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Climate Change Responses and Sustainable Development Paths Follow-up Live Chat

June 11th, 2012

Panelists

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| Prof. Ann Dale | Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Community Development, Royal Roads University |
| Dr. Sarah Burch | Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability, University of British Columbia, School of Environment |
| Dr. Alison Shaw | School of Environment and Sustainability, Royal Roads University |

Moderated by

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| Robert Newell | Research Associate, School of Environment and Sustainability, Royal Roads University |
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This Live Chat is a follow-up to the first e-Dialogue of the Meeting the Climate Change Challenge (MC³) conversation series

www.mc-3.ca

Time	Comment
	<p>Robert Newell: Thank you for attending the first Meeting the Climate Change Challenge (MC3) Live Chat. Today we have two primary objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To share a bit of information on the MC3 project, including the highlights from our recent e-dialogue 2. To spark a broader conversation about action on climate change in BC communities. <p>Today three researchers from the MC3 research team will be fielding questions and comments related to the project in order to spur interactive dialogue on the relevance and importance of this type of research for accelerating climate action at the community scale.</p> <p>I, Rob Newell, will be acting as moderator for this session, and I will open up this Live Chat with a few questions to the MC3 team that will give you a bit of background on the MC3 project and climate change action in BC. As this chat progresses, you may send your questions through this dialogue box and I will present them to the appropriate research team member. Enjoy the chat, and we look forward to hearing from you!</p>
2:39	<p>Robert Newell: Hello to my panelists and audience. I would like to begin by having our research team introduce themselves. Sarah, would you like to go first?</p>
3:00	<p>Sarah Burch: Hi all. Thanks so much for joining us! I'm Sarah Burch. I'm a postdoctoral research fellow at UBC, located at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability. I'm part of the MC3 research team, and I focus on climate change policy in communities.</p>
3:01	<p>Robert Newell: Thank you, Sarah. Alison, could you give an introduction on yourself?</p>
3:01	<p>Alison:</p>

		Hello. My name is Alison Shaw. I am the MC3 Research Manager based at Royal Roads University. I am also a researcher keen to understand what types of knowledge mobilization activities have contributed to innovation in BC communities and ways to harness diverse knowledge and approach via different approaches so that communities can learn from one another
3:02		Robert Newell: Thank you, Alison. Ann would you please introduce yourself and your work?
3:02		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] I am the principal investigator for the team, although it is a little like herding cats, with such a great team of researchers. I am a professor at Royal Roads University, hold its first CRC in Sustainable Community Development, am a Trudeau Fellow Alumna (2004) and try to live sustainably in my personal live.
3:02		Robert Newell: Thank you, Ann. I am now going to ask Sarah if you could give us a bit of background on climate change policy in BC to start of the chat.
3:03		Sarah Burch: No problem, Rob. This project grew out of the observation that the Province of BC has taken significant leadership on climate change. Here in BC we have a revenue neutral carbon tax, and carbon neutral government legislation that asks communities to put together greenhouse gas reduction targets and action plans (among other tools!)
3:04		Robert Newell: Gearing a bit more into this particular project, MC3. Alison would you like to explain the main research question MC3 focuses on?
3:04		Sarah Burch: The MC3 project uses the province of BC as a 'living lab' to investigate innovative climate change actions in BC communities, the key drivers of these actions, and the lessons that can be share with other communities.
3:04		Alison: Building off the background that Sarah has provided, MC3 has three main research objectives. These are: 1. How are communities responding to the legislative and

		<p>policy changes for climate change mitigation adopted by British Columbia?</p> <p>2. Are there general lessons to be learned from emerging lead communities that are working to meet the challenging provincial target of 33% reduction by 2020?</p> <p>3. Which peer-to-peer knowledge mobilization and social learning techniques can best facilitate the transfer of learning from one community to another?</p>
3:05		<p>Robert Newell:</p> <p>Ann, this project involves a group of collaborators and research partners. Could you provide a bit of insight on how these were selected?</p>
3:06		<p>[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :]</p> <p>Our research partners come from the sectors we believe need to be engaged in making BC a leader nationally and internationally. practitioners, public policy makers, civil society organizations. We have 12 research partners involved in the project, to name only a few—Ben Finklestein, Climate Action Secretariat, BC Government; Victoria Smith, BC Hydro; Jodi Mucha, BC Healthy Communities; Devon Causley, Union of British Columbia Municipalities; and people from the David Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute.</p>
3:06		<p>Robert Newell:</p> <p>Now, getting into the MC3 work a bit deeper. Sarah, could you give a bit more detail on the cases themselves?</p>
3:07		<p>[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :]</p> <p>Rob, to add to my previous answer, since climate change adaptation and mitigation is beyond any one sector, any one level of government, any one discipline to solve, collaboration is the only way to succeed. And of course, collaboration is inherent to social innovation.</p>
3:08		<p>Sarah Burch:</p> <p>Absolutely. We got our team of partners (that Ann just mentioned) together with our faculty team to discuss examples of community innovation on climate change.</p>
3:09		<p>Sarah Burch:</p> <p>The MC3 team identified 11 BC communities, chosen for their innovative action on climate change. We're keen to learn how this action came about, and what potential it holds to dramatically reduce emissions and manage</p>

