

Committee: **Advisory Committee on the Environment**

Organization/Sector represented: **University of Western Ontario**

Name: **Jamie Baxter**

Address:

**Department of Geography  
University of Western Ontario  
(home 964 Dalkeith Ave, N5X1S4)**

Occupation: **Associate Professor**

Work experience: **I have a long standing interest in how people perceive technological hazards (e.g., waste sites, pollution, urban pesticide use, contaminated sites) specifically why various groups of people view the same hazards quite differently and with what implications - particularly in relation to policy. Most of the studies I have conducted integrate qualitative and quantitative methods to understand the social construction of risk, environmental justice, facility siting, and the implications of environmental policies and practice in the everyday lives of residents. I have received multiple grants for this work from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Before coming to Western in 2003 I was Assistant and Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Environmental Science Program at the University of Calgary.**

Education: **PhD McMaster Geography 1997 MA McMaster Geography 1992 BA(Hons) Queen's Geography 1989**

Skills: **I am social scientist and researcher with extensive experience interpreting "knowledge" in the broadest sense. My most direct experience with policy was as a member of the Urban Pesticide sub-Committee of the Environmental Committee at the City of Calgary. That spawned some research that included London. For the publications from that work, and other studies I conducted, see my webpage <http://publish.uwo.ca/~jbaxter6/publications.html> Two recent interests involve waste management and waste-to-energy and risk perception of wind turbines.**

Interest reason: **I served on a similar committee for the City of Calgary and found the experience to be mutually beneficial. I do not have a specific issue that is motivating my desire to be involved, I am interested in everything from alternative energy to safe use of alternative modes of transportation. I am not looking for a specific change, I just want to do my part to keep London firmly on a sustainable path. Long term I want to look at ways to build stronger relationships between the city and the university on environmental issues. In the short term I want to start field trips to various city sites within my Environment and Health course. In the long term there may be ways to further leverage the developing skills of environmental science/sustainability students here to the mutual benefit of the city and students.**

Contributions: **Not only do I have background in various areas of policy interest to this committee (e.g., waste management, risk perception) I have access to numerous resources at the university. Inevitably some questions and policy pathways require "more information and research" and I hope to help in this regard.**

Past contributions: **See "why are you interested" above. I have made contributions to some of Jay Stanford's & Jamie Skimming's recent Environmental Roundtable questions. Some of the questions they posed renewed my interest in becoming more engaged in my own community's "environmental" path.**

Interpersonal: **I have served on several committees in the University and beyond. As an example of my effectiveness, as Graduate Chair in the department, I took a proposal for allowing masters degree thesis defenses to be public from the Department through to various personalities and committees within the university. Though the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies websites do not yet reflect the change, Departments can now hold public masters degree defenses. The process took two years of patient negotiations and navigation of "the system".**

Interview interest: **Yes**