Climate Change Responses and Sustainable Development Paths Unmasking the Synergies

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This e-Dialogue is the first of the Meeting the Climate Change Challenge (MC[3]) conversation series

www.mc-3.ca

Participants

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Dialogue

Ann Dale

Before we move to our first question, could I ask each of you to introduce yourselves and your interest in climate change adaptation and mitigation?

For our audience, to learn about this BC climate change adaptation and mitigation research project, please don't hesitate to visit our website at www.mc-3.ca. This project consists of a unique partnership of researchers, practitioners, public policy leaders, BC Hydro, and civil society leaders, funded by the Pacific Institute for Climate Studies.

John Robinson

My name is John Robinson. I am a Professor at UBC, and I have been working on and puzzling over climate change issues since the beginning of the 1990s. My interest is how to create transformative change to achieve sustainable societies that, among other things, do not emit GHGs and are resilient to the climate change we have already created.

Ann Dale

Welcome, dear colleague. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your most recent award as environmental scientist of the year, by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Meg Holden

Yes, congratulations, John! Well deserved.

Ben Finkelstein

Congratulations as well, John. That is impressive!

I am the Manager of Green Communities in The Carbon Neutral Government and Climate Outreach section of the BC Climate Action Secretariat in the Ministry of Environment. The Secretariat leads change to achieve the Province of British Columbia's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. My interest lies in making it easier for local governments to lower their GHG emissions.

Ann Dale

Ben, could you briefly describe the policy innovation by the provincial government, and what makes it unique in the country?

Ben Finkelstein

To begin with, the Climate Action Charter and the Green Communities Act (changes to the local government act). Both first in Canada and designed to help local governments and the province works towards their GHG reduction targets

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Meg Holden

Greetings, this is Meg Holden, I am an Associate Professor at SFU, based in Urban Studies. A lot of my research has been in the realm of sustainable urban policies, measurement and monitoring, and this realm is coming to merge and overlap with climate policy. I am a social and policy scientist who believes in (but continues to question) the power of cities as sites for future sustainability that enable human flourishing.

Ann Dale

Welcome, Meg. Urban sustainability and suburban redesign I would characterize as two of the 'big sticky questions'?

Meg Holden

Studying climate change policy and action at the local scale of cities and communities has the potential to change the politics of climate change policy, which is also tightly tied to the production of climate science. There are too few options on the table at the international level. At the local level, the field remains wide open.

Sarah Burch

Hi, very glad to be here. I'm a Research Fellow in Sustainability Governance at the University of British Columbia, located at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, and a member of the 'Meeting the Climate Change Challenge' (MC[3]) research team. My interests focus on the institutional and behavioural drivers of sustainability (especially in cities) and new ways that sustainability can

be governed to accelerate change.

Alison Shaw

Hello everyone. My name is Alison Shaw. I am Project Manager and Research Associate on the Meeting the Climate Change Challenge (MC³) project, Royal Roads University. I am very excited to be participating in such an interesting research project and collaborative partnership.

I am interested in both how communities respond to and address climate change impacts and the synergies between these two actions.

Ann Dale

We now have our full team here and I am delighted to be working with such a diverse group of researchers and research partners, represented here today. Thanks, Ben, for the policy context.

Let's move to our first question, shall we? What do each of you hope to achieve through this research and why it important?

John Robinson

Cities are the frontier of climate change responses around the world. It is important to look carefully at what is working well and to examine how best practices can be shared. I am also very interested in the link between climate policy responses and the underlying development pathways of cities.

Sarah Burch

I think this research addresses some key issues with regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation including;

- to move beyond 'tinkering around the edges' to transformative change in communities;

- to change the conversation to one that explicitly addresses values and creates a positive, compelling vision of the future (rather than a focus on the technical and economic 'barriers' to action);

- and, to meaningfully engage actors who are traditionally innovative (my personal interests involve small businesses, among others, which may be important in some of our case studies).

