#### Agriculture

- Agriculture is one of the largest users of water - a lot of processes are inefficient such as irrigation, which loses 60% of the water.
- There is innovation in irrigation in Ontario but we aren't progressive because we don't face a major water scarcity issue.
- From a technology perspective, is there something applicable to the global level (clean technology)? Can leading edge applications be brought to jurisdictions?
- There is the issue of water usage in agriculture but there is also the issue of agriculture's role in cleaning and filtering water; there are many examples of how agriculture is being mobilized so that water downstream is as clean as possible. Hudson Valley is a good example: instead of building a large water filtration plant, they worked upstream to have farmers improve their agricultural practices. They saved close to one billion dollars and got the same results as a plant by increasing

buffers, protecting the watershed, and increasing incentives for farmers to reduce using chemical fertilizers, pesticides.

#### Setting a Price on Water

- It will not be politically popular
- It needs to reflect potential changes made to agricultural practices to make them more sustainable. If it costs farmers a lot more money not to use pesticides, they should be subsidized by water prices to encourage and sustain cleaner agricultural practices.
- How does pricing connect with the value of ecological goods and services? Pricing water and natural



capital is important in finding incentives, but also to provide a more neo-liberal response to facing the concepts of 'a right to water' and 'pricing' which oppose each other in a fundamental way. Need a market structure around something as fundamental as water, or natural capital, biodiversity conservation and habitat preservation, and more.

#### Setting Prices in General / Natural Capital Markets

- Our economic system should internalize external costs, but people worry about markets being volatile and not necessarily supporting what we want to see.
- People in tropical regions do projects that are purchased on a carbon market. This is worrying because the prices being paid are not parallel to the amount of work that is being done, and the monitoring and evaluation aren't there.
- We're developing carbon markets that are concerning right now because they may yield results that we aren't expecting.
- Products will be more expensive if they are producing more carbon emissions but the current carbon market isn't robust or sustainable. What we need is a robust carbon market, and the same for water, biodiversity. How can we proceed with processes to internalize costs in a way that is effectively transforming what is on the ground in the long-term?
- A challenge is that many people will be left out of the market. Agriculture is a good example: the creation and structuring of carbon markets is overpowering carbon sequestration, leaving out sequestration markets.
- In the true context of market transformation you look to having wide-scale change being adapted as quickly as possible.
  - In a particular sector, how do you accelerate change decades sooner than it would normally happen?
  - The market is a fundamental part of accelerating change at a huge level very quickly. You need to do it the right way and this discussion can not be left off the table.

- Question: how do we transform the way our economies function so that they are functional; so that we actually value the things that are valuable, in the context of market economies.
- A framework that is often useful in terms of sustainable food systems is looking at: “efficiencies, substitution, and redesign”; it is a way of looking at a trajectory of activities. Efficiencies and substitution look at shallow sustainability but it is important for incremental change to trigger a shift to redesign.
- Local Food Plus: works with the complexity of the agricultural and local food supply chain and examines where we place value from different groups – processors, producers, retailers, end consumer. It is apparent that there needs to be fundamental change in the way we put value in the chain because it cannot be sustained in the long-term.
- Grappling with issues such as: Who is going to pay? Should it be the farmer, the retailer, the processors?
- The discussion of a fundamental change in valuing and where to place value will come up a lot with agriculture, food production, local food production.

#### Questioning the Progress being Made

- You hear about great local initiatives like Local Food Plus. Then you look at the larger picture. Companies like Monsanto are growing bigger and focusing on GMOs. There may be a growing movement in urban centres for locally grown food, but meanwhile Monsanto is growing – they must be selling to someone. Local Food Plus is a niche market of food production, but then a more industrial agriculture market is growing. What is the landscape like? Should we be targeting companies like Monsanto, targeting corporate mindsets, or is it impossible?
- It is related to a governance issue: how do you have these conversations around these complex problems? It is important and essential to have it on a table with the entire agro-food industry (don't leave players out). We need to create a platform so that 'we' can have a discussion with the corporate stakeholders. The landscape involves a lot of big food retailers (four main retailers) in one of the most concentrated retail food environments globally. These large companies know that the ship needs to turn sometime; it's like Wal-Mart starting to do local. The large retailers have supply chains that are so entrenched that it is really challenging to change the way the entire process happens; but the conversation needs to start and there is a tremendous opportunity that can come from that conversation.
- Canada has a very important export agriculture market sector, which is doing really innovative things to get product to foreign countries. E.g. Canada supplies a huge amount of lentils to India (not known by most Canadians) – this is very innovative. There are a lot of lessons that can be shared between these niche markets as they are interested in scaling up.

