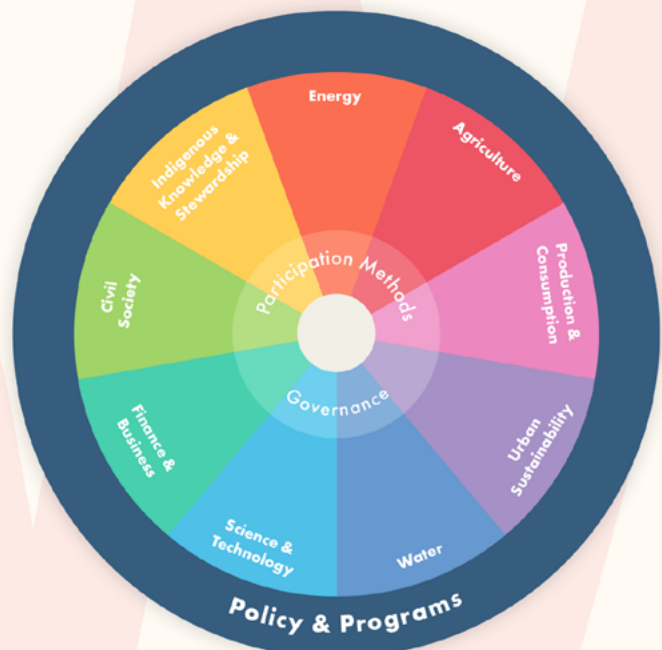


Women's Participation and Leadership in Climate Solutions

A Roundtable Dialogue

**THURSDAY
JUNE
21ST 2018
9AM – 3PM**

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
WOSK CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE



REPORT

ROUNDTABLE ON THE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

#WOMENANDCLIMATEYVR

Prepared by:

Dr. Joanna Ashworth, Director Professional Programs and Partnerships,
Faculty of Environment, Participedia Researcher, Wosk Centre for Dialogue Senior
Associate, Simon Fraser University
joanna_ashworth@sfu.ca

With notes from

Candice Bachra, Clarie Buchanan, Terri Lucas, Navi Rai, Caroline Merner,
Ellen Woodsworth and Erlene Woollard
And Miranda Maslany, Graphic Recorder, Vantage Point

Photography by
Ali Penko

July 25, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Background + Purpose of Roundtable	pg. 4
2. Setting the Context: Intersectionality, Gender Analysis, Indigenous Rights	pg. 4
a. The Science of Climate Change	
3. Climate Change by Sector	pg. 7
4. Participedia.net	pg. 9
5. Solutions to Climate Change	pg. 10
6. Opportunities for Women's Participation and Inclusion	pg. 12
7. Weaving Our Ideas Together	pg. 15
8. Recommendations	pg. 17
9. Appendices	pg. 18



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Environment partnered with CityHive, Participedia.net, Women Transforming Cities, and Suzuki Elders to host this invitational roundtable. We convened leaders, re-searchers, and students from diverse sectors – universities, civil society, policy think tanks, govern-ment and funders – committed to intersectionality and innovation that takes into account the com-plex relationship between women and climate change. We shared knowledge about the participatory methods that foster women's leadership in climate change solutions in finance, agriculture, energy, research and higher education, consumption and production, climate communications and media, urban design, governance and well-being and resilience.

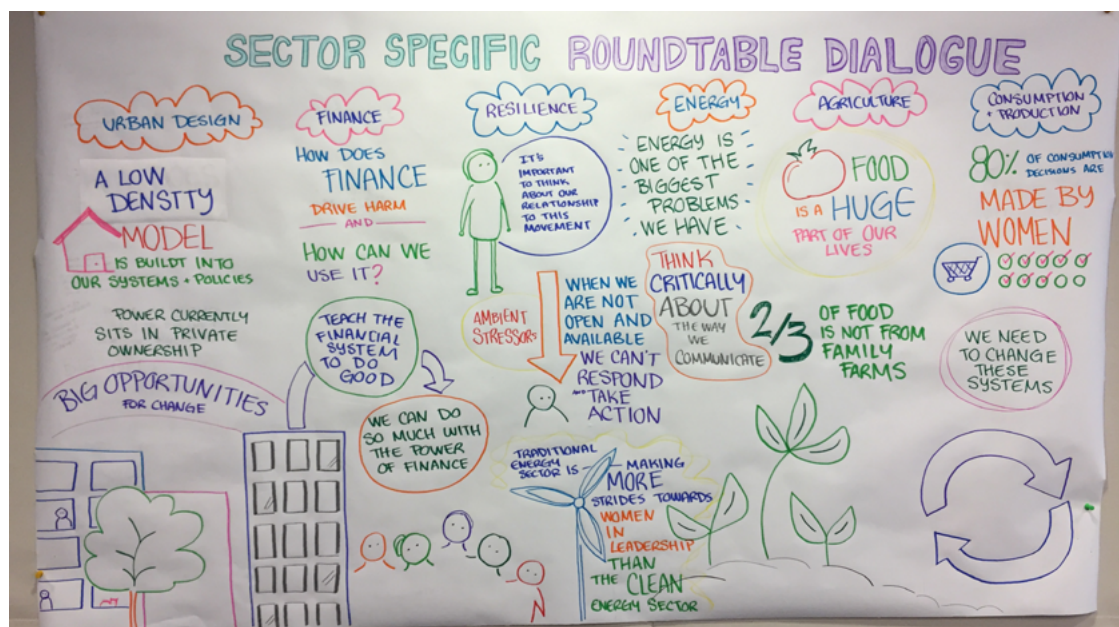
We identified a number of the barriers to and opportunities for women's participation and leader-ship in climate change solutions and the implications for policy and programs in urban design and planning; governance, energy, consumption; agriculture; finance, communications; and well-being and resilience. Through small group conversations we also identified a number of participatory methods that foster inclusion, meaningful participation and leadership on policy and program solutions.

The consensus centered on the importance of building spaces inclusive and welcoming of diversity for fostering leadership capacity and resiliency as well as strategies to scale women's participation by front loading in design for representation as the first step.

We also shared relevant cases recently published on participedia.net catalogue as well as methods and organizational profiles that are accessible to all via participedia.net.

Notes from this roundtable were uploaded to illustrate how accessible it is to document participa-tory methods and organizations including photos, feedback, insights, and take aways

<https://participedia.net/case/5321%20%0D>



1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

On June 21, 2018 (National Indigenous People's Day), we convened a gathering of more than 60 women to explore questions and strategies for advancing women's leadership and participation in climate change solutions. The dialogue was lively and the ideas generated will inform and inspire action among all who desire to reduce the causes of climate change.

