

EECOM 2021 Schedule

Saturday, April 24
Choose one theme to explore in each time slot

ecoschools.ca/eecom

Hour	Ecojustice Education (13 sessions total - 8 sessions today)	Indigenous Education (13 sessions total - 8 sessions today)	Featured Sessions (12 sessions total - 10 sessions today)	Water Education (15 sessions total - 10 sessions today)	City as Classroom (19 sessions total - 13 sessions today)
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Dr. Julian Agyeman (Keynote): Just Sustainabilities in Policy, Planning, and Practice

In his talk, Julian will outline the concept of just sustainabilities as a response to the 'equity deficit' of much sustainability thinking and practice. He will argue that what our cities can become (sustainable, smart, sharing and resilient), and who is allowed to belong in them (recognition of difference, diversity, and a right to the city) are fundamentally and inextricably interlinked. We must therefore act on both belonging and becoming, together, using just sustainabilities as the anchor, or face deepening spatial and social inequities and inequalities. Julian will illustrate his ideas with examples from urban planning and design, education, urban agriculture, food justice, and the concept of sharing cities.

[View Julian's bio](#)

Conditions à mettre en place à l'école pour développer le sentiment de pouvoir agir de jeunes du secondaire face aux changements climatiques: Émilie Morin

Les dimensions du sentiment de pouvoir agir (Morin, Theriault et Bader, 2019) face aux changements climatiques et plus particulièrement les conditions favorables à son développement à l'école sont définies à partir de propos recueillis lors d'entretiens de groupe auprès de jeunes Québécois de la fin du secondaire.

[Voir biographie de Émilie](#)

Stories from the Sandbox: Integrating Imaginative storytelling with the Development of Environmental Reasoning: Zabe MacEachern & Konwanonhiyóshtha (Callie Hill)

This workshop will role model ways to tell stories to children using simple props that engage their imagination and help develop their ability to understand complex relationships and systems. When observational skills, sensory awareness, and embodied knowing are nurtured through traditional storytelling, the resulting cognitive development provides a foundation for addressing environmental challenges in the future.

[View Zabe's bio](#) | [View Konwanonhiyóshtha's bio](#)

Black Canadian Experiences in Environmental Education: Alison Williams; Rodway Daniels & Matthew Webbe (Pamela Presentation)

What are the experiences of Black educators in the field of Environmental Education in Canada? How do we make this field, which has been dominated by white voices since its inception in the 1800s in North America, more equitable and just? Join TDSB educators Alison Williams, Rodway Daniels and others as they share their experiences and ideas on how to bring a wider and more diverse set of voices into Environmental Education into school boards and EcoSchools programs in this country.

[View Alison's bio](#) | [View Rodway's bio](#)
[View Matthew's bio](#)

Data from the Deep: Lauren Hudson; Monika Pelz & Jennifer Putland

Dive into the data that is helping us #knowtheocean. Participants will explore Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) data and resources that highlight the connection between Indigenous knowledge, science and technology. Participants will try hands-on activities and explore materials that highlight ocean knowledge.

[View Lauren's bio](#) | [View Monika's bio](#)
[View Jennifer's bio](#)

Unpacking the communication of conservation science in urban environments: Stuart Livingston & Marc Cadotte

Urban centres are now seen as "central nodes" for the communication of, and engagement with, conservation science. In this regard, environmental educators working in cities play a vital role as science communicators and should ground their efforts using the principles of scientific literacy. It is the goal of this seminar that participants develop an understanding of i) the motivation for improving conservation science communication, ii) the importance of scientific literacy for the communication of urban conservation issues, and iii) pedagogical approaches to developing conservation science communication skills.

[View Stuart's bio](#) | [View Marc's bio](#)

Canoeing while Black, the Canadian Version: Jacqueline Scott

The canoe is a key symbol of outdoor recreation, summer camps, and outdoor education in the wilderness in Canada. The presentation explores how this Indigenous technology intersects with Black history and settler colonialism.