#### Food Security

- What about food security? Look at the food crisis in Europe right now. What do we need to bring to the table to address issues like E. Coli and other issues / oversights by emerging industries?
- Any discussion at the international level would have to consider the above. Does Canada have any leadership role to play with this?

- Further questions to ask: would food security issues happen in Canada, or could food security issues happen in Canada?
- Are there great models or best practices in Canada that can be shared with the international community?
- Europe has some of the best food safety practices, and even they currently have the food crisis which exposes our vulnerability

#### Other Discussion

- In Toronto, part of Evergreen's work has been creating standards with school boards in the building of their landscapes. The traditional standard for school grounds is to get all the water off the site. Now the standard has flipped, and you have to keep all the water on site. That is shaking the architecture and landscape professions across Canada and the US. Now school boards building new schools need smaller parking lots, which impacts guest parking, the landscape, and makes sure water is absorbed etc.
- Water has a connection with the landscape, which has a connection with urban agriculture (water tables and large-scale water storage cisterns). Having these storage systems reduces the load from storm water / agricultural runoff, improving the quality of water. The mental shift is very important on water conservation.
- The municipal standards dealing with water on sites are some of the most progressive in North America right now. It will be a challenge for Wal-Mart and other big boxes but this standard will encourage plantings, which improves the urban island problem.
- At a global level, one of the biggest things we can do to improve climate change is move from rural to urban. If our cities are growing (a good thing from a climate and sustainability point of view), then we need local projects on a larger scale – poor neighbourhoods a few kilometres away from the downtown core don't have the access to fresh local food.
- How do you mobilize pools of capital to support sustainable agricultural production that young farmers can access? There are pools of capital buying lots of farmland right now.
- How do you increase the volume of urban food supplies? How do you grow more community gardens?
- Need to transition more urban infrastructure into community gardens; develop neighbourhood food strategies. Need to consider how municipal policies are hindering these initiatives.

#### **Local Governance**

The group discussed the following points:

- How to empower local governments – ICLEI tools and resources; importance of partnerships to help mobilize funds; move direct communication between and among cities and the federal government (Green Municipal Fund an example).
- Challenges include: capacity (regardless of whether the city is small or large) and that cities operate at such different scales.
- We need to compare to Europe – there is enormous funding available in some European cities from federal sources. Can this happen in Canada?



- Question: could a lead / greater role for cities be appropriate? The group felt that yes. Cities can help achieve global commitments. Local governments can be the vehicle to inform the national or a vehicle for delivery but they can not operate autonomously. There is a leadership role for cities that are the front line; they can cater the message to relate to local experiences. But they need that overarching framework to operate in.
- Challenges were noted: there are major capacity (resources) issues; cities don't have the capacity to participate internationally. Perhaps ICLEI can represent the smaller cities and the larger ones can represent themselves? Around the globe, local governments may also not have the sound governance structures needed.
- In Toronto there is a pilot program for low income homeowners to retrofit homes and bring down energy bills, ultimately providing social and environmental benefits. The partnerships between the cities and utilities made it possible.
- Is the UN system flexible enough to allow these changes? There is currently a major opportunity – a recognition that the system needs to change and a full review of the Institutional Framework is on the table at Rio+20. Can we harness the opportunity and connect a broad range of people to the global context? Communication absolutely needs to take place both ways (up and down).
- Major groups get a small role. They should get a bigger voice and space. A new system can place more emphasis on partnerships. There needs to be a bigger place or discussion other than just national governments. How can the global agenda trickle down to provide opportunities, and give the people on the ground the global context of how their activities contribute?
- Perhaps we need to revisit and revive Local Agenda 21s (LA21).
- Can we have a tiered system, similar to the annexed system for Kyoto?

## Afternoon regrouping – summary of the morning and moving from the local to the global

### *Amy Fraenkel, Director, UNEP Regional Office for North America*

Amy provided a summary of the morning and set the groundwork for the afternoon. In the morning we discussed practical, direct experiences and how the meeting at Rio+20 could advance our priorities. For example what can we imagine happening at Rio+20 that could help move sustainable development forward?