Why this Roundtable?

Greater economic, infrastructure, employment and health disparities make women more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. And when given the opportunity to participate and influence policy and programs, women are also key agents of change for social, economic and environmental sustainability across sectors ranging from agriculture to governance to natural resources to energy. This roundtable examined the barriers that currently exist for women's (and using a Gender Plus lens) and other marginalized populations participation as well as the opportunities and actionable methods for greater participation and leadership in climate solutions. The organizing questions include:

What would it look like if there was gender equity and fully inclusive participation in your sector to take action on climate change?

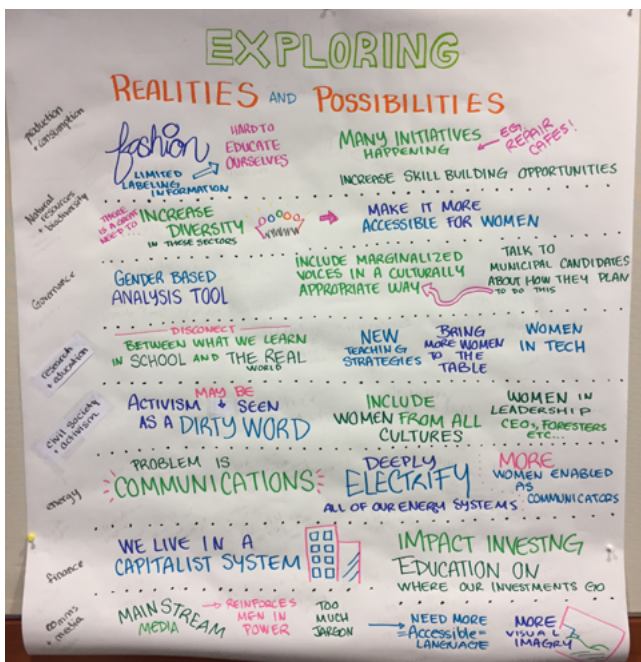
What innovative methods of inclusion and participation would you scale up to address climate solutions?

2. SETTING THE CONTEXT: INTERSECTIONALITY, GENDER ANALYSIS, INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Ginger Gosnell-Myers,
Aboriginal Relations Advisor

"When you have been oppressed for so long and your grandparents are silent and your parents are silent, you don't have that voice."

In Canada today, the lived experience of being Indigenous means many things. Ginger reflected on her own Nisga'a Nation known for having negotiated the first modern-day treaty in 2000. The Nisga'a Treaty was followed by subsequent royalty agreements and strategies for wealth creation that have focused on resource extraction projects. Ginger has fought for the rights of Nisga'a to be heard on these agreements within her own community. She continues to



advocate for creating space right now to enable people to use their voice in the decision-making process. She says that to empower others is, in large part, done by letting them know they are not alone. “There is incredible power when we come together.” As the former director of Reconciliation for the City of Vancouver, Ginger notes that Vancouver is the first and only government in Canada to officially recognize that Vancouver is on unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh home-lands. The City is creating opportunities for Indigenous voices, beginning with traditional sites being reclaimed in language. She urges us to think beyond Indigenous culture and art on display at YVR airport, and says that more thought and action is required to acknowledge that we are on Indigenous land. In particular, she believes more meaningful inclusion of Indigenous people is needed in all parts of city planning. Ginger is committed to healing the past by creating awareness of this history and especially the impacts of Indian Residential schools on First Nations people today.

Providing connections and safe spaces to speak and learn is important, says Ginger. On National Indigenous Peoples Day, she reminds us that colonizers have benefited from economic wealth from natural resources extraction, yet where developments occur, the Nisga’a and other Indigenous people are not the ones getting the good jobs, they get short term jobs and construction jobs and, if there are jobs, they go to the men.

In being an advocate for Indigenous youth and women and for raising questions about who benefits from natural resources development, as a values based leader, Ginger has often felt the hostility of those in power. Ultimately she believes that “if you have something that’s burning you up inside, you should say it, even if you feel that you are going against your family and culture.”

Ellen Woodsworth, Founder of Women Transforming Cities

Ellen shared her understanding of intersectionality and its importance for addressing climate solutions.

“Women Transforming Cities calls for an intersectional lens – race, age, sexuality – grounded in social justice. Women are 51percent of population but don’t have 51percent of the voice at the tables. We are moving on climate change because it’s our lives that are being affected.”

Women are 51% of population but don’t have 51% of the voice at the decision-making tables. Ellen underscored that climate change disproportionately affects women and that educating girls would save us 59.6 gigatonnes of carbon emissions by 2050. Woman, globally, may be the most effected, but we also have the tools to address it. While we are not currently on track to meet the Paris target of 1.5 degrees Celsius, we have solutions to peak emissions and to drastically reduce them. The im-pacts of climate change globally and locally are greater for those more vulnerable members of a society. For example, 90 percent of the people who died in recent Bangladesh flooding were women. Some other facts Ellen shared include:

- Women in unpaid work are invisible in disasters.