		climate change impacts. These case study communities are: Revelstoke, Surrey, Victoria, City of Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, Eagle Island (in West Vancouver), the Kootenays, T'Sou-ke First Nation, Campbell River, Dawson Creek, and Prince George.
3:09		Robert Newell: These communities are of a variety of sizes and urbanity...Ann, you've done a large amount of work on scale and communities, could you discuss the importance of having this size range in MC3?
3:10		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] We wanted to have a diversity of communities, small, medium and large, and as well to have 1-2 cases that involved a regional network. We need to increase the connectivity between all communities in Canada if we are ever going to implement MC3.
3:11		Robert Newell: Before taking in questions from the public, I would like to mention again this is a follow-up from a previous conversation we had on e-Dialogues. Alison, could mention a few highlights from that conversation?
3:11		Alison: Yes. Thank you Rob. The e-dialogue among a number of MC3 team members was quite interesting. First it is important to note that cities and communities are the frontier of climate change responses around the world. It is therefor important to look carefully at what is working well and to examine how best practices can be shared.
3:13		Alison: There were three main conversational highlights that stood out in this dialogue. Highlight #1: Linking climate change to broader community goals Sustainability is a more helpful framing than simply climate. There are many strategies that can address multiple priorities simultaneously. John Robinson makes the point - "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." The argument here is that we have to do much more than implement climate policies if we want to achieve our climate goals and that it may be easier to accomplish some climate goals with

		policies developed for other reasons.
3:13		<p>Alison:</p> <p>The second highlight relates to best practice in policy innovations</p> <p>How are communities changing the way they do business by addressing climate change? Integrating climate change into community decisions and operations relates to land-use, transportation, building design and community energy planning are all being affected to varied degrees in different communities. It is important to understand what these actions are and which can be transferred to other communities. Actions being undertaken through CARIP – climate action revenue incentive program – demonstrate the diversity of actions being taken by communities across BC (see CARIP climate change www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/greencommunities/carip.htm).</p>
3:15		<p>Alison:</p> <p>The third highlight involves community leaders as teachers. What we would like to do in MC3 is better understand what is driving climate 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.</p>
3:16		<p>Robert Newell:</p> <p>Thank you to our panelists for the background. We have the 1st question from the audience:</p> <p>I have been hearing this discussion about the importance of social networks. Can you explain why that means and why can networks do for a community in terms of issues like climate change?</p> <p>Ann, would you like to address this?</p>
3:16		<p>[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :]</p> <p>As I stated earlier, collaboration and innovation are critical to the implementation of MC3. And of course, that happens through the mobilization of social capital, particularly network formation in communities. How do adults learn, from their peer group(s)? Thus, diverse and novel networks need to be mobilized both for sharing knowledge and action through what worked and what</p>

		didn't work. And since climate change is everywhere, it needs to happen both within and among communities.
3:18		Sarah Burch: This is an interesting point, Ann - and it links back to the second e-dialogue point that Alison raised.
3:19		Robert Newell: Thank you, Ann. This involves the subject of knowledge mobilization which I know is of particular interest to Alison. Alison care to add?
3:19		Sarah Burch: Sorry - we spoke over each other there, Rob!
3:20		Alison: More than any other issue climate change requires that people work together. Identifying networks of practice and networks with common climate change goals are necessary to find sweet spots or points of synergy among diverse actors.
3:21		Robert Newell: Our second question will be directed to Sarah. There was someone wondering about the applicability of this research to other communities in different provinces...is there a 'one size fits all' climate change approach?
3:21		Robert Newell: To add to this question: Are there general lessons to be learned from emerging lead communities that are working to meet the challenging provincial target of 33% reduction by 2020? Can you provide some specific examples from your participant communities?
3:22		Sarah Burch: Very interesting question! I definitely don't think that there is a 'one size fits all' approach - but there are lessons that can be shared. One of those lessons is perhaps how to stimulate innovation using the tools at the disposal of the Province (like building codes, the carbon tax etc), and then letting communities move forward in way that works for them
3:23		Robert Newell:

