

SmartGrowthBC

in association with

**GAINING
GROUND**

resilient cities

VANCOUVER

Canada

OCT 20-22, 2009



Urban Strategies for Transition Times

in collaboration with the **Canadian Society for Ecological Economics**

INVITED SPEAKERS include...



Paul
Hawken



Sarah
Severn



John
Knott



Pamela
Mang



Majora
Carter



Bill
Rees



Gregor
Robertson



Anita
Burke

The Idea of the Conference

North American cities are facing transformational challenges in sustainability, economy, and urban management.

Sustainability imperatives, the call for climate action, the prospect of a quickly shifting energy future, pressure for new approaches in almost every urban system, and the shock of the economic downturn have North American cities scrambling to comprehend and manage the shift toward ecological practices and greater resilience.

At the heart of this *Resilient Cities* conference are these ideas:

- Cities are powerful agents for climate action and ecological governance;
- It's crucial to develop powerful new sustainability collaborations between business, civic leadership and the communities that make up our cities;
- The emergent green economy, new green jobs, and a green way of doing old jobs together represent an important new economic development/training/education strategy;
- The concepts and practices of ecological citizenship need to spread more thoroughly through all segments of society and all constituencies;
- Cities—as social and political units—are leading the way in sustainability innovation in the areas of governance, policy and implementation. This capacity, these skills, need to be perfected and widely shared;
- Practitioners from all sectors—technical professions, elected folks, developers, non-profit agencies, post-secondary institutions, community leadership, etc.—are in on this reawakening to commons values. It's time to maximize collaboration and partnerships. It's time for the whole city to go green.

Event
planned and
hosted by



CENTER FOR
URBAN
INNOVATION



The conference will explore strategies to make cities more robust, and will enable participants to advance their thinking on three key subjects:

- innovation in sustainability governance and best current practices for managing sustainable urban systems;
- capturing opportunities in the green economy;
- strategies for building widespread sustainability collaborations that engage the community level.

The program will emphasize integrated thinking on these themes and will place a large project of work in front of the conference community: to build a portrait of urban life in which sustainable urban practices, economy, and engaged communities are successfully aligned. Both *ecology* and *economy* share the Greek word for *home*. We need to link sustainability to ideas of safety, security and opportunity, and we need fresh narratives and different metrics that will enable our urban societies to politically and socially support the shift to renewal and regeneration. We need to make choices that favour the long term and honour our sense of community.

Conference Assets

Vancouver, host city for the conference, is a living laboratory for many of the conference themes. The city—widely recognized for the urban planning miracle called “Vancouverism”—is also an urban sustainability leader that has worked hard to hold a durable public conversation, maintain a high level of community interest, and enlist a broad base of support for the sustainability agenda. In other words, Vancouver—the city and the region—has developed important expertise in 'process architecture.'

Vancouver's successes and challenges will be a backdrop for the conference and the conference will assist Vancouver leadership in governance, business, education, organization and community to study opportunities to strategically promote Vancouver internationally as a centre of sustainability innovation and expertise.

Resilient Cities will feature speakers and thought leaders who are some of the most imaginative and compelling voices available to address the conference themes. Our invited presenters include:

- Rob Abbott** Director of Sustainability, Stratos & Conference Moderator;
- Jared Blumenfeld** Environment Director, City of San Francisco;
- Anita Burke** Former advisor to Shell International, currently advising governments and businesses on operationalizing sustainable development;
- Majora Carter** President, The Majora Carter Group;

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Jon Fink	Director Global Institute of Sustainability (GIOS), Arizona State University (with Rob Melnick , Executive Dean, School of Sustainability, ASU);
Paul Hawken	One of the global architects of sustainability and author of <i>Blessed Unrest</i> and <i>The Ecology of Commerce</i> ;
Mark Holland	Principal, HB Lanarc, sustainability advisors to local government;
Buzz Holling	Founder of Resilience Alliance, Emeritus Eminent Scholar and Professor in Ecological Sciences, author <i>Panarchy: Understanding Transformations in Human and Natural Systems</i> ;
Mark Jaccard	Professor of Environmental Economics in the School of Resource and Environmental Management, SFU and internationally respected authority on climate change;
Sadhu Johnston	Chief Environmental Officer, Mayor's Office, City of Chicago;
John Knott	Developer of The Noisette Project in Charleston, South Carolina and a paragon of triple-bottom-line community-building;
Gary Lawrence	Urban Strategies Leader, Arup Sustainability;
Doug Makaroff	President, Living Forest Communities;
Pamela Mang	Principal, Regenesys Inc., and profound natural systems thinker (with Bill Reed , Principal, Integrative Design Collaborative);
Jon O'Riordan	Former Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and President, Fidelis Group;
Tom Osdoba	Director, Center for Sustainable Business Practices, University of Oregon;
Bill Rees	Co-creator of the Ecological Footprint;
Gregor Robertson	Mayor, City of Vancouver;
Sarah Severn	Global Director Horizons, Nike Inc. and corporate representative to Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP).



Value for You

We believe you will extract great value from Resilient Cities if you are engaged in:

- Urban or regional governance
- Urban planning and urban systems management (infrastructure, budget, mobility, etc.)
- Senior government oversight of urban affairs
- Urban policy creation and implementation
- Urban/rural interface concerns
- Business and economic leadership
- Land use, property development, and related professions associated with human settlement and urban systems
- Relevant professional affiliations (architecture, planning, valuation, etc.)
- Sustainability, environmental and health advocacies and initiatives
- Academic, education and research programs focused on urban issues and systems
- Foundation grant-making in environment and urban sustainability
- Consulting in sustainability fields
- Citizen and community leadership
- Management of community institutions (libraries, health regions, faith centres)
- Journalism associated with the conference themes

Sponsors and Partners