Alison Shaw

The ability of communities to learn from one another. Identifying strategic innovations on climate change and ways to integrate and mobilize strategic networks for sharing those innovations is a powerful way to demonstrate the leadership already occurring on climate change. This research has an important role to play in catalyzing social learning about actions communities are taking and can take on climate change in order to bypass the stalemate in the international process.

Ben Finkelstein

I have a few and they include the following.

1. Determining what local governments need from this opportunity.

2. The continued importance of climate action understanding at the local government elected official and staff level. Building on the understanding and implementation of sustainability principles, local governments can lower their corporate and community wide GHG emissions.

3. Climate action is new and linking local government staff directly engaged in climate action is fundamental to understanding best practices and creating province wide momentum and awareness on the file.

4. Capacity building and support to local government staff working on climate action and sustainability issues (planners, energy, sustainability and climate managers). They are busy, research should enhance their work. How is research "applied" in the context of building and implementing sustainability and climate action plans while being "studied"

5. Identifying the opportunities for energy innovation within the local government context. How does local government prepare for opportunities to develop DE - waste to energy, heat recovery and infrastructure technical knowledge.

Meg Holden

BC is at an important crossroads. We have a policy framework for innovation in climate policy, as Ben mentions, which is a badge of pride that politicians and other leaders could continue to wear. We also have an increasingly hostile federal government to these initiatives, a provincial neighbour with a very different development path in mind, and a lot of schisms in views of the future and what it should look like in physical, social, cultural and political terms across this province. These are all opportunities. There are other barriers that will surely begin to set in over the coming 5 years, and I hope this project can put some ideas in place to pick up the pace when belts begin to tighten further.

Ann Dale

Sarah, could you explain for our audience the difference between climate change mitigation versus climate change adaptation? Is one action more important than the other, or should both be pursued simultaneously?

Sarah Burch

No problem, Ann. I generally use the definitions provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Roughly paraphrased, climate change mitigation is anything that tackles the causes of climate change - i.e. reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or enhancing carbon sinks.

Climate change adaptation refers to strategies that address the effects of climate change - i.e. measures that reduce the vulnerability of human and natural systems, protecting them against climate change impacts such as increasingly severe storms, drought, heat waves, etc.

Ann Dale

Ben and Meg, do you know off the top of your heads, any municipal government policy innovations? We are just entering the field with our 11 case studies, perhaps, Sarah, you could describe our rationale for the selection of cases and the cases. Case leaders, please jump in as well.

Ben Finkelstein

- Land use patterns – local government policy frameworks that build off provincial enabling tools such as development permit areas (DPAs), service area bylaws (for district energy, DE)

- Transportation - Idle reduction, cash in-lieu of parking, rapid transportation between urban/neighbourhood centres

- Buildings - Solar ready by-law, district energy ready bylaws and other measures to take advantage of energy efficiency measures at a neighboorhood scale

- and, of course carbon neutral government both LG and PSO

Meg Holden

The City of Vancouver is an interesting case. It was an early adopter on the topic of climate change, City Hall released the Clouds of Change report in 1990, opening up the prospect of a changing climate in the city and what government and citizens could and should do about it. A decade later, in 1999, when you look at how we proposed to monitor our success in the prototype sustainable neighbourhood, Southeast False Creek (SEFC) and mind you, this was before the notion of a district energy utility seemed feasible for the neighbourhood).

- Residents of SEFC travel (by private vehicle) no more than 3 392 km per year for daily shopping and commuting.

- No more than 1,498 kg per year of carbon dioxide are emitted from transportation-related activity in SEFC.

    o reduction by half of the energy consumption in residential units (155,000 GJ/Year)

Now that SEFC is built, we will fall short of most of our targets, for a variety of reasons. Worse, we have no systems in place to track our progress on these or other key trends. I am actually beginning to wonder if early adopters suffer – whether it's fatigue, or policy attention cycles, or challenges preparing the policy transition field, or something else – while the free riders have a chance to observe and then leap ahead when the road is paved for change, so to speak. Other cases in our framework, which are later-comers but have leapt ahead, will complement this story.