		For the second part on the general lessons, I invite all panelists to respond.
3:23		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] To speak about T'Souke community, they are Canada's first community to be completely off grid, solar powered. They developed a community sustainability plan that involved almost full participation from the members of the community—they spent a lot of time getting buy-in and they are now mentoring other communities in BC about how to go really green.
3:24		Sarah Burch: Well one example is emerging from Surrey. Rather than an exclusive focus on climate change alone, Surrey is taking a broader sustainability approach. This suggests a whole additional suite of tools that might not be used - like zoning for density, energy systems transformation etc.
3:25		Alison: There are many innovations that may or may not apply in their entirety to other communities. However, understanding that leadership is taking place and identifying key barriers to be overcome that may be common in communities certainly helps to deepen the conversation and the willingness to move ahead on climate action. For instance, the history of collaboration in the Kootenay region has helped facilitate three regional districts spanning 35 communities to collaborate on emissions-reducing projects. This may not work in other jurisdictions but it certainly provides an interesting practice to draw from.
3:25		Robert Newell: Thank you panelists. I have a question that comes in a couple parts: How does your project work to change the consciousness of people who are not involved in climate change and should be? Mere education does not typically do this. Einstein's famous quote of needing to change our thinking to solve the problems we created . How do you enable people to learn that we are part of the sacred web of life? Does the sacred or spiritual arise in your work?

		Ann, would you be able to discuss reaching diverse audiences?
3:26		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] We will be also be posting our data from the 11 case studies on our website, www.mc-3.ca . We hope to publish results just as they are coming in, something I have called 'postcards from the edge', a little risky for a research team, but we want to share our information as quickly as possible, as part of our knowledge mobilization.
3:26		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] Thanks, Rob. Social media has a critical role to play in knowledge mobilization—it can take so many different ways to engage the audiences we need to in this critical area—the young, the old, and especially our government leaders. And what better way than building critical mass around the knowledge, the ways forward. Through tweeting, we have our own video channel, blogging, through Facebook, e-Dialogues, who says you can't use social media for social good. Knowledge is the name of the game.
3:27		Robert Newell: I also invite the other two panelists as active researchers in the case to discuss whether they plan or have introduced the spiritual in there work as per the last question.
3:28		Alison: This is really a great question. In this particular project, it may arise that particular communities are tackling these value-based and spiritual issues. We are interested in hearing diverse approaches taken to get community members on side with particular actions but it is not in our purview to educate on these matters.
3:28		Sarah Burch: You point to an interesting dimension of climate change and sustainability action, Rob. In past work we've certainly found that it's important to open up space for a values discussion. What kind of community do you want to live in? What opportunities do you want for your children? This seems to lie at the heart of sustainability.
3:30		Alison: One approach in our work however that gets at the web of

		life aspect is the examination of synergies between climate change and other community goals. For instance, moving toward broader sustainability requires visions of the future and an understanding of constraints.
3:30		<p>Robert Newell: Very interesting...and I thank our guest for that question.</p> <p>Sarah, I would like to bring this question forward to you as an open question, and, Ann, could you provide a bit of insight on this in reference to work on Community Vitality?</p> <p>As a municipality, we can build bike lanes and provide transit, but how do we get the public to get out of their vehicles and use them?</p>
3:31		<p>Robert Newell: Sorry, Ann, I meant your work on Community Vitality research.</p>
3:31		<p>Alison: In this way, some of our case studies taking a broader sustainability approach may have to address questions such as Sarah posed above. This requires broad dialogue, diverse knowledges and also robust information to inform ways to transition to more sustainable development pathways.</p>
3:32		<p>Sarah Burch: This is the heart of it, isn't it! Some people would say that it's about using a stick - making gas so expensive that transit becomes the only feasible option.</p>
3:32		<p>Sarah Burch: At the risk of being a bit abstract, many of the challenges are cultural. Many of us enjoy the status associated with driving a car, or we like how comfortable it is, and how convenient.</p>
3:33		<p>[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] Our work on community vitality, of which you were a vital part, is trying to get people to think about just that, by using only visuals that describe 5 proxy indicators, we encourage them to think about the meaning of place for them, the questions of limits, of diversity, and of course, scale for their community. Connectivity has emerged as a</p>