Amy noted that the afternoon will be used to make recommendations that can be brought to Rio+20. She outlined the three types of outcomes that are likely to emerge:

- Political (leaders making a statement; what would we want them to say to move the agenda forward? this



may be a broad policy statement along the lines of rethinking fundamentally how we operate the economy, or to acknowledge that cities play a fundamental role);

- Policy commitment (what specific commitments can move things forward, e.g. commitment to redirect development aid in a way that considers the environment; or commitment to reevaluating GDP;
- Partnerships (what kind of partnerships can launch things forward; e.g. cities partnerships, public/private, something that streamlines or collaborates globally around cities)

As a process matter, what might also happen at the meeting regarding the engagement of other entities besides just national governments, e.g. proposal for a joint session between business, NGO, government?

Amy noted that in small group discussion participants could consider the breakout questions in light of the 3 types of potential outcomes. Participants might also ask themselves “what could be the most important thing that could happen at Rio+20?”, “How can we connect Rio+20 to our political reality?”, “How do we advance Canadian interests?”, and “How do we open up markets in areas that Canada has expertise in?”.

## Small group discussions – global context (Rio+20)

Participants numbered off into small groups to discuss the following questions:

- What is the single most important thing governments, business and others can do to move the world towards a Green Economy?
- What steps can Canada take to advance Green Economy initiatives both domestically and internationally?
- Are there specific sectors or initiatives on the Green Economy where agreement at Rio +20 would help advance Canadian interests?
- Is there a need for a new global facility and/or funding to help mobilize the Green Economy and Sustainable Development?
- How can local governments be better integrated into the process of international negotiations for Sustainable Development?

### **Group 1**

- We need to:
  - start planning for disaster, especially urban disaster in light of climate change
  - look at the application of the precautionary principle – now is the moment to add the precautionary filter to our actions
  - put infrastructure in place and acknowledge our vulnerabilities
  - convey the value of resilience and build it into the green economy
- Does the average Canadian understand



the risks of business as usual? We need to talk about risks, famine, disease, and how to get Canadian to think and act more like global citizens.

- We can recognize how we are gambling with our children's futures
- Can we mobilize funds through new creative partners with the private sector? Provocative partnerships.
- Let's recognize the role of informal learning and enlist the support of organizations whose jobs it is to engage people/public in science.
  - Science centers are great but kids / the public need experience with nature, the outdoors.
  - There is a lack of green space in developed and developing countries.
- Green buildings:
  - There are challenges with greening an old building, but you can green spaces or do small upgrades. Retrofits can achieve a lot.
  - Funds are always tight and there is little willingness to pay more upfront for something that will cost less to maintain over the long term. (Short term wins out over long term gain)
- We cannot count on Canadian government leadership:
  - We need CEOs from Canada's top 10 businesses saying they want a green economy
  - Many businesses are not waiting for governments to take the lead, for example Cisco has developed connected cities in the developing world so that they can leapfrog old infrastructure.

## **Group 2**

### Partnerships:

- Showcase Canadian municipalities' best practices at the global level
- Bilateral / multilateral partnerships between actors with similar interests (e.g. developed and developing countries; between businesses, etc...)

### Political:

- General agreement that a green economy is an economic benefit (e.g. job creation) and not only an environmental / social benefit. Can we have a pledge?

### Policy:

- Sharing best practices on bringing private funding to the green economy (e.g. subsidy funding schemes)
- Bringing back what was shared at the summit and creating policies for implementation at the national level

### Other discussion items:

- Ideal vs. practical: perfection is policy, but reality is a political statement or partnership.
- Agreement that a green economy is good and that there is a need to shift the perception that it is not a cost but will create huge economic benefits. Need a statement of agreement about the importance of moving towards a green economy; need actionable results and to move beyond statements (there is a poor track record of following up on statements).
- There is a chance for Canada to play a real leadership role by moving away from fossil fuel subsidies, addressing human rights issues and water issues.
- Need to identify fields in which Canada is seen as a leader (map our strengths); figure out how to leverage advantages and bring them to market not only at the federal level but also at the provincial and municipal levels.