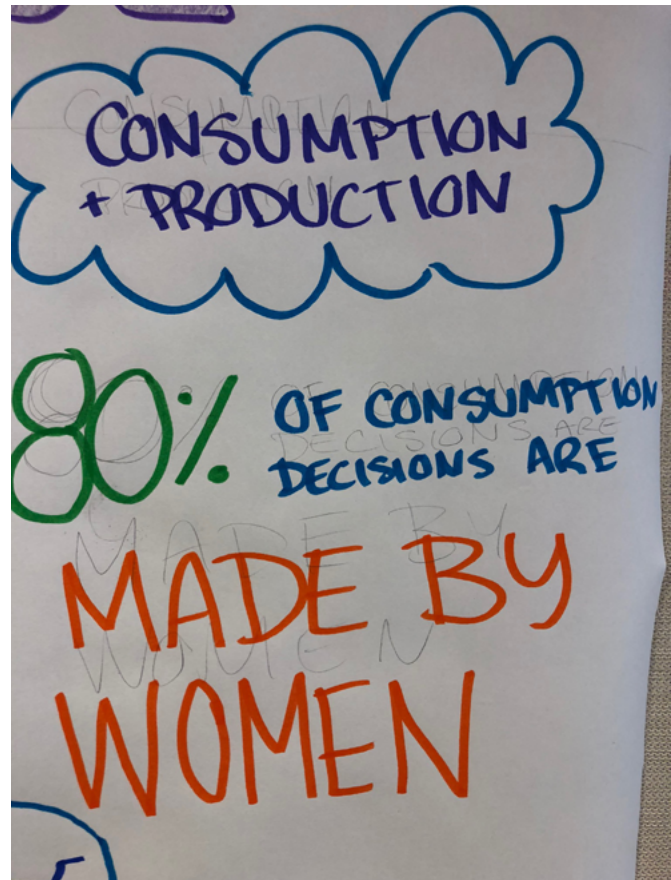


- Women and children eat last when there is lack of food.
- Women are the victims of sexual violence and lack sanitary protection
- There is a lack in diversity of women at the table in government and NGOs.
- An intersectional analysis is a crucial starting point of all conversations and we must ground our work in social justice.
- What empowers women empowers the whole family and the community.
- Strategies aren't going to work if women are the ones who will have to implement them but they are not at the table when decisions are made.

An intersectional lens is an analytical framework for questioning the interlocking systems of power and the impact it has on those in society who are most marginalized. This approach was created to reflect the multidimensional lives of citizens, and “chal-lenges the notion that ‘gender’ is the primary factor determining a woman’s fate.”

Using an intersectional lens is a strategy to identify and address systemic barriers and Ellen suggests that it is the way to imple-ment useful and effective urban policies, many of which have failed citizens who are invisible or marginalized or can't access new technologies or resources due to financial reasons or location.

Ellen shared the example from Japan, of housewives who refused to implement the government recycling programme because they didn't want to do anymore unpaid work. This made the environmental movement stop and rethink how to make it work for the people who they had assumed would



implement it. We have to include all people as we plan our green futures or our strategies will not work. That is what an intersectional lens with disaggregate data can help us do.

Ellen suggests putting an intersectional lens on climate change strategies as women make 80 per cent of the household decisions such as recycling, household purchases, schooling, transit use, food security, water use, housing decisions, elder and child care. They do the majority of the volunteer work in the community, which means they know what the problems are and where the people are. For all of these reasons women of all diversities must be at the table to make smart sustainable urban strategies work.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE BY SECTOR

In a roundtable dialogue, we explored the contributions to climate change by sector and some of the solutions therein.

Tiffany Muller Mydahl discussed the implications of urban design, i.e., the sprawl, size, ownership and how low rise developments could be used to improve the quality of lives, particularly women. As an academic geographer, she highlighted the importance of working with non-academics to ensure greater diversity of perspectives and recommends that city governments need to make sustainability policy by talking to other silos and with each other.

Donna Morton discussed the finance sector and observed that as a system it is the most powerful in human history and yet, in terms of investments in climate change causing enterprise, it is the least responsible. As a CEO of a Wall Street Finance company she is seeking to disrupt the pattern of 78 percent of financial companies being made up of exclusively white men investing in non-harmful enterprises – ones that are regenerative not earth destroying. Donna noted a story about money and power which is male dominated with less than 5 percent of investment money going to women and less than 1 percent to people of colour; it is harder for women to raise money. Be careful where you invest and where it goes and notice the representation of women in companies that you invest in; the opportunities exist to have control over how capital is invested and activists can make a difference in this space.

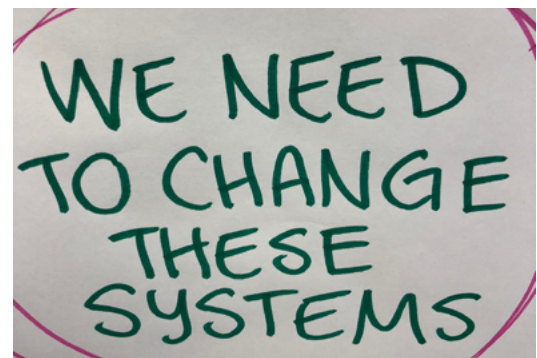
Rosemary Cooper is an urban planner representing the NGO One Earth and she is working on a research project that examines the role of local governments and the sharing economy. Consumption of foods, goods and services represent half the carbon footprint of cities and so to share, reuse and repair these materials will have an impact on GHGs. In this way she makes the link between sustainable consumption and

UNPACKING CLIMATE SCIENCE

In her new film *Women Bending the Curve on Climate Change*, Joanna showed a segment featuring climate scientist and professor of geography at Simon Fraser University, Dr. Kirsten Zickfeld. Kirsten identifies the main sources of GHGs emissions coming from transportation systems, land use (and the destruction of natural assets like forests, soils and oceans), agricultural methods that use fertilizers, fossil fuel sources that provide heating and cooling in buildings, and manufacturing processes. Coupled with the loss of carbon sinks from land use practices, is the increase in accumulated concentration of GHGs in earth's atmosphere. Avoiding dangerous climate change requires significantly reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and making a transition to cleaner energy. Preventing a 2°C or greater temperature will require an 80 percent drop in carbon emissions by 2050 and complete elimination of carbon emissions soon thereafter. Building infrastructure like oil pipelines keeps us on the carbon pathway when we need to be moving to renewable energy sources.

The film listed top actions to take to reduce Green House Gas Emissions and human-induced climate change:

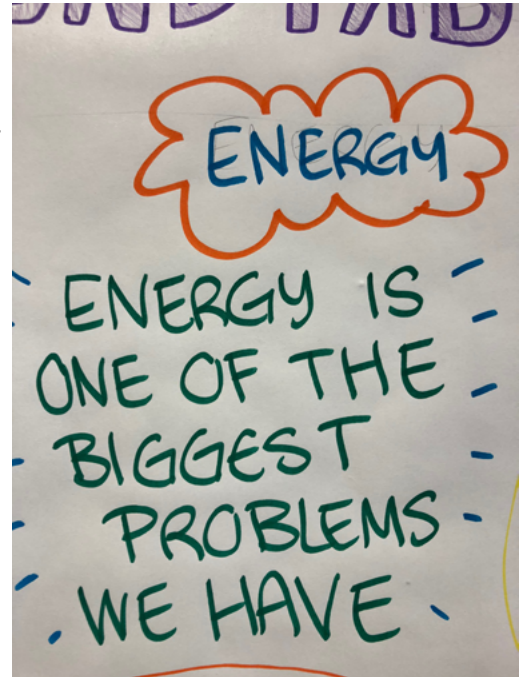
- Reduce fossil fuel use and transition to 100 percent renewable energy sources
- Increase energy efficiency in buildings and transportation
- Consume less
- Reduce energy use
- Eat sustainably
- Recycle
- Stop deforestation – plant more trees (carbon sinks)
- Restore ecosystems (natural assets)
- Collaborate
- Educate girls and women



community resilience. Rosemary observed that women make consumption decisions and there are several tangible things we can do including choice of clothing, diet, and having fewer children.