		key feature of community vitality through our research.
3:34		Robert Newell: We actually have a very closely related question on using the 'stick'...what sort of methods involve forcing people into using low carbon expenditure and what are the problems associated with this?
3:35		Robert Newell: Alison, would you like to comment first?
3:35		Alison: I really like this transportation and fuel cost metaphor. It shifts us nicely into a large interest among the MC3 team which is how do we move from 'tinkering around the edges' on climate change to understanding key drivers of transformative sustainable change in communities. We know for instance...
3:36		Sarah Burch: As Alison is crafting her answer I just wanted to interject and mention that I'm tweeting a bit of this under @SarahLynnBurch, often with the hashtag #ClimateChat
3:36		Robert Newell: Ann, could you then provide a bit more insight on this issue in reference to what you've learned about negative message and the importance of drawing in rather than pushing away?
3:36		Sarah Burch: Sorry - hashtag!
3:37		Alison: that transportation is only a piece of the puzzle. How we design our communities, they density, the core networks, and the public transit options are all interrelated.
3:37		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] I don't know if you can ever force anyone to do anything, if you are serious about meaningful behavioural change. But you do need to provide choices, and then widely spread knowledge about which choices may be preferable and why. For example, of course, transportation is major, but have we connected transportation, your opportunities to walk, and health. Take a look at 23 and ½ hours video, brilliant rationale for walking and at the same time, increasing your connections to other people, to your community, which also leads to a safer community.

3:38		Robert Newell: I have a bit of a scavenger hunt for our panelists now. I have a guest that noted that it would be great if you could share some links to case studies of successful climate change plans.	
3:39		Alison: We also know that water and energy use are associated with community design elements. These are all interrelated features that we hope to tease apart in this research to see how communities are tackling these questions and whether there are trade-offs associated with moving people toward low carbon options.	
3:39		Sarah Burch: Well here's a story written by the Pembina Institute about Dawson Creek's carbon fund: http://www.pembina.org/blog/566	
3:40		Robert Newell: While you search for a few links to successful cases, I would like to invite our audience to review our chat so far and feel free to send in questions on any of these points that have interested you or you have concerns on.	
3:40		Sarah Burch: And this is a link to all of the cool stuff that Surrey is doing on sustainability and energy: http://www.surrey.ca/plans-strategies/3146.aspx	
3:41		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] http://www.ted.com/talks/michael_pawlyn_using_nature_s_genius_in_architecture	
3:41		Sarah Burch: And here's a little story about what T'Sou-ke's been doing with solar http://www.solarbc.ca/blog/liz-kelly/2009/05/14/t-souke-first-nation-achieves-solar-vision	
3:42		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] http://www.ted.com/talks/ellen_dunham_jones_retrofitting_suburbia.html	
3:43		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] http://www.ted.com/talks/natalie_jeremijenko_the_art_of_the_eco_minds.html	
3:43		Robert Newell: Thank you for this. I have a bit of technical question that I'm going to field to you, Sarah. How is a climate change plan created so that it is a part of everyday municipal operations rather than a separate entity?	
3:43		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :]	

		And for the personal imperative, http://www.ted.com/talks/elizabeth_lesser_take_the_other_to_lunch.html	
3:44		Sarah Burch: I think there are brilliant planners and engineers who are better equipped to answer this question than I, but my instinct is that it's a matter of embedding climate change and sustainability throughout operations. Sustainability can be a filter through which we view development decisions, purchasing, how we organize units (i.e. are those planners talking to engineers?) etc.	
3:45		Sarah Burch: Some municipalities have created a 'sustainability checklist' that does just that	
3:45		Robert Newell: Alison and Ann, both of you can attempt this next question. Is there a way of using social media and modern day communications to reach the minority that don't believe in climate change, or do we accept that there will always be nay-sayers?	
3:45		Robert Newell: Thank you, Sarah	
3:46		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] I would also like to jump in here. It must be developed as part of a widespread community engagement plan, it must be developed by the community, or it will sit on a shelf and gather dust. And it must be tied into electoral cycles, so that politicians are held accountable for its implementation.	
3:46		Alison: Under the Sustainability Framework in the City of Victoria, they are also integrating..	
3:46		Sarah Burch: thanks, Ann - these are great points to add	
3:46		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] To answer the question about nay-sayers, my e-Dialogue work brings together researchers with practitioners, with policy-makers and leaders from across the country in real-time to discuss what we think are critical public policy issues facing all Canadians. My dream, and it continues, is to have people tune into the internet, just as they would turn on the radio to listen to Ideas, to these dialogues, to	

