

Resilient Cities Conference: Preparing London for a Rapidly Changing Future

November 18th, 2017 - London Public Library

Final Report (*as of February 26, 2018*)

Tangible outcomes of the conference...

- Event attendance estimated to be over 250 individuals.
- The keynote speaker was excellent in terms of knowledge, experience working in the field of urban resilience and optimism. His main message- Cities becoming resilient is now a movement around the world and there is every reason for London to join this movement.
- In total, over 20 exceptional speakers from London and southern Ontario were brought together.
- High level of interest in almost all workshops and exhibits.
- Involvement of many different partners was excellent.
 - 6 community partners not including the City of London
 - 5 City of London Advisory Committees contributed financially. 2 other Advisory Committees – Diversity & Housing expressed interest.
 - London Environmental Network provided significant organizational and promotional support.
 - The London Public Library provided the location & rooms at no charge. Three library staff were actively involved in the organization. They were very pleased with the turnout and atmosphere of the event.
- Volunteers played an integral role in making sure everything ran smoothly. (Approximately 20 in total)
- The event tied in well with the city's Neighbourhood Decision Making day.
- See the Appendices for details including workshop attendance, a list of community partners and the planning committee members.

Considerations for future events...

- Reduce the number of workshop options, to manage expenses and administrative time to organize these.
- Financial commitments from other advisory committees take time to arrange and need to be requested well in advance.
- Continue to investigate partnerships in planning future events to help manage the time commitments required from committee volunteers.
- Review ways to capture the information and spirit of the conference to disseminate to individuals who were not in attendance – in a manner that does not require significant resources, works within privacy guidelines and can be available online.

Moving forward...

- ACE looks forward to future City of London plans related to resiliency.
- Discussions continue between ACE, the London Environmental Network and the London Public Library regarding plans for event(s) in 2018.
- Continue to monitor and encourage resiliency planning via ACE work plan for 2018.

Appendix A: Workshop Overview

Resilient Cities Conference: Preparing London for a rapidly changing future					
9:00 - 10:00am	Keynote - Wolf Performance Hall – 'What makes a Resilient City? How the 100 Resilient Cities initiative is helping Toronto to prepare for a rapidly changing future' - Elliott Cappell (Chief Resilience Officer of Toronto)				
10:00 - 10:20am	Break				
Rooms	Stevenson & Hunt A 1st Floor	Stevenson & Hunt B 1st Floor	Tonda 1st Floor	Wellington Room 2nd Floor	Dundas Room 2nd Floor
10:20 - 11:20am	Indigenous Resilience: Re-awakening Ancestral Wisdom Speaker: Andrew Judge	Black Creek Community Farm: Building Resilience through Urban Agriculture Speaker: Leticia Boahen	Future Proofing Mobility - Through Shared and Active Transportation Speaker: Lorenzo Mele	Climate Change and Health – A Local Perspective Speaker: Randy Walker	Renewable Energy Panel Speakers: Terry Nother & Gary Zavitz
11:30 - 12:30pm	The Future of Food Speaker: Natasha Arsenijevich	Resilient City Case Study: Curitiba, Brazil Speaker: Luis Patricio	London's Emergency Management Program; From Tornados to Trainwrecks Speakers: Henry Klausnitzer & Andre-Luc Beaugard	Pathway Thinking for Community Energy Planning Speaker: Shane O'Neill	Equity, Poverty, Living Wage Speaker: Dr. Chris Mackie
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch				
1:30- 2:30pm	Local Financing of the Resilience Revolution Speaker: Andre Vashist	Valuing Nature's Services in Urban Environments Speaker: Paul Ronan	The Role of Youth in Food Sovereignty Speaker: George Akomeah	Food is Food, Not Waste Speakers: Carrie Warring, Ellen Lakusiak, Paul van der Werf	Passive Solar Design and Retrofits Speaker: Marianne Griffith & Tom Davis
2:45 - 3:45pm	Future Proofing London - City-building for Resiliency Speaker: John Fleming	Urban Agroforestry: the Food Forest City Speaker: Dr. Gabor Sass	Climate Adaptation for Cities: Lessons from the Maritimes Speaker: Dr. Brennan Vogel	Divestment from Fossil Fuels: A Realistic Goal Speaker: Alex Leonard	Engaging Citizens in their Community Speakers: Jacqueline Fraser & Wes Kinghorn
4:00 pm - onwards: Pints & Politics on Resilient Cities at the Fox and the Fiddle, 355 Wellington St.					