Alison Shaw

Very interesting issues. Particularly the role of monitoring, which will become even more critical in order to better understand how effective certain strategies are in dealing with changing conditions.

Sarah Burch

That's really interesting Meg - there seems to be some benefits associated with being the 'second mover'! The issue of monitoring and adaptive management is critical too - especially if lessons are to be shared, new learning incorporated etc.

Meg Holden

Learning lessons, yes, but it could just be about the motivator for the policy response, too. Communities that are pace-setters (like Vancouver) and wanting to build a unique global identity around a concept compared to communities, like maybe Campbell River, coming upon climate change as an issue area at a time of economic crisis, hashing about more or less desperately to find a way forward (back toward growth by any measure, really). If there are lessons for them to pick up and apply without risking the perception that they are putting "the world out there" ahead of "the poor people right here", then maybe they will learn them.

Sarah Burch

This is exactly why I think sustainability is a more helpful framing than simply climate change - the interests of those 'out there' and 'right here' are linked. I believe there are many strategies that can address multiple priorities simultaneously.

Ben Finkelstein

Carbon Neutral public sector organizations are also a good example of challenges for a leader. There have been hard knocks but clearly the example has been set. Public sector organizations are changing the way they do business due to the Carbon Neutral requirement.

Regarding South East False Creek , and the City of Vancouver, are learning as they embark on their city-wide district energy strategy. Leaders teach, others learn

John Robinson

This comment about the perils of being a first mover makes me think of the current situation in BC relative to other jurisdictions. Clearly some of the actions that were originally expected to occur in other jurisdictions haven't come to pass. Can BC hold on and retain its leadership role, on the view that other jurisdictions will eventually come on board? What are the challenges in doing that? I guess this is a bit out of the ambit of the MC^3 project.

Sarah Burch

Indeed - it also highlights that the ingredients for being an early leader are perhaps not the same as those required to perpetuate, deepen, accelerate action (and I think we're delving into these with MC^3).

Ben Finkelstein

If we (the province and MC^3) want to continue as leaders, we need to support /maintain the pace of local governments on the climate action file. How does MC^3 do this?

John Robinson

I agree. This is the connection between MC^3 and the provincial situation. A major goal of MC^3 is precisely to identify creative and innovative policy responses, and share those across the network.

Ben Finkelstein

If a creative and innovative policy response happens in the woods, does anybody hear it?

I think there is a great deal of small-scale climate action out there. The challenge is learning from it and sharing. Too many local governments work in isolation and don't have the time mostly, or established networks to share.

Check out http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/carip.htm

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John Robinson

Exactly. This relative isolation was a major motivation for the creation of MC^3, and I hope we can help to address it.

Sarah Burch

I agree, Ben. I certainly hope that MC^3 can play a role here. The challenge is always to create targeted, useful networks without re-inventing the wheel. It's good to know that, from your perspective, this work is needed!

Meg Holden

Interesting, Ben. What has the take-up been for CARIP (Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program)? Competitive? Perhaps an assessment of this program should be part of our MC^3 analysis as well?

Ben Finkelstein

CARIP - Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program. Local governments get their carbon tax back for undertaking and reporting on corporate and community wide GHG related actions. It is considered a "grant" program. It does on an annual basis engage local governments on what they are doing to lower their emissions

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Sarah Burch

Going back to our case study selection rationale, this is our process.

First off, we are looking for examples of particularly innovative action that has either transformed emissions pathways and/or vulnerability or holds significant

promise to do so in the future.

Next, we were interested in finding cases that may illustrate pathways or policy choices that are of relevance to other communities and other scales (i.e., can a neighbourhood plan be scaled up and implemented by a municipality? Are regional districts taking an approach that might be interesting to municipalities?).

We also wanted a variety of cases – small, medium and large; urban and rural; resource-based and diversified, etc.