		access some of the best minds in the country. I have led over 45 to date, and am now privileged to lead a series of e-Dialogues for this project. And of course, as the transaction costs of travel go up and up, in so many ways, they are a very efficient use of everyone's time. And then, novel networks are also stimulated among the people we bring together. That is one way.
3:47		Alison: climate change and asset management decisions over the long-term to determine how permits and infrastructure is build and managed. This integrated decision-making is critical given the cross-cutting nature of climate change.
3:47		Sarah Burch: This is especially interesting, Ann, given that a whole generation of voters likely tunes into the radio very rarely - and the internet is by far their primary source of info
3:48		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] Get the good news out there, there are so many innovations happening in little pockets all across this wonderful country of ours, get the news out, through social media, through case studies, get pointy headed academics to take their local news media person to lunch. Use the power of the medium to offset the negativity of being mired in either/or positions.
3:49		Robert Newell: I now have a question that could open up to any of the panelists...is there a method of appealing to businesses that makes climate change action appear 'marketable'? Would the panelist like to address this in specific reference to BC?
3:49		Alison: It is about contact points as mentioned as well as making things fun. It is important, especially with the younger generations, to stay away from doom and gloom messaging.
3:49		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] I wish I could more about tweeting, hash had a long different meaning for me in university!
3:50		Sarah Burch: I think there are a couple of answers to this question about businesses, Rob. The first is that there is a very

		clear business case for sustainability, but it needs to be captured and presented in a compelling way
3:51		Sarah Burch: This is happening as we start to see businesses capitalize on shifting public attitudes towards corporate social responsibility and leadership
3:52		Alison: What about hash-tag Ann? Haha! Sarah is the most appropriate person to address this question Rob. Much of her other research focuses on the role of small and medium enterprises in mitigation efforts.
3:52		Sarah Burch: But businesses are also based on a set of core values - and I think it's important to illustrate how sustainability may be in line with these values. This can bolster so many aspects of business operations - from supply chain management to employee retention
3:53		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] Let me put it this way, if business doesn't get it right, get the pricing right to include the costs of environmental inputs, there won't be any business in 100 years from now.
3:53		Sarah Burch: And I think that entrepreneurs are especially attuned to these emerging opportunities. They are problem-solvers, after all!
3:54		Robert Newell: Great team work on that one! Thank you to our panelists and our guests. We are almost out of time, so I would like to asks each panelists if there is one particular thing you would be thrilled, over-the-moon to see come out of this project.
3:54		Robert Newell: And, while you are thinking, a note from Heather Bauer: Hey team - Heather Bauer here... speaking of Hashtags, ICLEI is currently promoting #CitiesWeWant as part of the push to Rio +20 Thanks, Heather!

3:54		Sarah Burch: my thanks also, Heather!	
3:55		Sarah Burch: (will tweet)	
3:55		Alison: One of the things I am thrilled to see as an outcome of this research is to continue to positively reinforce the climate change leadership that has been made in the Province and to work with innovating communities to continue to lead and contribute best practices for other jurisdictions to learn from.	
3:56		[Comment From Ann Dale Ann Dale :] Our province recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in climate change adaptation and mitigation and one of the most sustainable places to live in the world.	
3:57		Sarah Burch: On the humble side - I would like one community in BC to take inspiration from a leading BC municipality and take innovative steps of its own to act on climate change. If I were shooting for the stars, I would like to world to know about the innovation going on in BC - both to show BC that the leadership needs to continue, and to illustrate the business case (as we discussed above) for sustainability	
3:57		Robert Newell: We have reach the end of our chat, but I thank our panelists and audience very much. This has been an interesting and fun chat, and I look forward to our next dialogue!	
3:58		Sarah Burch: Thank you all - this was fun and rapid-fire, as always!	
3:58		Alison: Thank you everyone for joining.	