Appendix B: Attendance

Total estimated attendance was 250+

On average, it was estimated there were about 190 individuals at a time attending workshops with approximately 15- 45 people per room.

Keynote Speaker – Estimated 200-250 attendees.

Time	Workshop	Room	Attendees
10:20-11:20	Climate Change and Health	Wellington Room	27
11:30-12:30	London's Emergency Management Plan	Tonda Room	12
10:20-11:20	Future Proofing Mobility	Tonda Room	31
11:30-12:30	Pathway Thinking for Community Energy Planning	Wellington Room	20
10:20-11:20	Indigenous Resilience	Stevenson & Hunt A	45
11:30-12:30	The Future of Food	Stevenson & Hunt A	45
10:20-11:20	Renewable Energy Panel	Dundas Room	45
11:30-12:30	Equity, Poverty, Living Wage	Dundas Room	60
10:20-11:20	Black Creek Community Farm	Stevenson & Hunt B	40
11:30-12:30	Resilient City Case Study: Curitiba	Stevenson & Hunt B	42
Time	Workshop	Room	Attendees
1:30-2:30	Valuing Nature's Services	Stevenson & Hunt B	50
2:45-3:45	Urban Agroforestry	Stevenson & Hunt B	65
1:30-2:30	Role of Youth in Food Sovereignty	Tonda Room	12-15
2:45-3:45	Climate Adaptation for Cities	Tonda Room	12-15
1:30-2:30	Local Financing	Stevenson & Hunt A	29
2:45-3:45	Future Proofing London	Stevenson & Hunt A	52
1:30-2:30	Food is Food, Not Waste	Wellington Room	36
2:45-3:45	Divestment from Fossil Fuels	Wellington Room	16
1:30-2:30	Passive Solar Design and Retrofits	Dundas Room	50
2:45-3:45	Engaging Citizens	Dundas Room	25

Appendix D: Committee List

	Role(s)
Skylar Franke	Spokesperson, LEN Rep, Promotion
Gabor Sass	Spokesperson, ACE rep
Susan Ratz	ACE rep, admin, accounting
Diane Szoller	Media, ACE rep
Susan Hall	Lunch Coordinator, ACE rep
Mary Ann Hodge	ACE rep
Carrie Warring	ACE & Health Unit rep
Carolyn Doyle	Library rep - Poster contact
Patsy Morgan	Library rep - Registration Contact / Meeting Room Bookings
Cathy McLandress	Library rep
Leah Derikx	Volunteer Coordinator
Yuriko Tokuda	Booth Coordinator
Alex Leonard	Promo Video

Appendix E: Partners

Advisory Committee on the Environment

City of London

London Public Library

London Environmental Network

London Community Foundation

Thames Regional Ecological Association

Trees & Forests Advisory Committee

Cycling Advisory Committee

Transportation Advisory Committee

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Middlesex London Health Unit

Urban League of London

Appendix F: Exhibitors

	Booths
# (not tied to location)	Organization Name
1	LEN
2	City of London – Environmental Services
3	
4	
5	Visual Artists
6	Cycling Advisory Committee
7	TREA
8	Info Booth
9	Health Unit
10	Library
11	Urban Roots London
12	Growing Chefs
13	ReForest London
14	City of London - Neighbourhood Decision Making
15	FUAL

Appendix G: Media & Promotion

Methods used to promote the conference...