Sara Dent is the director of the Young Agrarians and has created a platform for young people to collaborate for learning about where to access land, develop agricultural skills and obtain business mentorship. Sara notes that half of farmers are renting because they can't afford the land, four times more than in the traditional farming sector and two thirds of new farmers are people coming from outside the farming sector. The sector is welcoming of females with an estimated 58 percent of new and young farmers in Canada being female. Sara's focus is not only on creating opportunities for young farmers but creating a social ecology of connection. Cultivating a garden is one very doable action she recommends to everyone.

Meredith Adler is the director of Student Energy, an organization that fosters awareness of the potential of renewable energy. For students in higher education, the focus is on teaching students about energy systems, currently 90 percent of which is fossil fuel based, and the role of energy in urban design. The goal is to empower students with skills to make a difference in the energy sector – one that is particularly unfriendly to women – with only 5 per-cent of renewable energy executives being women. When women are in positions of power and understand, the discussion shifts. A transition to a renewable energy system, notes Meredith, is vital to solving climate change.



Olive Dempsey is an advisor and educator on the relationship between well-being and resiliency. She notes that there is an important psycho-social dimension to climate change and the impact it is having on resiliency and our ability to understand what is happening and what appropriate responses are available. She sees the crisis of climate change also being an opportunity to address colonization and privilege. She referenced Susan Moser, Tara Brach, and Rosemary Randal as influencers in communicating climate change and resiliency.

BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Barriers were identified as structural and personal as well as related to imagination. They included:

- Access to resources
- Lack of transparency of information
- Siloed or difficult to navigate knowledge
- Isolation
- Fear
- Racism
- Sexism
- Women are working two jobs
- SE False Creek – is an example of needed urban development that has the right leadership to represent the community
- SFU has project for open access to governments
- We need more spaces for disruption
- We need more women in roles of leadership to inspire hope

4. PARTICIPEDIA.NET

Researchers for Participedia Claire Buchanan and Jesi Carson presented the work of Participedia and invited participants to review the platform as well as contribute cases.

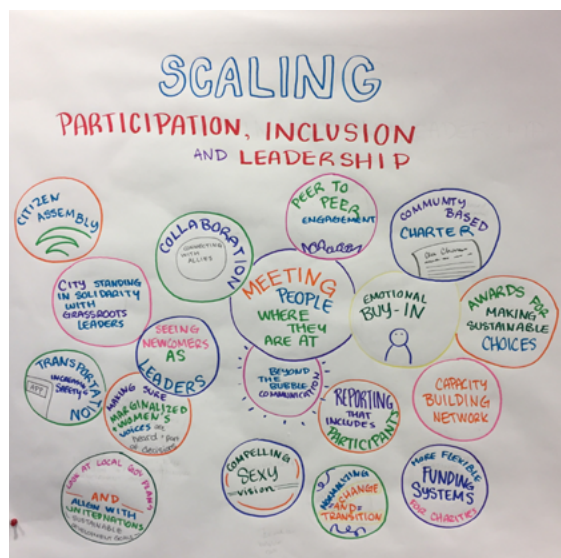
There are many organizations currently leading in foregrounding women's participation in climate solutions that we have documented on Participedia. These include:

- 1 Million Women (Australia)
- Women Transforming Cities (Vancouver, Canada)
- WECAN International (USA)
- Mary Robinson Foundation (Ireland)
- The Joy of Feeding (UBC, Vancouver)
- CAN-RAC Climate Action Network Canada (Canada)
- Oxfam (United Kingdom)

Additional cases, methods and organizations can be found on Participedia.net

They can be found here:

- Participedia: <https://participedia.net>
- 1 Million Women : <https://participedia.net/organization/5302>
- WECAN International: <https://participedia.net/organization/5297>
- Women Transforming Cities: <https://participedia.net/organization/5247>
- Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice: <https://participedia.net/organization/5428>



These organizations are using the following methods to engage women in their work:

- Elimination of structural and legal obstacles
- Gender Quotas
- Incorporating men and boys in supporting women and girls
- Crafting gender-sensitive climate policy
- Gender-sensitive training pathways

Anyone can join the Participedia community and help crowdsource, catalogue and compare participatory political processes around the world. All content on Participedia is collaboratively produced and open-source under a Creative Commons License.

- **Explore:** Search, read, download and gain insight from our database of Cases, Methods, Organizations, surveys, teaching resources and external data sets.
- **Contribute:** Help improve the quality of this knowledge resource by editing existing content or publishing your own.
- **Teach:** Use Participedia in the classroom as a tool to engage students and showcase their research.

5. SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE: THE ROLE OF GENDER IN THE TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON REGENERATIVE, SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Current Solutions in City Planning:

It is encouraging to see that Vancouver has increased bike infrastructure and we are building a cul-ture of social movements and citizen assemblies to address the need for greater civil participation in urban decision-making. More youth climate change education programs (e.g., SFU-Burnaby) and grassroots programs (e.g., Parks Board subsidizes tree sales) and analysis of women's participation in governance and grassroots organizing is happening, (e.g., Watchers Project and Protect the Inlet). As well the UN Climate Change conference, COP 21 included more lateral conversations especially women of cultural diversity.

Current Solutions in the Consumer Sector:

Many examples were shared that included the Flaunt Fashion Library; BUNZ Trading Zone, Fit It Clinic, Patagonia Clothing Repair, Clothing Swaps, Cordova Clothing Store, rent instead of purchasing "fancy clothing." This group suggests we flip the narrative around consumer behaviour, share ideas with your neighbours, learn DIY skills, create a "repair and reuse" culture, and recognize the signifi-cant role women as decision-makers play with regard to consumer purchases in the home.

Current Solutions in Natural Resources Sector:

The biggest challenge noted in this sector is the distinct lack of presence of women and cultural di-versity in key roles in the natural resource sector. There is much work needed here to promote work in these sectors for girls and women. The first step to accomplish this is getting girls into nature and increasing their connection to the natural world. Innovative programs will foster greater awareness of opportunities for and benefits to working in the natural resource sector.

