



Climate Change Action Town Hall

Hamilton, Ontario
March 3, 2011 – 1 to 5pm

Liuna Station (360 James Street North)



FACT SHEET: EDUCATION & SKILLS

Discussion Points

- ◆ What do you think we, as a community, could do to deal with education & skills and climate change?
- ◆ What is happening in Hamilton on education & skills and climate change?
- ◆ How should we move forward and what do we need to have in place?

Facts

- A post carbon era will require knowledge and skills that are not common today, some of this knowledge and skills can be found in traditional practices such as homesteading, while others will be found in new areas of expertise and new ways of business.
- A post carbon era will require a reconceptualizing of already existing programs, extending some programs to include new areas of knowledge, and developing entirely new programs of study.
- Green Collar Economy is a growing idea. According to the United Nations Environment Program (2008): We define green jobs as work in agricultural, manufacturing, research and development (R&D), administrative, and service activities that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality. Specifically, but not exclusively, this includes jobs that help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high efficiency strategies; de-carbonize the economy; and minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution”
- Green collar workers also include vocational or trade-level workers: electricians who install solar panels, plumbers who install solar water heaters, construction workers who build energy-efficient green buildings and wind power farms, construction workers who weatherize buildings to make them more energy efficient, or other workers involved in clean, renewable, sustainable future energy development.
- A key question is where in the current educational system is it possible to develop and institutionize the kinds of educational and skills needed to prepare people for a post-carbon economy and do so relatively quickly?

- Ontario has introduced climate change and energy into the Ontario curriculum for grades 1 to 8 and grades 9 to 12. Recognizing that societal concerns about protecting the environment and dealing with climate change will have an effect on available jobs and on the demand for various types of labour and skills, as well as on practices in the workplace.
- There has been recognition that educational institutions that are local, flexible in teaching and connected to the community. Institutions that can develop certification programs as well as noncredit educational opportunities in response to local realities
- Mohawk College's Institute for Skilled Trades & Apprenticeship Research, Resources and Training offers energy systems engineering technology and environmental technician opportunities.
- McMaster University has the Centre for Climate Change that aims to achieve comprehensive public awareness of Climate Change issues through outreach. McMaster University has programs addressing climate change, energy and sustainability in Engineering, Business, Science, Health and Geography.
- Outside of educational institutions, general education in the community on climate change and energy has also been identified to bring awareness and action in the community to reduce emissions and prepare for risks.
- Green Venture, Environment Hamilton, Dundas in Transition, Hamilton Climate Champions, Hamilton 350, Clean Air Hamilton working in and with the community have delivered and continue to deliver education and increasing awareness on climate change to the community.