



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Lisa Gartland

Lisa is the owner and principal engineer of PositivEnergy, a consulting firm focusing on building and community energy conservation. She has extensive experience with cool roofing technology, monitoring, modeling and incentive programs, along with expertise in heat island mitigation technology, strategies and policies. She has also worked as the director of the Sacramento Cool Community Program, and as post-doctoral fellow with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Heat Island Group.

She developed a statewide cool roof incentive program for the California Energy Commission, wrote a heat island mitigation guidebook for the US EPA, and is the author of "Heat Islands, Understanding and Mitigating Heat in Urban Areas" published by Earthscan. She has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University, an M.S. in aerospace engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington.

Dr. Ugis Bickis

Ugis has an MEng in Chemical Engineering, a PhD in Toxicology, and is accredited by the American and Canadian Hygiene Boards. He had a 25 year career as an academic and real-world consultant in the effects of environmental factors on human health; he remains on adjunct faculty in Mining Engineering and in Community Health & Epidemiology at Queen's University. Currently, he is Head of the Science Section in Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Office, based in Ottawa.

Dr. Hashem Akbari

Dr. Hashem Akbari is currently a Hydro Quebec Industrial Research Chair Professor at Concordia University (Montreal) and a member of the Heat Island Group at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Prior to joining the Concordia University he was a Group Leader, Senior Scientist, and principal investigator in the Environmental Energy Technologies Division at LBNL. Dr. Akbari is the author of more than 200 articles and coauthor of four books, and chief editor and editor of several scientific journals. Finally, he is an active member of ASME, ASTM, Cool Roof Rating Council, and ASHRAE and

serves on several technical committees within each society. He is currently coordinating the “100 Cool Cities” initiative to cool urban heat islands and counter global warming.

Kevin Behan

Kevin Behan is a researcher with Clean Air Partnership. His research interests include the use of GIS and Spatial Analysis in the fields of urban forestry, transportation and urban heat island research. He has previously worked in research with both the Centre for Spatial Analysis and Institute for Transportation and Logistics at McMaster University where he employed simulation modeling to examine emissions produced in various scenarios of land use and urban development and to understanding the relationship between environmental pollution and health.

Dr. Stephanie Gower

Dr. Stephanie Gower is a Research Consultant in the Environmental Protection Office at Toronto Public Health, where she is part of a team that does research and policy development work to promote a healthy environment in Toronto. Stephanie is especially interested in climate change and air quality issues and is currently working on a collaborative project with Health Canada to evaluate Toronto’s Hot Weather Response Plan. Stephanie also acts as a Toronto Public Health representative on the City-Wide Climate Change Adaptation Steering Committee.

Mélissa Giguère

Mélissa Giguère is a research agent for the Environmental Health division of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ). Her work focuses on the implementation of countermeasures of urban heat islands to protect public health. Mme Giguère has an M.Sc. in environmental studies from Sherbrooke University.

Jen Forkes

Jennifer Forkes has worked as a Senior Researcher with the Clean Air Partnership since 2008. At CAP, she convenes the Alliance for Resilient Cities and works on policy and practical solutions to the Urban Heat Island issue in the GTA. Jennifer is completing her doctorate in Environmental Geography at University of Toronto, where her research focuses on sustainability indicator tools for food systems. She has travelled or lived in all but one of Canada’s provinces and territories, and is working towards a climate friendly way to rectify her shameful omission.

Lisa King

Lisa King is a Senior Environmental Policy Planner for the City of Toronto, practicing in the areas of green development standards, climate change and neighbourhood sustainability. She has been heavily involved in the development and launch of Toronto's required green standards for new construction. Her career spans 20 years of work in Conservation Authorities, Sustainable Design Consulting in the private sector and a combination of international and local sustainable city planning.

Phil James

As a Water Resources Engineer, Phil James has been with Credit Valley Conservation since March 2007. His responsibilities include leading restoration initiatives within urban watersheds which is one of the ways CVC is initiating the recommendations of the Credit River Water Management Strategy. To mitigate the impacts of urbanization on the health of the watershed a variety of restoration pilot projects are being implemented to improve watershed health.

Kristina Hausmanis

Kristina Hausmanis is a Senior Environmental Planner at the City of Toronto's Environment Office. As the program manager for the Eco-Roof Incentive Program, Kristina works to engage the industrial, commercial and institutional sector to take action against climate change. Kristina also coordinates the Live Green Toronto Grants, which provide financial resources to enhance the ability of Toronto's neighbourhoods and community groups to take collective action to address the issues of climate change, clean air and sustainable energy use.

David Orsini

David Orsini is a Landscape Architect and Certified Arborist and principal of Sunarts Design - a Toronto-based Landscape Architecture firm dedicated to the creation and management of environments which are ecologically responsive and based on social equity. Sunarts' design process seeks to directly involve the future users of the landscape where possible. Their projects have included landscape architecture, ecological restoration, and urban design, with their greatest strength being in the area of ecological restoration for municipal, institutional, commercial and residential clients.

Bill Humber

William Humber is Director of the “Office of Eco Seneca initiatives” (OESi) at Seneca College in Toronto and is one of three principals of the “Regeneration Institute for the Great Lakes”, a partnership of McMaster University’s ArcelorMittal Dofasco Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, the Canadian Urban Institute, and Seneca College. He is author of eleven books. His most recent (2009) from Dundurn Press was written in collaboration with his son Darryl. It is entitled, “Let It Snow: Keeping Canada’s Winter Sports Alive” and covers Canada’s winter sports heritage and the ways climate change threatens their survival.

Steven Peck

For the past ten years, Steven Peck has worked as the founder and president of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, a member-based industry association to develop the green roof and wall industry across North America. Mr. Peck has written and lectured extensively on green roofs for the past 10 years and has recently published "Award Winning Green Roof Designs" with Schiffer Publishing which contains details on more than 40 award winning green roof projects.