[View Jacqueline's bio](#)

Indigenous Food Sovereignty within the Urban Context: Robert Durocher; Adrienne Plumley & Tanya Senk

This presentation will focus on the development of an urban Indigenous food sovereignty program guided and supported by the Elders Council through the Urban Indigenous Education Centre at the TDSB. Participants will learn about how the program centres Indigenous ways of knowing and being through wholistic (mind, body, heart and spirit) approaches and works with and learns from Indigenous community partners.

[View Robert's bio](#) | [View Adrienne's bio](#)
[View Tanya's bio](#)

Empowering Middle School Youth to be Agents of Change: Pam Miller & Jenn Vetter

Middle school students are keen to become EcoSchools agents of change. Learn how a one-day environmental leadership conference engaged urban middle school youth to take a greater leadership role in organizing and implementing a special EcoSchools event suitable for Earth Week or other environmentally focused days.

[View Pam's bio](#) | [View Jenn's bio](#)

Permaculture in a Living Community Laboratory: Co-presenters from The Community Permaculture Lab (CPL)

An exploration of the 12 permaculture principles and 3 ethics through interactions with Water (flow, collection, storage, usage, etc.) at the home/community level.

[View bios](#)

How Experiences in Nature Can Shape Your Time and Teaching Practices as an Occasional Teacher: Bekka Ly

Hear how your time as a full time or occasional teacher can be filled with nature-rich education experiences that will transform the way you approach the curriculum in your classroom, supply jobs and/or your future long term classrooms.

[View Bekka's bio](#)

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[View Robert's bio](#) | [View Adrienne's bio](#)
[View Tanya's bio](#)

Live Streaming - Programming for Urban Ravines: Kathleen McFadyen (TUSC)

All communities depend on water. Conducting an investigation into the state of local rivers and streams can provide students with a highly engaging learning opportunity. Using Toronto's extensive ravine system as a backdrop, this session shares strategies and best practices for undertaking ecological field studies that help students assess the overall health of the City's ravine system. Join Kathleen for a demonstration of place-based methodologies that can be applied to any urban area with rivers, streams, and ravines.

[View Kathleen's bio](#)

Natural Collaborations: Exploring Teachers' Action Research in Environmental Education: Adrienne Rigler & Hilary Inwood

This session shares a partnership focused on Action Research into EE between teacher-researchers from an urban school board and university researchers. Team members will discuss their collaborative approach to research, how Action Research fits into classroom life, and what they have learned from conducting research into EE in K-12 classrooms.

[View Adrienne's bio](#) | [View Hilary's bio](#)

Asphalt Stepping Stones to Wilder Places: Place Based Learning on Outward Bound Canada's Urban Expeditions: Rob Wallis & Marika Chandler

This workshop will explore how and why, in an ever growing urban world, it is necessary to engage youth on urban expeditions, and the - often surprising - advantages over wilderness expeditions. Participants will leave with tangible resources, ideas and solutions to provide meaningful overnight experiences in the true 'urban jungle'.

[View Rob's bio](#) | [View Marika's bio](#)

Empowering Learners in a Warming World: Transformative learning strategies for teaching climate change in a secondary classroom: Ellen Field & Jenn Stevens

This virtual presentation will address the complexity of teaching climate change in a secondary classroom by highlighting several transformative learning strategies, identifying key voices and perspectives to bring into your classroom, and providing tangible strategies and activities for teachers to feel empowered to take on this subject matter. The workshop will be highlighting Learning for a Sustainable Future's newly developed climate change education guide entitled Empowering Learners in a Warming World: A climate change inquiry guide for secondary teachers as a foundation. This guide was developed in part, as a response to the comprehensive and concerning results captured in Dr. Ellen Field and Learning for a Sustainable Future's National Survey: Canada, Climate Change and Education: Opportunities for Public and Formal Education.

[View Ellen's bio](#) | [View Jenn's bio](#)

Play to Learn: Teaching the Effects of Climate Change through Active Games: Veronica Uzielli & Elaine Kenry

Play to Learn: Teaching the Effects of Climate Change through Active Games will provide an opportunity for participants to be actively engaged in a variety of fun, and educational activities that highlight the impact humans have had on our environment. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how learning by doing solidifies knowledge and how fragile our ecosystem is.