- Technology is required for much of the green economy and has been developed; it is now a matter of introducing funding and deploying best practices. We have the technology to green the economy profitably, but we need to have the policy to support it.
- Could develop a political statement committed to applying domestic policies that would facilitate the above (i.e. “we commit to implementing”)
- Climate change fund (adaptation or mitigation); need new and innovative partnerships between developing and developed world.
- People need to understand the issues / terms – the green economy has to mean something practical. It can involve investment in key sectors that can transform our use of natural resources and our impact on the environment (renewable energy, agricultural efficiency); it can put a metric behind the idea (whether consuming or giving back to the global system); it can be a new way of measuring global government and global economic performance (i.e. how does a particular policy affect this metric). Need to look at technology and best practices but also investment in natural capital (ecosystem services, valuing nature, and investing in nature) and conservation techniques for how we harvest natural resources.
- Need governance transparency and other governance mechanisms. What type of tools are essential for sharing information / data on a global scale? How do we get the right information to people? How do we share best practices? What sectors should be the focus (could be building, technology, sustainable cities)?
- Need specific commitment by a couple of partners – could be bilateral (partnerships don’t have to involve every government; e.g. Canada and Haiti get together with a particular business to tackle an issue). Businesses can be engaged and help to achieve funding / financing. Can get together with countries with similar interests (e.g. water partnership). Need to figure out the priority areas (water, food, building, etc).
- Various communities are sustainable for different reasons: e.g. retrofitting old buildings, biodiversity. The conversation has to allow for the fact that, when getting down to the local level, cities are taking care of their own unique issues and that the priorities for individual localities vary. Need to match partnerships based on priorities and to share best practices. Need to recognize the urgent need for sustainable cities given growing population and urbanization. How this is to be done will be the basis of the partnerships.
- Should work within existing institutions before creating something new; empower local decision making at a different level (a more loose, local-based knowledge sharing coalition). This will be less effective at dealing with issues of energy, etc, that require more of a national policy to lead into macro changes.
- Technology is not what’s missing; financing is missing. The private sector is looking for certainty and is more likely to place a priority on things that are consistent.
- An issue is that a national strategy requires either all the provinces to come together or some federal involvement. There are very different interests in the provinces, however.
- Need a forum for exchanging best practices and ideas vs. actual policy and programs. The federal government can provide incentives without setting regulations; job creation vs. environmental savings programs. This may help initiate dialogue with parties / interests that were traditionally not sensitive to environmental issues / concerns.
- Focus on integrating local governments into international negotiations for sustainable development; can have representation for municipalities / provinces / regions at conferences such as Rio. There are questions about how to do this practically – could have consultations in advance where the federal government represents the interests within Canada. Could have sharing and collaborating between cities. Can tie developing countries into C40. This involvement can be an opportunity to showcase best practices and opportunities for investment.

#### **Group 4 (Group 3 was split among the others)**

What is the single most important thing governments, business and others can do to move the world towards a Green Economy?

- Develop a measurement tool / scorecard and have all groups (government, business, NGOs, etc...) use it so that everyone on all levels can be held accountable. Need to develop a common vision and plan.
  - Need commitment to 'commitments' – solid agreements with clear outcomes  
Accountability structures – creating partnerships, structures, devoting resources
  - Need accountability from all levels; but people can't be accountable if the federal level doesn't support what citizens want.
  - We currently use GDP as a measure of value but we need to value other things like health and natural capital, which are definitely quantifiable.
  - From Rio+20 we want to see a commitment to a new measurement, like sustainability impacts.
  - OECD is in the process of developing green growth measurements and indicators
  - Global Reporting Initiative is a framework that businesses can use to record their sustainability initiatives.
  - It can't just be optional, to be accountable all businesses need to do it (example, CN Rail is submitting sustainability reports every year)
- What could be the role of private financing? It is a challenge that businesses are being left out from the UN discussions because they are taking place mainly from a nation perspective. Are there business associations joining together to move forward? There should be a green economy coalition of businesses to bring the industry together advocating for a common interest.
- We're not seeing much stance by the federal government on green economy. How do you get Canada to speak on behalf of citizens? Maybe partnerships: approach it from not only the NGO / citizen sector, but also from the business perspective. Until the federal government is on board with the green economy, stakeholders in the middle and lower level will not be on board.
- We have had some successes like the CFC regulation. Can we leverage lessons learned from this and other successes?

What steps can Canada take to advance Green economy initiatives both domestically and internationally?

- One of the challenges with the green economy is that while there are long-term benefits, there are short term losses such as lost jobs. How do you address the short-term, especially when the politics drives conversation
- Germany is considered a leader in the green economy, because they actually implement it; China has committed to be sustainable, and are starting to do things. Why can't Canada model best practices from other countries on these initiatives and practices?
- The generation coming into the workforce needs to be supported with the necessary education to exist in a sustainable way in the next few decades.