Current Solutions in Governance:

There are so many changes happening at the community level that are not captured as data. These powerful stories are not being used to inform public policy. To engage with these experiences we need to create time and space for stakeholders to share their views. For example, Newcomers to Canada have leadership skills and experience with low impact living. There is great value in the par-ticipation of new Canadians in knowledge sharing about living sustainably i.e., food, transportation, community, and resiliency. Using the Gender Based Assessment Plus (GBA+) or intersectionality framework is valuable in assessing how power impacts various communities – this lens needs to be part of what all governors reference when engaging with various stakeholders and making diffi-cult decisions. BC Council for International Development offers a course on this and it is also found on the Status of Women's website https://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/gba-acsc/course-cours-2017/eng/mod04/mod04_12_01.html

Current Solutions in Communications and Media:

The mainstream media is limited in terms of coverage of climate solutions and particularly wom-en's perspectives. There is a disconnect between the impacts of climate change and everyday life. The media tends to reinforce the social power dynamic and contributes to a sense of disassociation and short termism. More women need to become strong communicators and learn to use storytell-ing approaches to communicate the science of climate change and the changes needed including addressing over-consumption. These narratives need to frame these changes as doable, less intim-idating, and hopeful. The power of "story" is a strong tool. When communicating climate solutions,

the messages should avoid jargon and speak to values, hope and capacities for making change happen. Not all change should be expected of citizens without strong governmental policy to support this change. See Side Bar on How to Talk About Climate Change.

Current Solutions in Higher Education:

While dominant mainstream educations seem to devalue imagination and creativity and there appears to be a disconnect between universities and the 'real world', what is exciting and promising at all levels of education is the use of new teaching strategies that emphasize dialogue, interaction, participation with community and local government and tangible democratic engagement. "Engag-ing Diaspora in Development" was cited as an example of a university project that supported leadership development and knowledge mobilization. Innovation in teaching and learning in higher education needs to be rewarded and supported.

HOW TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

ADAPTED FROM MAIBACH, 2010.

1. Experts agree: human-caused climate change is happening.
2. It's real
3. It's us (human-caused)
4. It's bad (for people)
5. It's solvable

And to communicate these five things, try this one-sentence mantra for anyone talking about the crisis to follow: Simple, clear messages, repeated often, by a variety of trusted sources.

1. More than 97 percent of climate scientists are convinced that human-caused climate change is happening.

This one key sentence addresses the three key beliefs for climate action: it's real, it's us, and that experts agree.

2. The climate crisis is harming our health now. All of us can be affected, but some of us are more likely to be harmed: children, pregnant women, student athletes, the elderly, the sick, and the poor.

This topic emphasizes the fourth key belief by communicating how the crisis is bad – for us, right here, right now.

3. The most important actions we can take are to reduce energy waste and fully embrace clean energy. When we do that, we clean our air and our water, and we all immediately enjoy better health.

Finally, end by reinforcing the fact that the crisis is solvable and there are solutions available today that anyone can support. This way, you speak to the fifth key belief.

6. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION

Participants honed in on models of engagement and participation such as the Citizen Assembly and Living Labs for non-hierarchical learning. Capacity building is identified as a core strategy and often the center of any climate change program such as energy transitions or energy conservation initiatives.

From a community-based environmental policy perspective, consumption pricing is identified as a powerful incentive. For example, in the use of public transportation vs. the use of the private car. Land use and development policies impact where people live and how they travel to and from work to home. Engage and recognize that newcomers to Canada are valuable assets who tend to arrive in Canada having lived with a lighter carbon footprint. Support their learning process for recycling and low carbon living.

Peer to peer engagement, mentoring, leadership development, feminist consciousness-raising were central to the strategies identified. Meet people where they are. Create safe spaces (third spaces) for learning, leadership, capacity building and knowledge sharing and mentoring.

A compelling and positive view of the future will attract greater participation. Share a message of what a regenerative future can look like, one that is on track to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius by 2050.

Language: Pay attention to the way people are invited into these learning spaces. And design for diverse representation. Notice how you support different cultural, economic and social ways of being and learning.



PRINCIPLES FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A RESILIENT, LOW CARBON SOCIETY AND SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE

We agreed that if we work together to educate, train and collaborate, we will activate women (citi-zens and leaders) to have a greater impact. How? Here are some of the ideas shared:

- Create safe spaces (women only etc.) to build community, train and take action. For example: Friendship Corners – free spaces in the city where women can convene. Include youth support and allies in such initiatives.
- Report on collaborative initiatives produced by women
- Track the impact of policies and laws that support gender equity and climate change
- Develop inclusive, community-based environmental policies
- Use the power of a “citizens’ charter” to outline values-based commitments and hold

decision-makers accountable

- Use a social justice lens to guide decisions on land use changes, affordable housing, daycare, and assess transportation between work and home.
- Make “full cost” accounting accessible and understandable. In other words, highlight the true cost of goods that factor in the use of water, forests, carbon, etc.
- Attach funding to strategies and ensure that it is flexible; e.g., to empower citizens to become lobbyists requires financial resources.
- Reduce barriers to women’s participation by attending to child care, funding and inclusive programming/convening; find out about initiatives that are happening;
- Nothing About Us, Without Us: Recognize whose voices are not present and figure out how to ensure that they are. Be inclusive and diverse, take a non-hierarchical, grassroots approach to learning and action planning.
- Meet people where they are at (e.g., refer to Stages of Change) – examples: Binning Project in the DTES; Revolutionary Storytelling for Babies; City of Vancouver’s Equity Strategy
- Communicate the Co-Benefits of behaviour change to reduce personal and organizational carbon emissions
- Think Long Term and act short term. Climate change is happening now and impacts will have lasting consequences.
- Normalize the transition to a regenerative society
- Get Out of Your Bubble. Talk to people you don’t know, go door knocking, texting, and other campaign strategies
- Work with informed Champions
- Create a Compelling, Sexy View of the Future. Hopeful Messages
- Provide financial resources to people to share their knowledge.