- Via London Environmental Network - Dedicated website page, enewletters and numerous social media posts
- Promotions via conference organizing committee partners
- Via London Public Library – Poster Design, Info & Registration website page, advertising in The Spectrum, info to branch libraries
- City of London – mention in enewletter, poster distribution to numerous City facilities (arenas, community centres etc)
- Email and FB outreach to numerous London Organizations and community groups, neighbourhood associations.
- Poster Distribution - by volunteers at shops around the city and post-secondary sites
- Media releases and follow-up - in particular support from London Free Press with two print articles
- Numerous event postings such as Tourism London, Snapd, Scene, Pillar Network, London Fuse, Our London, Kijiji etc.
- Donated postcard printing by City and postcard distribution to numerous venues such as On the Move Organics, Veg Fest via the Library's booth, Western Fair Market, Covent Garden Market, Western Fair via FUAL's booth, the school boards etc.

Appendix H: Feedback from Conference Response Cards from Attendees

Conference Highlight...

- great topics
- Gary Zavitz
- amazing key note
- andrew judge
- the wonderful presenters and discussion
- pathway thinking for community energy planning
- so many great options - almost too many to choose from
- valuing nature and engaging citizens
- info tables
- the mix of finance and green biz actual & possible
- John Fleming
- transportation session
- meeting like minded people
- Andrew Judge's sessions being held 1st to open and prepare for the day
- all the workshops
- meeting people/side conversation
- black creek community farm
- Future proofing London
- Indigenous resilience session - amazing!
- Indigenous resilience talk
- diversity of core subjects
- future proofing london
- finance session from verge
- Paul ronan - 1:30-2:30
- keynote and john fleming, black creek community farm
- local financing of the resilience revolution
- paul ronan, keynote, andrew judge, networking
- urban forests
- the wealth of ideas and how much is happening in London itself
- UBI, community farming
- seeing people come together to work towards a common goal
- resilience - past, present and future
- zero energy was great, more of that next year
- food waste
- keynote speaker + passive solar system
- ancestral wisdom
- workshops
- manned info booths
- I'm just super happy this event took place, more please
- really enjoyed the brazilian session
- plenary - but the whole thing was great

Future Topic Suggestions...

- more time to followup for attendees to network or connect
- energy storage systems
- london becoming 100% renewable energy sources
- wildlife
- community engagement
- foraging, gardening
- Charrettes [a meeting in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions]
- would love to see more interactive sessions and discussion
- more engaging, interaction, round circle discussion vs. presentations
- diversity/disability
- trees as an economic engine for prosperity
- large scale retrofitting initiatives
- how to influence government policy
- community building
- so many choices had to be made today to visit one seminar and not another. Many would like an opportunity to do it again!
- London environmental successes
- employment and resilience
- how personal growth and contemplation births community change and positive advancement
- more indigenous resilience
- future city - sifton's project
- more on the london plan
- more around urban development to get people excited - examples to learn from
- engaging businesses
- more of everything you covered
- not so much future topics but taping/youtube of all the sessions I missed by taking in these excellent sessions
- londons rivers and ponds
- technology
- garbage reduction - in many different case studies of other cities
- green initiatives
- how to redo older homes for energy and composting
- waste management
- green building and design
- renewable energy
- the role of environmental assessments
- what politically active groups are available and commitment required
- transit based topics, buses, light rail, bike lanes
- great already
- more of the same - next step

How Attendees Heard About The Event...