[View Veronica's bio](#) | [View Elaine's bio](#)

The Flood: Ed Challenge: Sidney Howlett

An interactive session to help educators and youth understand impacts of flooding and stormwater caused by climate change, while inviting them to explore ways of preparing against it at school and home. It will feature break-out groups, discussions and feedback, giving audiences a personal opportunity to engage with the topic.

[View Sidney's bio](#)

Earth Adventures... Hold the Phone! Designing self-guided nature trails to be interactive and fun for children and families: Alan Warner

Introducing the design process for an earth adventure, self-guided environmental activities designed specifically for any short community trail for families and kids. It includes engaging storyline activities, Indigenous groundings and curricula web site and phone app. Consider applying this to your settings. Join us on a mock earth adventure!

[View Alan's bio](#)

Reporting findings from a mixed-methods study of 200 educators' perspectives of outdoor nature programs (both preschool and school-age), this presentation highlights some of the programs' features and nuances of pedagogies and curricula across Canada. Outdoor programs are operating in several parts of the country, yet clear gaps exist within services, pedagogical/curriculum approaches, and educational training provisions.

[View Debra's bio](#) | [View Elizabeth's bio](#)
[View Ziad's bio](#) | [View Karen's bio](#)

EcoExpo Networking Event

Barriers to Teaching Eco-justice Issues - How Can We Overcome the Challenges? Karen Acton

This active learning workshop will deepen your understanding about the challenges of teaching eco-justice issues. Effective, hands-on strategies will be shared on how to cover difficult issues such as injustices resulting from the climate crisis. You will leave this session motivated with new ideas to take action and make a difference.

[View Karen's bio](#)

Journalism and Media Lead Education and Reconciliation: Kelly Brownbill & Kevin Milne

Our goal is to open minds to the possibility of a tremendous available resource within remote and urban Indigenous communities to help make cultural and environmental education come alive in the classrooms, libraries and community halls. Breaking down barriers between cultures will help connect us all to the environment.

[View Kelly's bio](#) | [View Kevin's bio](#)

Lighting the Fire: A Laboratory School's Journey Towards Nurturing Reciprocal Relationships with the Natural World: Educators at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (IICS) Laboratory School, OISE-UofT

Come ignite the fire of your professional learning with educators at The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School since the launch of their new educator resource, *Natural Curiosity 2nd Edition: The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children's Environmental Inquiry*, the school has increased its efforts to integrate environmental and Indigenous education into their programs. Through a virtual tour of the internationally renowned K-6 lab school, participants will gain a better understanding of their unique philosophy, practices, and environmental pedagogies through an Indigenous lens. This session will highlight the school's ongoing journey in restoring an authentic process of reconciliation, with their students, as they peel back the urban layer to grow more actively and deeply rooted in their outdoor spaces and community.

[View bios](#)

Meet a WWF Living Planet Leader who is using their skills to build a sustainable future: Kathy Nguyen

"WWF-Canada's Living Planet @ Campus program mobilizes thousands of post-secondary students across all academic disciplines in taking action for the planet on their campus and local community. Living Planet @ Campus students can be recognized for their leadership and teamwork in driving conservation action through the program's Living Planet certification process, over 800 university, college, and CEGEP students are working towards their certification with support from WWF-Canada and campus partners.

Are you a post-secondary student who is interested in building your experience and resume with WWF? Are you a campus staff or faculty member engaged in championing student success? Join WWF-Canada staff and one of our certified Living Planet Leaders to learn more about how you can get started! Available resources will be shared in English and French."

[View Kathy's bio](#)

Food Rescue Hero Workshop - Gain practical tools to incorporate a food waste reduction lens into school curriculum: Rose Barcarse

The workshop will offer hands-on learning for educators interested in incorporating a food waste reduction lens into their lesson plans. The workshop describes the crisis of food waste and explores practical, solutions-based approaches for leadership-building and climate action in the classroom.