METHODS FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

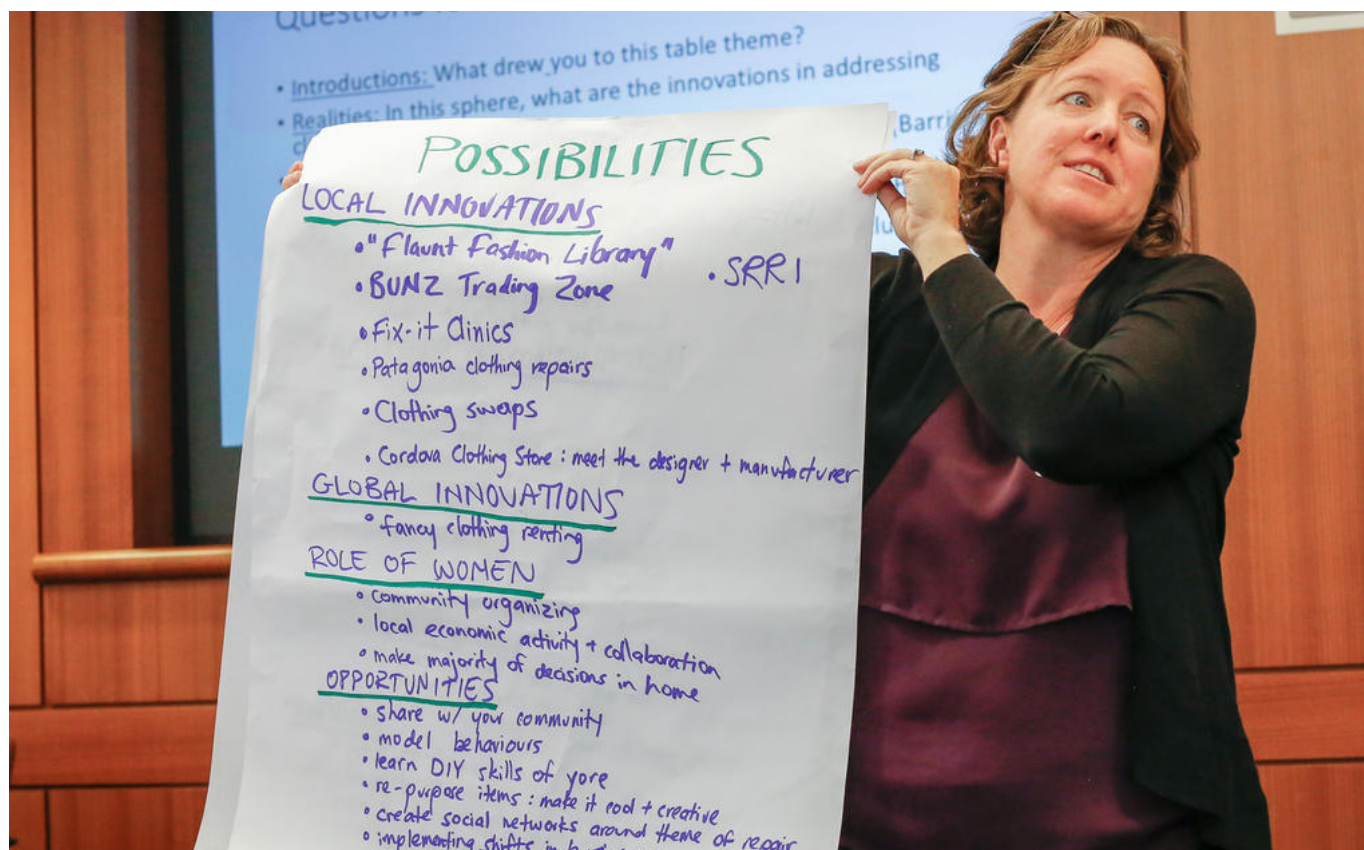
Some specific methods were identified, many sharing a common approach to collaborative, dialogic leadership

- Collaboration and Dialogue between diverse sets of interests (Citizen-Assembly, Co-Design Labs, etc.)
- Engage girls through natural resources education
- Peer to peer engagement
- Democratic Conversations – raising consciousness within women’s groups, grassroots organizations as well as the public
- Use “Deep Democracy” methods of engagement
- Allies and Amplification: Seek a unified front to mobilize change
- Create incentives for cities to break down silos, engage community to tap into local community knowledge and develop public policy
- Skill-building, e.g.,
- Leadership training, e.g., Student Energy
- Internship Programs, e.g., PICS, Women4Climate
- Use Gender and Intersectional Quotas

ANDREA REIMER – VOICE, AGENCY AND COURAGE

Vancouver City councillor, Andrea Reimer shared the space with us and commented on the various challenges and opportunities identified in our small group dialogues. Her views on how to scale participation, diversity and inclusion in climate solutions include:

- Design for representation. Pay attention to how you support different concerns and realities including cultural and economic;
- Consider how the goals of your work align with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Seek to engage others with emotion, not only science by appealing to the human need to feel and care;
- Meet newcomers to Canada where they are and see them as they see themselves – as valuable people with something to contribute. Rather than assume people are not willing to make changes, consider what is standing in their way;
- Codify your process. Document your Vision of the Future and include the values, commitments and actions needed to solve the problem. This can be in the form of a “community climate solutions charter” for public officials to support. Use the charter to call others to account;
- Work with government entities for change. The market alone will not solve climate change and regulations and public policies are vital
- An intersectional lens needs to begin with a current state analysis and help inform a future state. It is not an absolute. Keep in mind that re-engineering the patriarchy is not a three-year project and meanwhile we need to take action.
- Create third spaces to gather. Consider historical conflicts and wrongdoings and find neutral space to convene where we can create something new together.
- Use multidimensional approaches. To solve climate change we need to learn to work together and find our collective voice. This includes more love for people. It includes recognizing that we have more power than we think and together with our allies we have increased power to support this vision of the future.
- Fight hard and have the courage to support and be the leaders of today and the future. Whatever courage you have brought to any difficult situation in your life, bring this to the fore in this moment.



7. WEAVING OUR IDEAS TOGETHER

No one shied away from the knowledge that climate change issues present an existential threat that requires committed attention. The Roundtable meeting offered many positive ideas that build on our strengths and assets to make change in a multitude of ways. In reflecting on the meaning of our conversation today, we called on Erlene Woollard of Suzuki Elders and Caroline Merner Co-Director of Climate Guides.