So, with limited resources and time in mind (there are many other great cases out there!), we've chosen these:

1. City of Vancouver
2. City of North Vancouver
3. Eagle Island neighbourhood in West Vancouver
4. Surrey
5. Campbell River
6. T'Sou-ke First Nation
7. Prince George
8. Dawson Creek
9. Revelstoke
10. Carbon Neutral Kootenays (a collaboration amongst East, Central and West Kootenays Regional Districts)
11. Victoria

Ann Dale

I had the privilege of visiting the T'Sou-ke First Nation with the case study lead, Dr. Leslie King. It is the first entirely solar-powered community in Canada, albeit a few hundred homes, but their innovation and leadership to other communities is very impressive. They have developed one of the most comprehensive sustainability plans I have read, plus an extensive community engagement process for its development.

John, can you explain further why you think sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation are inextricably linked?

John Robinson

I think that merely adding climate policies to inherently unsustainable development paths will not allow us to reach our climate goals. We need to find out how to change those underlying pathways. This is a large and difficult question. What constitutes a development pathway? How do we know what one we are one, or how to determine if it changes?

Ann Dale

Can anyone explain what a development pathway is for me? And Alison raises the very important point of monitoring, do we have a significant data gap in this area?

Sarah Burch

Ahhh, the development path question. This is an interesting one!

In the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we defined it like this:

A development path is a complex array of technological, economic, social, institutional, cultural and biophysical characteristics that determines the interactions between human and natural systems, including consumption and production patterns in all countries, over time at a particular scale.

What do you think? Useful?

Ann Dale

Can anyone think of a more elegant and simple way to express this—is it about how we organize ourselves?

John Robinson

To me, the point if the development path argument is a simple one. If we merely add climate change policy to development paths that are unsustainable, we either won't reach our climate goals at all, or we make it much more difficult and

expensive to do so. If, however, we adopt development pathways that are sustainable then many of the things we do for reasons other than climate change will have mitigate and adaptive benefits. Put another way, we have to do much more than implement climate policies if we want to achieve our climate goals. And indeed it may be easier to accomplish some climate goals with policies developed for other reasons.

Alison Shaw

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's definition is a very complex description of what we can refer to as human-environment interactions. There is a real opportunity to analyze what these dynamics are at the community scale.

This links to what we are trying to achieve in this project is understanding to what degree the dynamics of human-environment systems can be altered in order to navigate toward a more sustainable development path.

John Robinson

There is a definition of sorts in the Sustainable Development chapter of the Working Group III report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fourth Assessment Report in 2007. I don't have it handy, but it says something like this;

> A development path is the combination of technologies, institutions, policies and behaviours that characterize a given jurisdiction, and the outcomes (such as GHG emissions) associated with that combination.

Sarah Burch

And for some context on this, as John has pointed out, we've been thinking about this because of the recognition that our greenhouse gas emissions are not only, or even most significantly, controlled by rather narrow climate change policies. Rather, these emissions are determined by a whole suite of things – the way we plan our cities, our energy system, our values (especially as they relate to consumption), etc.

Perhaps the system as a whole is our development path, and there is a heap of inertia behind they way we do things. BUT – it's exactly this system that must be transformed if we're looking to do more than tinker around the edges of emissions reductions and sustainability more broadly.

Alison Shaw

In one of our case studies - the City of Victoria - climate action is situated in high-level sustainability policy. The Victoria Sustainability Framework is an umbrella policy aiming to integrate sustainability into operations, policies, and plans. What I think is innovative in this plan is that climate change is considered within and among other community goals and that sustainability planning is the driver creating enabling conditions that could potentially push us toward a different development model. For this reason, Victoria is an interesting case to investigate. However, Meg's points regarding monitoring become crucial. For instance, it will be very important to design ways of knowing what effective change is and whether and how it shifts us from an unsustainable development path into one that is increasingly sustainable.