[View Rose's bio](#)

Changing the Lens: Reimagining and redesigning Environmental Education for the Communities We Serve: Alison Williams & Juli Mori

Socioeconomic status, race, culture, and knowledge access can affect how our environmental activities are perceived. Students need educators who can bridge the gap between perception and experiences. How can we create educational programs that promote eco-justice and are relevant to our students?

This workshop will explore how visualizing our students' communities, using a variety of in-person and virtual tools, can improve our practice of eco-justice in environmental education. You will learn how to use practical tools to examine the dynamics of race and socioeconomic status that affect our ability to successfully plan and teach environmental education.

[View Alison's bio](#) | [View Juli's bio](#)

Playground Medicine: Integrative Science in the Outdoor Classroom: Emily Chan

Make plant-based medicine in the school playground! Learn to make a pituitary salve, helpful for bumps, bruises and stings, as well as an elderberry syrup that has immune-boosting properties. We'll discuss Indigenous land-based learning principles and share experiential, cross-curricular ways of teaching/learning.

[View Emily's bio](#)

Excellence in Outdoor Environmental Education Programming: David Hawker-Budlovsky

The Toronto Outdoor Education Schools (TOES) have had a focus on program renewal and development as we ensure our work supports and is directly connected to classroom learning in schools across the system. Connecting to Ministry of Education Policy (Growing Success), and connecting programming to curriculum, we further look to co-construct success criteria to the learning goal of "What does excellence in outdoor environmental education programming look like?" Be an active participant in what this could look like in your context. Share your voice, gain information for others and leave with practical tools you can use in your own context in program development, review, and renewal.

[View David's bio](#)

Place-based Environmental Education on the University of Toronto Campus: Jeff Stickney

Encouraging place-based environmental education using familiar landscapes such as our campuses and school communities, we go (via Powerpoint) one block north of OISE to Taddle Creek Park where participants hear about the geologic history of the creek as they imaginatively participate in activities like identifying and drawing a mature Beech tree or estimating its age and amount of carbon sequestration. While (drawing/forth) the tree the instructor discusses scientific, philosophical and artistic aspects of how we perceive trees as trees. Topics range from Suzanne Simard's work on tree communication in the wood-wide web, Colin Tudge on The Secret Lives of Trees, Diane Beresford-Kroeger's work on the medicinal effects of trees in The Global Forest, Richard Power's novel The Overstated perception from the field of philosophy of language. We then (virtually) walk down Philosophers Walk, the former creek bed beside the ROM, discussing indigenous settlement in relation to the land recognition, 18th-19th century colonial history, urban forestry and current initiatives to reforest the campus park. Finally, we (virtually) visit Kings College Circle, where Canada's largest geothermal project will be located, discussing changes in landscape architecture like urban reforestation, green roofs, and pedestrian and bicycle lanes that make cities viable places to live. Topics include land tenure systems and private versus public ownership of the land, as well as green spaces like Taddle and Grange Park in Toronto as community assets for more sustainable urban dwelling - serving the public good as well as that of non-human animals.

[View Jeff's bio](#)

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[View Alan's bio](#)

Project-based learning through real world experiences in NB schools: Jimmy Therrien & Anna-Lee Vienneau

Interested in project-based learning and teaching through real world experiences? Sustainability in Action could be for you! This educational program allows students to investigate school sustainability issues by collecting data to draw make informed choices in their school community. Join us to learn more about this project and share your own experiences facilitating project-based learning.

[View Jimmy's bio](#) | [View Anna-Lee's bio](#)

Building biodiversity with WWF: miniature gardens with a big impact: Ryan Godfrey & Kathy Nguyen

Planting native plants contributes to healthy habitats and ecosystems. As habitats become more fragmented, planting of native and indigenous plants creates and connects green corridors for wildlife to move through. Follow along as WWF's plant expert builds a container garden, scalable for classrooms, schools, campuses, communities, and homes.

[View Ryan's bio](#) | [View Kathy's bio](#)

Exploring Urban Elementary EcoSchools: Diana Will-Stork; Sybille Parry & Samantha Bernan

In this presentation educators from elementary schools in urban settings will showcase best practices, tips and tricks for implementing EcoSchools programming with primary and junior students.