- Facebook - 17
- Friends / Word of Mouth – 16
- LEN Website / Enewsletter – 6
- Other – 6
- Library – 3
- Posters – 2

Appendix I:

Notes from Keep Stop Start Post It Note Exercise Available in each Workshop Room

Room 1

STOP

- Giving drivers the biggest say (we need to think about access for people living in or on the brink of poverty)
- Stop thinking there is a huge crevasse between urban and rural food growing

CONTINUE

- Push for BRT (despite complaints of reduced space for driving along Richmond Street)
- Build protected bike lanes. I have fallen from my bike twice this month because the road had a puddle of water on it and was not even.
- BRT
- Fill potholes on sides of the road
- BRT
- Continue supporting Urban Agriculture initiatives despite common criticism

OPPORTUNITIES

- Universal basic income
- Make Wellington/Waterloo cycle friendly
- Pedestrian walk audit
- We gardeners and foragers have been doing this for a long time – government and bureaucrats need to learn to trust and let the power come down to us
- I wish that mass producers of food waste are mandated to
 - a) move excess food to need (people)
 - b) move waste food to livestock
 - c) move waste food to energy and fertilizer
- I wish for society to be led by a process that encourages sustainability and not only profits
- I wish for farmers to be respected and their livelihood ensured and farming encouraged
- I wish for an effective community system to move food from point of excess to point of need
- I wish that food is never wasted
- I wish we are always fed
- Downtown community vegetable gardens for therapy, rehabilitation, addiction treatment, education, community engagement, etc. a bonus is vertical farming downtown
- Cyclist modal counts
- Dundas cycle tracks
- Turn wide sidewalks into walkways with bike paths
- Start demonstration projects in many of the urban agricultural strategy programs
- As London grows food security will become more difficult during war and depression. In Greece the country mandated that each village family take on one Athenian child as villages were self-sustainable and resilient
- I wish for the use of food growth and supplements that have only a positive impact on humanity, the environment, the economy

- I wish for the gifts of nature (including food) are for all people
- I wish for London to prepare a food stock pile (non-perishable) for emergency purposes
- I wish for local farmers feeding London
- I wish that London will get to food sustainability and even exceed and grow all food locally, sustainably

Room 2

STOP

- Stop collecting fallen leaves off lawns
- Stop heavy Industry
- Stop single use plastics
- Stop or change the way the municipality works with developers –require rather than encourage
- Stop sucking (no more plastic straws)
- Control urban sprawl
- Ban plastic
- No more plastic bags
- Stop cutting trees for development – develop around them as much as possible
- No more urban sprawl, grow up, not out and preserve wild and agricultural lands
- Stop urban sprawl altogether

CONTINUE

- Community consultation
- Build on infill, stop using up farmland and natural areas
- Food literacy will make our community more resilient
- Include health as a prominent piece of any resiliency planning, particularly local food and healthy eating Conferences
- More public awareness
- Urban agricultural and public food forests
- More community support
- The growth and development of food forests – Go! Gabor Sass
- Grow community development of grassroots and collaborate across agencies and across governance bodies – advocacy liaison
- Keep improving transit

OPPORTUNITIES

- Educate people about composting – just collecting it won't be enough, everyone has to do their part
- Allow backyard chickens and goats!
- Start promoting social responsibility programs in companies and businesses
- Foster smart commute and energy-saving corporate strategies
- Mandatory rainwater collection
- Establish a resiliency office with an 'officer' to lead
- Lower monthly bus ticket prices as an incentive
- Gardening programs in public schools
- Backyard chickens
- Improve the public transportation and integrate it with Western and Fanshawe
- Be more mindful of urban planning design for more bikes/pedestrian areas and green spaces
- Residential composting and composting at community gardens
- Green bin program!
- Work as a leader with surrounding rural communities and smaller cities to have a SWO region
- Resiliency framework
- Make it easier for people to sell food they produce locally
- Residential compost program
- Reserve three land trust areas that are protected to create 10 acres of urban farm demonstrations
- Hemp crops
- Easier permits for household renewables
- Outreach to students to keep talent
- Permaculture workshops /land to start a community farm
- More green jobs
- Year round greenhouses
- Winter maintenance on the TVP, help year round cycling

Room 3

STOP

- Building/urban sprawl without energy/future considerations be mandatory

CONTINUE

- Supporting citizen groups
- Community improvements
- Green and public space improvements
- Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES

- Share that heat warming chart with the public
- Compost collection
- Have LID workshops for residences and other properties
- Preserve wetlands
- Have community workshops to have LID areas added to parks – encourage public involvement
- More community gardens
- Divest from fossil fuels
- Algae power
- Garbage burning power (Sweden)
- Geothermal commercial buildings and subdivision building codes
- Battery regeneration program
- Recycling downtown
- Put a bounty on squirrels
- Compost in neighbourhoods

Room 4

STOP

- Urban sprawling
- Considering the current status quo as the status quo
- Stop thinking inside the box
- Stop thinking we can build a complete plan in light of rapid change: adaptability first
- Avoid costly and constraining investments
- Stop development charge tax giveaways in downtown – use money to subsidize energy saving retrofits – re development charges – may be able to continue under strict conditions that encourage very green building

CONTINUE

- Supporting urban farming
- Neighbourhood engagement through voting like today's Neighbourhood decision making project
- Community engagement in environmental planning projects
- Continue incorporating the potential impact of disruptive technology into Future City planning ie autonomous vehicles, microgeneration and storage of energy

OPPORTUNITIES

- Bike paths to Port Stanley
- Mobile markets – take the food to the people
- Make community gardens welcoming to newcomers to Canada
- City wide composting – compost pickup for apartments and businesses
- Decentralize composting programs
- Allow dogs on buses
- Link people wanting to grow things with people with property they are not using (yard sharing)
- Encourage Western to abandon their incubation mentality and encourage students to explore the city
- Free public pools

- Community composting
- Ensure decision making decisions are transparent – decision to ban chickens was not based on draft policy so supporters did not have a say in final decision
- The Hub
- Community home energy audits
- \$1 bus fare days on bad air days
- Subsidize LTC to run buses to industrial areas at shift changes
- Start brown bin collection
- City – provider of investment fund to provide low-cost/no-cost loans for Green Energy investments by low and middle income people
- Start providing ‘alternative permitting’ paths
- Guidance for new non-traditional building approaches
- Organic waste collection program (green bins)
- Remove bylaws that are barriers to uniformity in growing plants/food/animals
- Stop development charge rebates in downtown (building is booming) and use money to encourage homeowners to do retrofits for energy efficiency
- Start urban food forest creation
- Try innovative approaches to get the community more engaged (ex 8-80 Cities)
- If it takes 10,000 hours of doing something to be considered an expert, London has many expert gardeners and forgers, trust us
- If we become more self-reliant, we will learn new skills, to take care of ourselves – at the same time we need to learn to be co-operative. That way we will learn from each other, and the more self-reliant people will have more skills. With the greater self-reliance and the co-operation we can achieve so much more than a population that is waiting for our city leaders to tell us what to do. It is far better for 400,000 people problem-solving than the few sitting around a horseshoe. In this way, people learn new skills to take care of themselves. These people will be less of a burden on our society.

Room 5

STOP

- Government focus on the middle class, not the poor
- Fewer government universal benefits (like childcare), more to those in need
- Stop trying to do too many things at once, concentrate on those things where tangible progress can be measured.
- Stop using plastic bottles, bags and takeout containers

CONTINUE

- Improve increasing the liaison capacity amongst city and residents
- Mobilize like today, annual community driven resiliency conferences
- Community facilitation
- Making safe bike lanes

OPPORTUNITIES

- Facilitate greater dialogue and partnership between business and community organizations.
- Where are the business owners today?
- Replace minimum wage with guaranteed income
- Green boxes for organic waste
- Provide bus stops with winter protection systems, this would promote more use of public transportation
- Assist homeowners installing solar PV to connect to London Hydro
- Levy residents to provide part-time teachers with sustainable wages, they provide the city with direct benefits
- All new developments should be fitted with solar panels. Policies/bylaws for retrofitting condos and apartments would be helpful.
- Continue to promote the exchange of information and ideas, such as this conference
- Festivals downtown (more please!)