Meg Holden

I think the notion of development path is helpful here in particular because of the way in which climate science and climate policy have come to the fore in such an intertwined manner.

Climate science = modeling GHG concentrations and their impacts
Climate policy = Kyoto-styled international protocols for reductions of GHGs

Doubting the science is doubting the politics, and it has become very difficult to disentangle which comes first for anybody who voices an opinion. But, trusting the science shouldn't necessarily mean trusting the politics. And, what the notion of the development path says to me is that the politics needs to be addressed first is the science is to have an opening.

Alison Shaw

This conversation about development paths makes think about how we frame climate change. Sarah gave us the definitions of adaptation and mitigation and of development paths. The problem is that they are all thought of as distinct terms and are associated with different knowledge and different departments. The division of the terms adaptation and mitigation (dating back to 1989 in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, meetings) may have done a disservice to the cross-cutting nature of the climate issue. It is clear that in order to address issues of changing our current development path, addressing both

how to prevent run-away or dangerous climate change and ways to adapt to climate impacts could be framed in integrated and synergistic ways. Identifying ways to shift to a low carbon economy, for instance, while also accounting for adaptive strategies that do not increase risks to assets and infrastructure and/or build capacity and reduce inequity. At the community scale, considering both climate action strategies together alongside other community goals may often allow proactive synergies to surface that would otherwise not be found.

Meg Holden

One question for me around what to do with the notion of a "development path" is by putting the challenge in the way that Sarah and John have here, we are signing up to a values-based agenda. One of the exciting things about the situation of climate policy leadership in BC is that we have the opportunity, at the local level, to address climate change as a practical, nuts and bolts challenge. People can connect this challenge with a range of values that make sense to them, but at the end of the day, here is the numeric goal (like Ben's example of the carbon neutral PSO), now what changes do we need to make to meet it? I could engage in a values-based tirade about changing our development path any day, don't get me wrong. (Personally, I have to restrain myself from scowling at the other parents at my daughters' school all idling in the parking lot, but that's another story.) But it seems politically risky.

Sarah Burch

I agree that this is challenging territory, Meg. I think we can have a values-based discussion that isn't a tirade. I think this is what I was trying to get at with a positive vision. We can create a narrative that captures why reducing emissions might also create an aesthetically beautiful space, enhance human health, etc. All of these can be linked to tangible targets, your nuts and bolts, but certainly capture values, as well.

John Robinson

I have a concern about this formulation, Meg. I don't think that the development path argument is any more values-based than your practical, nuts and bolts level of analysis. Indeed all analysis is values-based at some level. If the development path argument suggests we need to look at land use and urban form, why is that more values-based than the argument that we need to improve energy efficiency?

Ann Dale

Panelists have identified the risks of being an innovator, an early adopter rather than a late starter, and it also made me think of other barriers--technological lock-in, path dependence, policy inertia, time lags for changing development paths. How do we prove the costs of not acting are greater than any risks? We are certainly raising more questions than we have answers for, part of the research journey.

John Robinson

I don't think this is our goal ("to prove the costs of not acting are greater than any risks). Others are working on this question. Our more limited goal is to identify exciting innovation that others may want to adopt, and to make that available in processes where it can be discussed and considered.

Ann Dale

Meg, and Alison, one of our research objectives is knowledge mobilization and accelerating the learning between communities, especially making connections between those with more resources and those with less? What are we planning on doing to achieve this?

Alison, maybe you could describe a little about our ideas on how to share our learning and speed the exploitation of knowledge between communities?

Alison Shaw

I guess this is a good tether between what John and Sarah are saying and what Meg has to say. Thanks, Ann. Using social media to encourage peer-to-peer learning and exchange on climate leadership and innovation at the community scale is a significant component of the MC^3 research. There has been limited political effectiveness in scientists telling practitioners, municipal leaders and other stakeholder groups about what to do in the face of adapting and mitigating

to climate change. Yet, there are many leaders, particularly at subnational scales, that are innovating in order to respond to the science while also increasing community benefits simultaneously (reducing emissions, reduces pollution and costs to end users, for instance). What we would like to do in MC[3] is better understand what is driving this leadership in order to identify ways that innovators can share their stories about the changes they are making in their communities and the barriers they had to overcome in order to do this.

