



Dear EECOM Members, Presentation Proposal Applicants, Partners, Colleagues and Friends:

On behalf of the EECOM Conference Steering Committee, we hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and hopeful as we continue navigating this challenging time. In March, we announced that we had made the difficult decision to postpone the upcoming EECOM conference in Toronto from Fall 2020 to a new spring date in April 2021. As previously communicated, part of this decision to postpone also meant that there would be delays in sending out decisions on accepted conference workshop proposals and opening registration. We thank you for your patience as we have been working through these core aspects of the conference, which are affected by the continuing uncertainty of gathering for an in-person conference in April 2021.

As EECOM 2021 was originally intended to be a large-scale, national celebration of collaboration in Environmental and Sustainability Education in Toronto, planning our next steps during this pandemic has meant reflecting on the significant challenges and risks associated with an in-person conference. After careful consideration, **we have decided to move the EECOM 2021 conference officially online** to ensure the health and safety of all involved in the conference.

The time period of April 2021 will remain the same, however the exact dates and times of the conference will be determined as we redesign the conference schedule. We have intentionally made this decision well in advance of the conference in order to give our team, presenters and partner organizations adequate time to pivot to an online platform. While we are disappointed that we will not meet in-person next spring, we are still very excited to be hosting the EECOM 2021 conference, and happy to be exploring the potential of an online conference to lower its carbon footprint and include a wider variety and number of participants than originally planned.

For those who have submitted workshop proposals, we received more than three times the amount of applications than we originally had space for; with the shift to an online conference, we know that we will not be able to accommodate all of the proposals that were submitted. With this in mind, all applicants will be notified of a decision on their proposal by the end of July and will be asked to reconfirm their interest in being part of EECOM 2021.

The EECOM 2021 Steering Committee thanks you for your interest in being a part of this EECOM conference, and for your patience and understanding as we make the shift to an online conference. We will be posting updates about registration and other conference news regularly, so please check in with our website for updates: <https://ecoschools.ca/ecom>

Sincerely,

Lindsay Bunce, Hilary Inwood and Haley Higdon, Conference Co-Chairs

On behalf of the EECOM Conference Steering Committee