[View Diana's bio](#) | [View Sybille's bio](#)

Integrating Education at the High School Level and Providing Enriched Opportunities for Environmental Learning - The Boussole Experience: Mathieu Morin

Boussole is a full-semester, 4-credit Grade 11 integrated education program with a goal of spending 1/3 of class time outside of the school. We'll speak about what goes into building an integrated education program, show examples of project-based learning and reflect why integrated learning works for students

[View Mathieu's bio](#)

Education for Sustainable Well-Being: Experiential Learning Opportunities in the Outdoors: Michael Link

The activities provided in this outdoor workshop together with guiding questions for reflections provide examples for how being physically engaged can help students with the development of their environmental literacy skills and the development of their appreciation for the natural environment. Please dress for the weather and physical activity.

[View Michael's bio](#)

Learn to Know, Do and Be: Assessments and Evaluation of Ecojustice Education: Janna Barkman

Ecojustice education is often emergent, student-centered, and integrated across curricula. Given the rigid structure of reporting, however, it can be a challenge assessing the outcomes as they emerge from each student over a varied timeframe. This workshop will explore frameworks for assessments within an ecojustice context for elementary and middle school. Half of the workshop will be outdoors, participating in a Climate Change Quest followed by a collaborative assessment of its immediate and potentially long-term outcomes. Come prepared to be outside and explore the grounds.

[View Janna's bio](#)

Fostering Environmental Empathy and Youth Involvement - Break The Divide: Abhajeet Singh Sachal

This session will discuss the importance of environmental empathy from a youth perspective. Abhajeet Singh Sachal will speak about travelling to the Canadian Arctic and founding Break The Divide Foundation at the age of 14. The focus of the presentation will be on youth engagement in environmental issues, the importance of nuance in discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the necessity to unite to take climate action. Abhay will discuss Break The Divide's emphasis on dialogue among youth around the world and on polarization and apathy. Break The Divide works to connect students in urban centres with youth in Indigenous communities to foster dialogue and discussion about diverse lifestyles. In the presentation, Abhay will also highlight the importance of personalization of seemingly abstract issues, such as climate change and issues associated with Truth and Reconciliation. This presentation will provide attendees with tangible resources and understandings to engage in dialogue about the climate crisis with youth and create a sense of commonality to address associated environmental issues. This presentation will include group activities, discussion and a Q & A period.

[View Abhajeet's bio](#)

Tracking collective impact in schools from coast to coast to coast: Sierra Frank & Ryan Dymnet, EcoSchools Canada

EcoSchools Canada is the largest environmental certification program for K-12 schools in the country. Leveraging a custom-built innovative online platform, the EcoSchools program supports school communities as they develop and implement school-based action plans that put agency and leadership opportunities in the hands of students. This session will provide an overview of the EcoSchools Canada collective impact framework and showcase innovative practices from leaders across the EcoSchools network.

[View Sierra's bio](#) | [View Ryan's bio](#)

Learning with the Lake: A Lake Superior Teaching Guide: Erin Moir

Water is the thread that connects us to land, ecosystems and life. The Learning with the Lake: A Lake Superior Teaching Guide highlights not only the importance of water, but activities, field trips and experiential teachers can use in the classroom and their schoolyard. Join us to help engage students in respecting our water sources.

[View Erin's bio](#)

Community Mapping: A tool to explore local sustainability issues: Charlotte Burke

This presentation will introduce educators to the Roots & Shoots program. Participants will conduct a community mapping exercise to observe sustainability issues around the U of T campus. Educators will learn how to use community mapping as a tool to help their students take action on local sustainability issues.

[View Charlotte's bio](#)

Room to Grow: Exploring Climate Change Through Garden-Based Education Adam Young & Brit MacDonald

Wondering about how to explain climate change in early elementary? Through using garden-based education pedagogy and topics, educators will develop best practice to teach climate impact through plant concepts, including carbon cycles, shifting growing seasons, and the importance of native plants.