Are there specific sectors or initiatives on the Green Economy where agreement at Rio+20 would help advance Canadian interests?

- Carbon sequestration industry – actions are being taken in a voluntary way
- What are the selling points to get our government to Rio+20? This is a time when the UN is interested in talking about framework change and Canada needs to be present.
- A major barrier, as Boston University's Consultation mentioned, is a 'perceived inequity of adopting environmental measures from country to country'.

How can local governments be better integrated into the process of international negotiations for sustainable development?

- How do you shift from having social institutions think not only in the short-term (greed, self-interest) and move towards a long-term vision? Need measures that don't necessarily follow budget cycles and election cycles.
- Local governments can report separately and there should be a mechanism for them to feed directly into the process.
- Cities can pilot and demo accountability mechanisms and demo how multi-stakeholder processes can work.

#### **Group 5**

What's the single most important thing governments can do to invest in a green economy?

- Pricing carbon/natural resources. But how do you set up an international system of carbon pricing?
- Barriers include bickering at the COP level (Redd Book – ways to carbon tax)
- Stop subsidizing non-sustainable industries. A carbon tax can help address this issue – will combat subsidizing an unsustainable lifestyle.
- Cities can invest in better planning. Need to deliver mechanisms to establish regulatory requirements at the local level. What to do in cities that are already built? Can create regulations, recognize the need for investment in new building codes. E.g. Vancouver. The national building code serves as a model – it is currently voluntary.
- Ontario's models – standards are more strict now; Places to Grow Act is a start to control city growth – can use this as a case study internationally. The Ontario Liberal party has a fear of losing money through the FIT program – how do programs function in this political atmosphere?
- Public awareness – need to highlight best practices to educate Canadians. Do people know what is meant by a green economy? Need to showcase innovation, give awards, etc.

Other mechanisms for a green economy:

- Financing – leverage private investment
- Prioritize government investment

How do you enact a long-term vision in a political system that is short-term focused?

- One example is work in Hamilton after Agenda 21 (a sustainable community initiative). The program is still in place because it was designed so that it would cross political boundaries and works toward a goal; it involved diverse stakeholders outside of government who could keep it moving forward regardless of the political turnover.
- May need to bypass the national government level and empower local initiatives – municipalities, neighbourhoods, individuals, community groups; and flow resources as locally as possible.



Sectors that would advance Canadian interests:

- Green technology
- Logging / forestry
- Water
- Renewable energy
- Education

From a food perspective, what's one thing the government could do?

- Keep agriculture viable by acknowledging its role in preserving natural capital
- 3 declarations to come out of Rio?
  - Earth charter? What value do declarations have if they're not enforceable?
  - Looking at issues holistically may be compelling on an international level

What can we do at the local level? Should a group of local governments sign on, develop their 20 year vision?

- Need to bring major cities into the discussion.
- International money may need to flow to local authorities as opposed to national governments.
- Green city congress– global facility funding
- Global environment facility – if we had one that funded municipalities it could be on a national and international level
- Update Local Agenda 21
- Note that municipalities might work in North America but maybe not in other countries
- Need to flow resources as locally as possible, perhaps similar to a micro-finance system

What steps can Canada take to address green economy initiatives both domestically and internationally?

- Implement Green Economy Declaration at a political level:
  - carbon tax
  - social equity
  - innovation
  - freedom of information
  - cooperation - technology transfer
  - moving towards idea of long-term sustainability
- Demonstrate international leadership to prioritize social equity in the green economy.
- Use domestic case studies (e.g. Places to Grow Act; Water Opportunities Act).
- Regulate domestic oil industry
- Enact ban on illegally harvested lumber.
- Enforce trade agreements; develop new trade agreements for unsustainable practices
- Enhance policy around foreign aid – what are Canada's policies? Our priorities are to generate Canadian jobs, is that the goal of aid?
- It is the responsibility of developed economies to scale back and regulate ourselves. At the individual level we can push zero carbon neighbourhoods; transition towns; civic action.

Ideas / Rio+20 wish list:

- “UN” for cities
- New trade agreement banning unsustainable practices (industry)
- Self-regulation of developed countries scaling back
- Government partnering with community groups on long-term sustainability initiatives.