Meg Holden

I have a nagging question on the point of diffusion and connecting communities across the province with MC[3]. Maybe Alison or Sarah will have some ideas. It's the question of social media as a focal point of some local climate change policies and strategies. We are seeing the City of Vancouver move in this direction, for example, with the Talk Green To Us project, the revival of One Day, and other forays into the social media universe. I guess my question is around how this approach can backfire: dialogue is created, yes, but doesn't it tend more toward individual responsibility for actions, with an implicit assumption that somehow they add up to collective action? Maybe the answer is that social media strategies are only part of the mobilization agenda; or, am I getting it wrong?

Sarah Burch

I think that social media are a set of strategies that stimulate a particular kind of dialogue (although the type of dialogue differs from Facebook to Twitter, for example), and are, as you say Meg, only one element of the social mobilization agenda.

John Robinson

This question lies at the heart of a different research project we are working on: The Greenest City Conversations Project (http://gcc.sites.olt.ubc.ca/). We are engaging citizens of Vancouver in five channels: social media, tabletop games, mobile applications, modeling workshops, and performing arts. One of the goals is to get at precisely the question you are asking, how does social media engagement fit into a larger spectrum of community engagement tools and processes?

Ann Dale

I would not underestimate the power of social media to result in collective social action. There was an interesting interview on CBC radio this morning with one the student protestors, who replied to a media question, we no longer need the media, we have tweeting and texting? I think we all agree we need diverse ways of communicating to many diverse audiences, and we have five identified channels for our knowledge mobilization--peer-to-peer learning exchanges, this kind of e-Dialogue, social media, face-to-face workshops, and traditional academic venues.

John Robinson

A recent Master's thesis by Susanna Haas Lyons at UBC examines exactly this question with regard to Facebook, and finds that the 'affordances' (i.e. structural characteristics) of Facebook have a big effect on what kind of dialogue can be undertaken, but that Facebook experiences can be designed accomplish different kinds of goals regarding such dialogues.

Alison Shaw

Meg, I see social media as a window for local governments to communicate what actions are being taken on climate change. However, if it is just an offload of responsibility to the individual (lights off, no idling, etc.) then I agree it is devoid of impact. It has to be an integrated set of strategies aimed at institutions and individuals taking action. In this context, I think social media is a very powerful tool and one that we are investigating in the context of community knowledge and social mobilization strategies, and also experimenting with in MC^3 in regards to encouraging social learning.

John Robinson

The various threads of discussion on this topic make me think that we should think a bit about how MC^3 and the GCC project could connect.

Ben Finkelstein

John, You mean GCC - UBCM/Province, right? If so there are some opportunities. What where you thinking?

Sarah Burch

I think John's talking about the Greenest City Conversations and Ben's referring to the Green Communities Committee.

John Robinson

Sarah is right, but I am happy to let serendipity play out. Maybe there is a fruitful link among the two GCCs and MC3?

Sarah Burch

At the risk of being universally enthusiastic—I was thinking the same thing. Great theoretical insights from Greenest City Conversations; great info on communities' activities, governance issues etc perhaps from Green Communities Committee. Would love to pursue this, Ben!

John Robinson

I guess one general point is that there is an explosion of social media activity around all kinds of issues, including climate change. But, since this is so recent, there has been relatively little serious analysis of what kinds of channels work best for specific purposes and audiences. The main contributions of the GCC project to this question will come from looking carefully at the affordances of the various channels and at the question of what kind of dialogue and from whom can be supported by which channels and activities.

Alison Shaw

We are hoping to track some of the issues you raise here John throughout the MC[3], but likely in much more limited form. Examining the Vancouver's Greenest City Challenge/Conversations as potential 'best practice' in the realm of knowledge mobilization may provide some interesting insights for other communities to learn from.