"Today we nurtured our social ecology to protect the future of our planet's ecology"

Erlene shared these observations and implications for action from the Roundtable:

- "Create Space-Right Now!" Let's learn from each other in ways that reduce isolation and expand the circle—we can all agree to this but it does not come naturally and we must practice together.
- "Climate change is not neutral and comprehensive approaches are needed."
- "What Empowers Women, Empowers All!". Be proud of our perspective and refuse to be "re-invented." Let's encourage a gender intersectional lens and continue to find ways to encourage various stages of activism and encourage ourselves to find our niche to make change—and then expand on it. We can work as individuals to educate ourselves and then simply try to influence our circles, we can become part of the educational and advocacy work of a group/service agency and help build capacity there to influence change, and or we can extend ourselves further to help advance systems and policy—all valuable and all can be approached from where we are at in our life and skills.
- "Take back the financial system." Teach people to do positive things with their money/ investments. The sharing economy and sustainable consumption are all possibilities.
- "If we can't imagine it, we can't build it!" By sharing tools and resources, ideas and experiences and listening to each other's stories we can insure a positive cultural shift where we measure the economy differently—ensuring that the true cost of any project or policy reflects the cost paid by our society and our environment.
- "Communication is Everything!" Continue to think about solutions that connect the dots, reduce silos, inform and break down assumptions, and build relationships towards our shared envisioned future.
- We continue to search for ways to share better, to find ways to extend partnerships, to find our niche within the broad spectrum so that we can "become more than the sum of our parts." So many of us are doing so much—let's invite others in —sometimes people just need to be asked to be included. Relationships, making new friends and learning new things are all very important. There are multiple diversities, including culture, generations, and perspectives. We can learn so much from each other and continue to expand our community/friendships—invaluable at any time in life, but particularly wonderful to the elders among us who often feel that this positive work is behind us and only for youngers to experience as they work to correct our created problems.

Caroline shared these insightful observations:

- Three powerful idea came through about our approach to climate action. It needs to be: **Interdisciplinary**, **Intersectional**, and **Intergenerational**.
 - **Interdisciplinary**: climate change needs to be addressed by diverse angles and entry points because the cause are diverse: from sustainable food, to parks protection, to

finance and where investment is made and according to whose values.

- **Intersectional:** We must consider: Who is in this room? Who is not? How can we make this conversation more accessible for a whole community approach?
 - **Intergenerational:** The roundtable was a living example of how to meeting intergenerationally.
- And while many of us may currently feel like we are “losing to climate change”, in this room, we are all fighting for a sustainable future and bringing winning solutions!
 - Finally, to continue the momentum from this roundtable, we need to remember that addressing climate change starts by building our personal resilience and addressing our vulnerability in facing ambient stressors. Then, we “need to meet our people” as Meredith Adler shared in her story about the youth gatherings of Student Energy. We need to nurture our social ecology in order to protect our planet’s ecology, as Sara Dent shared. In this way we are shaping our form of citizens’ assembly.



8. RECOMMENDATIONS

There are many ideas for action, reflection and research that emerged from this Roundtable. Here are some potential ways forward:

- Hold and codify a vision of a regenerative society that is just, that foregrounds women's leadership, and is low carbon resilient. Share it widely. If you can imagine it, you can create it.
- Use personal and organization power to leverage change toward a conscious, low carbon footprint, including women, and people who are often excluded from decision-making including new Canadians, diverse economic resources, abilities and ages (youth and Elders).
- Build capacity for leadership – using a Gender Based Assessment Plus (race, sexuality, culture, class) lens that works through dialogue, conflict resolution, convening and planning.
- Learn to use and insist on methods of engagement that are non-hierarchical, respectful of difference and inclusive of diversity
- Recognize the work begin done that contributes to solve climate change
- Advocate for regulations and public policy that supports and reinforces these actions at all levels of government.

We will continue to work on our own projects as well as seek to collaborate to scale up our power, shore up our courage, increase the sound of our voices and therefore make our presence felt. The survival of planet Earth depends on it.



PARTNERS

[Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Environment](#), Professional Programs and Partnerships and the Conference Fund, Office of the Vice President Academic

[CityHive](#) is on a mission to transform the way that youth are engaged in civic processes, planning and decision-making in Vancouver.

[Participedia.net](#) Open to all to crowd source, catalogue and compare participatory processes around the world

[Suzuki Elders](#) is a group of volunteers that work with and through the David Suzuki Foundation and are inspired to take meaningful action on environmental issues

[Women Transforming Cities International Society](#) (Vancouver Chapter) is on a mission to make Van-couver the most women friendly city in the world.

APPENDICES

[I Resources from the Roundtable Including Images](#)

[II Roundtable Case Study on Participedia.net](#)

III Bios of Featured Speakers

IV Additional Resources Referenced by Speakers

[V Women and Climate Change Literature Scan](#)

III BIOS OF FEATURED SPEAKERS

Meredith Adler is Student Energy's Executive Director. She oversees the strategy and operations of the organization and building a movement of students across the world committed to a sustainable energy future. Prior to taking over this role in 2015, Meredith acted as the Global Community Manager for Student Energy, where she developed the chapters model and managed online content and communities. Meredith is the former communications manager with Clean Energy Canada. She has a degree in Geography from UBC.

Joanna Ashworth is the director of Professional Programs and Partnerships in the Faculty of Environment at Simon Fraser University. Joanna is the former director of Dialogue Programs at SFU's Wosk Centre for Dialogue where she continues as a senior fellow. She is a researcher with Participedia.net a global inquiry documenting forms of public participation and deliberative democracy. Joanna has recently released a full length documentary on women and climate change entitled *Women Bending the Curve on Climate Change*.

Claire Buchanan is a Research Assistant with Participedia.net and a first year Master student studying resource and environmental management at Simon Fraser University. Claire's research interests are focused on rural and small-town planning, specifically economic and workforce development planning. Currently, her research is based in the Columbia-Basin Boundary region of BC where she is looking at workforce innovation in the mining sector in the region. Before starting at SFU, Claire completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria in Geography and Environmental Studies. Previously, she worked at City Green Solutions, an energy efficiency non-profit where she worked on numerous energy efficiency rebate programs that were being offered throughout BC.

Veronkia Bylicki is a UBC graduate with a Major in [Global Resource Systems](#) from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC. She focused on urban sustainability and environmental policy. Veronkia co-launched a social enterprise called CityHive, that's working on transforming the way that young people are engaged in civic processes and particularly urban sustainability challenges. She is also taking part in a global Sustainable Development Goal Innovation Forum that's bringing together 1000 youth from around the world in Copenhagen. She continues to explore the many ways she will contribute to the world in the urban sustainability and climate policy fields.