## **Desired outcomes / commitments from Rio+20**

The groups came together and noted key points from the afternoon discussion that fall into one of the three potential outcomes noted by Amy earlier in the day: political, policy or partnership.

Political

- Ensure access to natural spaces of the world’s children including cities (wherever you are, children should have access to natural spaces)
- How do we see successful implementation of previous agreements? Need financial incentives; price on carbon and other natural resources.
- Alternate measurement system to GDP – other sustainability indicators – and having governments to commit to using them. (Examples include Gross Domestic Happiness Index, Integrated Economic and Environmental Accounting (UN)); needing to have objective measurable indicators so that we’re driven by factors other than just money.
- Precautionary principle; evaluation of risk; cost and value of resilience.
- Drive implementation through at the local level; find a mechanism to flow resources and funds.
- Leaders of Rio delegations recognizing the value of sustainable cities.
- General agreement that a Green Economy has economic benefits – creates jobs and doesn’t only have social / environmental benefits.
- Political challenge at Rio to get sign on from local authorities / municipalities to take on the challenge of implementation (ask them to sign on as a part of a sustainable cities focus).
- We can’t wait for leadership from the federal government.
- Opportunity to discuss the merits (pros / cons) of the global economic system; step back to identify what the strengths and weaknesses are, then work out opportunities for alternatives. Are globalization and green economy compatible? Relates to opportunity for implementation at the local level.
- Need for domestic and international mechanisms to promote better governance of natural resource consumption and use. (e.g. legal harvesting, certification schemes, for all sectors – mining, forestry etc...)
- Accountability and structures to create accountability – to be implemented both at the national level and other levels including local. We have a lot of agreements with great targets but where are the accountability mechanisms?

Policy

- Need for domestic and international mechanisms to promote better governance of natural resource consumption and use. (e.g. legal harvesting, certification schemes, for all sectors – mining, forestry etc...)
- Bringing back what was agreed to at Rio+20 and implementing it at the national level.
- Stimulate mechanism to collect and track formal and informal commitments (formal accountability study)
- These are all consensus processes – what if you abandon that and get people to develop their own metrics based on what they can do and set targets that they can achieve. Move away from “1 path



to X”; can we work backward and develop many paths; develop common principles and metrics. Commitments can be made from a variety of stakeholders (why just national governments). Can local governments report separately?

- Can cities pilot accountability processes and we can take their lessons learned, where things might be easier to implement?
- Reducing perceived inequity when environmental measures are adopted (perceived inequity is a barrier to moving forward); not one-size-fits-all

### Partnerships

- Showcase what Canadian municipalities are doing as best practices; share that at the global level. Many companies have also implemented excellent initiatives that could be showcased so governments can see what has been done and that these initiatives have had many short-term financial gains for industry.
- Reinvigorate C40 and issues-based approach so countries working on the same issues can figure out what has worked and what hasn't to implement issues
- Creative partnerships will help mobilize funds and move issues forward.
- Industry / NGO coalition on Green Economy showcasing initiatives such as Boreal forest Agreement and Western Climate Initiative – say this is not only asked for by NGOs but also businesses.
- Opportunity for developing partnership for long-term strategy that would encompass a number of bigger issues (urban transportation strategy etc...) ; form partnerships between businesses, NGOs, governments etc... This could be a longer-term strategy that goes beyond political terms, timelines and constraints and is initiated by a range of players.
- Leadership – innovative partnerships can help us be leaders outside of the political context (we don't need to wait for the national lead). Role for UNEP – partnerships with businesses; creates credibility for that kind of partnership and technology. This provides case studies that we can show to our governments, businesses and others.

## Closing

Amy expressed a big thank you to all of the organizers for coordinating the session. She thanked the volunteers; UNEP representatives; youth representatives; and many others who made the day happen. She thanked the participants for taking the time to contribute to a meaningful session. She noted that comments can also be sent to the Rio+20 Secretariat at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/> as well as to the UNEP office. She asked that participants keep UNEP informed about their perspectives. In the fall the UNEP office will also be holding a regional civil society consultation in Washington and provide some support for Canadian participants. This is not the end of the conversation but the beginning.



Carolyn thanked the Canadian Environmental Network for their support and acknowledged the presenters.

She outlined the process for moving forward – proceedings will be developed and circulated. All the proceedings from the events across Canada will be compiled into one summary document and circulated – likely at the end of December once all of the consultations have taken place.