Meg Holden

Right, I agree with the notion that social media should be examined here, and also want to say that my concern is mostly related to how I see governments using social media in relation to climate change (but I do not know enough about it and am interested in the GCC ideas and the work you note by S. Lyons, John), not how we will use social media in attempting to encourage better/more widespread/crosscutting dialogue amongst those in the field across the province.

Alison Shaw

It seems to me that dialogue is a critical piece of the puzzle as long it outlines areas for collective action to be undertaken. This is one of the benefits of social media; it allows people to be linked into broader movements rather than feeling like they operating in isolation. However there is a danger as well, that we over-dialogue without tethering our dialogue to real world climate and sustainability actions.

John Robinson

But, surely, by definition, MC[3] is about dialogue, not about undertaking actions, which will be undertaken by the municipalities and organizations we are working with, not by us.

Ben Finkelstein

How will MC^3 support local governments? The province supports local governments to take action - social media platforms, guidance documents, websites, events, etc. These supports bring local governments to the table and resulting conversations occur.

One of the collaborative forums is the GCC. There are other forums as well—Community Energy Association, BC Mayors Council, QUEST BC, etc.

Keeping timelines in mind, what does MC3 offer to local governments and to these tables?

Alison Shaw

It may be helpful to mention that the MC^3 is a collaborative research partnership. Academics from 3 BC Universities interested in understanding climate innovation in communities have joined with public (e.g. Province of BC's Climate Action Secretariat and non-governmental organizations) and private partners (BC Hydro public/private) already doing climate-related work in communities. The common goals are to understand the drivers of innovation, who and where they are coming from, and to work together to promote social learning across the province and more broadly.

Ann Dale

My head is full of questions, how do we know what development path a community is on, how can a community change its development path, how does MC^3 intend to support/maintain the pace of local governments on climate change adaptation and mitigation, how do we speed the exploitation of knowledge across communities, how to frame the issues in a more integrated and synergistic way, to name only a few.

Do any of you have any concluding remarks to make about our research project? I would like to remind our listeners that this is one in a series of three e-Dialogues we will be leading on MC^3 research, the second one will be held in September to share some of our case study results as soon as this data is available, and we will begin releasing some short videos on climate change adaptation and mitigation (led by my research associate, Rob Newell) as well in September.

Please don't hesitate to 'tune in' our webinar, June 11th, to have an opportunity to ask the research team questions about MC^3.

John Robinson

I think the proof of the pudding for MC^3 will be whether the partners we are working with will find our activities helpful as they struggle with climate change issues. Will the dialogues, learning exchanges, etc. help them to make better decisions in this area? Can a sense of community and common purpose be created on this topic? Will communities in BC continue to develop innovator responses to provincial climate policy and can MC^3 help reinforce or even accelerate that process?

Sarah Burch

I would also just like send out a warm invitation to our partners and those tuning in/viewing transcripts to get in touch with the MC^3 team. We'd love to hear your stories, learn about what's working (especially in our case study communities), and strengthen this network.

Ann Dale

Thank you everyone and to our audience for your participation today. Don't forget we will be following up with a webinar on June 11th, for anyone who wishes to ask members of the research team further questions about our work, or to bring forward your ideas. And our website, **www.mc-3.ca**.

Sarah Burch

Thank you all - fun and rapid fire as always. We have ideas, Ben, about how we will support LGs, and we haven't had time to talk about them here. Let's keep the conversation going.

Just for information—a group at University of Melbourne is doing some really interesting work on transformative change. This isn't meant to send everyone scurrying off into the dark corners of the internet, but is a resource for later!

http://www.postcarbonpathways.net.au/

Meg Holden

Thanks Ann and all, for the discussion and the interesting new threads to follow up on, as well. Looking forward to the next change to connect!

Alison Shaw

Thank you everyone for the fascinating discussion and to the participants for attending!