Jesi Carson is the Design and Communities Coordinator, for Participedia and brings a diverse skill-set to the team, including interaction design, graphic design, project management and web based communications. Jesi holds a Bachelor's Degree of Interaction Design from Emily Carr University of Art and Design. In addition to working with Participedia and as a house graphic designer for [Henri-quez Partners Architects](#), Jesi has co-founded two social startups since she graduated in 2013. As Design Partner of [Basic Design](#), a social enterprise with a passion for up-cycling, and Board Chair of [Cultivate](#), a non-profit society focused on building collaborative food gardens, Jesi strongly believes in the power of design as a tool for activism and community engagement.

Rosemary Cooper is a Senior Associate with non-profit One Earth, leading on Share Reuse Repair in the region. She is a planning professional with over 20 years of experience advancing sustainability by emphasizing collaboration amongst government, business and community. One Earth is a Vancouver-based 'think and do tank' creating and imagining sustainable ways of living in cities and around the world. Rosemary co-authored the 2015 Local Governments and the Sharing Economy Roadmap and teaches in BCIT's Sustainable Business Leadership program. Her Master's degree at York University explored the integration of economic development and sustainable community planning.

Olive Dempsey works at the intersection of leadership development, innovation and organizational transformation, as a facilitator, process designer, and strategist with a focus on pro-environmental change and climate resilience. She has led environmental leadership programs for the Lower Main-land Health Authorities, designed award-winning community engagement processes for the City

of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan and continues to provide organizational development and leadership training for environmental advocacy organizations, locally and internationally. Her graduate research focused on the psycho-social dimensions of environmental leadership and she has provided workshops and guest lectures on the topic across BC.

Sara Dent is the Co-Founder & BC Program Manager of Young Agrarians. She is a photographer, public speaker, workshop facilitator and educator as well as nature lover, gardener, and farmer. Sara is deeply grateful to live on Coast Salish Territories

Ginger Gosnell-Myers is the former Aboriginal relations manager with the City of Vancouver. Ginger worked across all City departments to bridge Aboriginal policies, programs, and relations. Having been with the City since 2013 as the aboriginal planner, Ginger has helped advance Vancouver as the world's first official [City of Reconciliation](#). Previous to that, Ginger worked on the Environics Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study (UAPS) as both project manager and public engagement director. The UAPS is Canada's largest research study on Aboriginal people living in urban environments and has become the leading research on urban Aboriginal people's values, aspirations, experiences, and identity. Ginger has also been a keynote speaker at many provincial, national, and international events, including the: International Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference; Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples; United Nations Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples. Her commitment to advancing Aboriginal issues led her to work as the western assistant to the late and former Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Development Andy Scott, advising the minister on issues pertaining to British Columbia and Alberta.

Tiffany Muller Myrdahl is a Senior Lecture, Feminist Scholar at Simon Fraser University, where she teaches feminist urban studies in the Department of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies and Urban Studies. She is an experienced project manager, educator, researcher, and writer with twenty years of experience in university and non-profit sectors. Her academic expertise is in urban and feminist geography, with specific focus on social inclusion, urban change, and participatory governance. Tiffany's research practice emphasizes the development of shared knowledge and the use of collaborative research methods.

Donna Morton is the Co-Founder and CEO Change Finance Donna is an Ashoka, Ogunte and Unreasonable fellow and lifelong serial social entrepreneur with international experience ranging from sustainability and economic policy to social justice and human rights issues.

Andrea Reimer is 3 term City of Vancouver councillor whose other appointments on Vancouver City Council include: Chair, Standing Committee on Planning and Environment; Vancouver Economic Development Commission, Joint Childcare Council, Family Court-Youth Justice Committee. Aside from being a member of the Greenest City Action Team, she is the Chair of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, Director of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and the Executive Director of the Wilderness Committee. According to a recent newspaper article Andrea is "also an all-round cool lady who digs toiling in the garden in front of her Cedar Cottage home, playing soccer with the Vancouver Vixens and listening to old school punk rock." When asked by a newspaper columnist if a time machine took you back to deputize before Vancouver city council in 1975, what would you tell them? She famously responded: "Wait, where are all the women?"

Ellen Woodsworth is the Founder and Chair of Women Transforming Cities . She is a writer, organizer, and international speaker and consultant on urban issues. A former Vancouver City councillor, Ellen is passionate about working for social justice, economic equality and environmentally sound planning. Ellen works for cities to create social justice, economic equality, a creative culture and environmentally sustainable planning, using an equity/intersectional lens to ensure that cities work for everyone.

Erlene Woollard has worked and volunteered in both rural and urban settings over more than five decades. She started her life's work in an orphanage for pre-school children in Charleston, South Carolina and went on to become a teacher-librarian for the Edmonton Public School Board. She later was a substitute teacher and mentor/tutor for students needing an alternate school environment in a small interior BC town for many years while her three sons were growing up. After moving to Vancouver in 1989, Erlene worked and volunteered for the Learning Disability Association of BC in various capacities and later became the founding executive director for the Self-Help Resource Association of BC (now PeerNet BC) which provides capacity building and support for people challenged by mental health issues, disabilities, immigration issues and other health and community needs. Upon retirement from SHRA she became a consultant taking on contracts relevant to her passions for community development, health and literacy issues particularly with immigrants/refugees, youth and people with hidden disabilities. Currently her volunteer energies and concerns include issue related to child/human rights and Suzuki Elders for the Environment.

IV ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Consumption:

- [Ecocity Footprint Tool summary for Vancouver](#) - this includes a consumption-based emissions inventory (similar summaries exist also for Saanich, Victoria and the District of North Vancouver)
- “Beyond Waste: Sustainable Consumption for Community Resilience” that is part of the the Post-Carbon Institute’s recent book The Community Resilience Reader which can now be read online here <http://www.postcarbon.org/publications/community-resilience-reader/>
- The [USDN’s Sustainable Consumption Toolkit](#) which explains the Sustainable Consumption framework, as well as practical tools and a range of illustrative practices relevant to cities.

Well-Being and Resilience:

- http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Reports/Psych_Effects_Climate_Change_Full_3_23.pdf
- <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/>
- <http://joannamacy.net/>
- <http://www.carbonconversations.org/>
- <http://www.onbeing.org/program/robin-wall-kimmerer-the-intelligence-in-all-kinds-of-life/> 8446

Sustainable Development Goals/International Development:

- Negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals: A transformational agenda for an insecure world by Felix Dodds, Ambassador David Donoghue, and Jimena Leiva Roesch