[View Adam's bio](#) | [View Brit's bio](#)

Indigenous Knowledges and Sustainability in Post-Secondary Education: Yvonne Vizina

Explore the relationship between sustainability and Indigenous knowledges, learn from research, and build your own sustainability code of ethics. Research findings from interviews with faculty and administrators in 10 post-secondary institutions across Canada describe the relationships, barriers, and opportunities for sustainability practices as understood through their own traditional Indigenous teachings.

[View Yvonne's bio](#)

Exploring Indigenous Presence in the City with First Story Toronto: Jon Johnson & Jill Carter

In this featured session, First Story Toronto's Jon Johnson and his colleague Jill Carter from the University of Toronto will focus on land-based stories of Indigenous presence in Toronto. Together they will highlight some of the ways that increasing awareness of and engagement with these stories of Indigenous presence is informing current projects and work among contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the city.

[View Jon's bio](#) | [View Jill's bio](#)

Nurturing Local Water Education: Gigi Shanks & Adrienne Rigler

Participants will engage in an adaptable identity participatory activity to catalog and identify the impacts to a local watershed. A virtual tour, including a sample mystery riddle and an inquiry question, will be used to launch the participants into the surrounding area to conduct their own mystery tour or develop an inquiry question.

[View Gigi's bio](#) | [View Adrienne's bio](#)

The Pollinator Paradise Project: a community collaboration to protect Hamilton ON's native pollinators: Briann Dorin & Jen Baker

The Pollinator Paradise Project, a community-based environmental initiative of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club and Hamilton Hamilton, will be discussed. This project aims to support our declining native pollinators by building pollinator-friendly habitat across the city of Hamilton, ON in collaboration with residents, community members, city staff, local businesses, and volunteers.

[View Briann's bio](#) | [Jen's Bio](#)

Beautiful Ecologies: Deepening Connections to Place Through Relationship: Jessie Sawyers & Amanda Humphreys

Join presenters as they unpack a fundamental shift in how they connect to place. By building a relationship with their local ravine and an Anishnaabe guide, Alan Colley of Toronto Aboriginal Eco Tours, students and teachers shifted their consideration of how we learn - a shift away from learning about, a shift toward learning from and learning with.

[View Jessie's bio](#) | [View Amanda's bio](#)

Earth Rangers - Programs that Generate Hope in Students: Sarah Daldoss

At Earth Rangers, we believe in an approach that provides children with hope, optimism, and empowers them to be a part of the solution. Learn about the new Earth Rangers Clubs Program, for in-class or extra-curricular implementation, Clubs provide teachers with a free, easy-to-use online platform that allows them to access resources covering a range of environmental topics, linking to subject areas such as math, language arts, science, and science. Be ready to meet some of our feathered, furred, and scaled friends and participate in mini, fun, and hands-on examples of Club activities!

[View Sarah's bio](#)

Creating a waste free tomorrow: How the U of T Trash Team brings waste literacy into the classroom: Susan Debrecent & Rafaela Gutierrez

Join the UoT Trash Team to sample waste literacy lessons developed for grade 5 undergraduates. Lessons were created by our team of undergraduates and graduate students to foster curiosity in the natural world through STEM-based activities. All lessons explore the common theme of our relationship with plastics across aquatic ecosystems.

[View Susan's bio](#) | [View Rafaela's bio](#)

The Walking Classroom: Using Gillian Judson's "A Trash Team brings waste literacy into the classroom" to support our declining native pollinators by building pollinator-friendly habitat across the city of Hamilton, ON in collaboration with residents, community members, city staff, local businesses, and volunteers.

Join us as we explore the beautiful, biodiverse and bustling grounds of the University of Toronto through a virtual guided walk. We will share a slideshow of stops we've chosen that evoke a sense of Place, highlight learning opportunities and make connections. Participants will practice forward planning their own walking opportunities with the aim to understand their surroundings, no matter the setting.

[View Julianna's bio](#) | [View Betty's bio](#)

Events happening at the same time within the same theme

EECOM Awards and Conference Closing by Gidaakunadaad (Nancy Rowe)