

## **C1 - Examining The Belly Of The Beast: An Introduction To Sustainable Consumption For Local Government**

**Presentation title:** Examining the Belly of the Beast: An Introduction to Sustainable Consumption (and Production) for Local Governments

### **Presenters:**

David Hendrickson - Simon Fraser University, Centre For Sustainable Community Development

James Tansey - Offsetters Climate Neutral Society

Carol Boutin - Sustainability Purchasing Network, Fraser Basin Council

Joyce Thayer - Electronics Stewardship Association of British Columbia

### **Abstract**

There is an increasing need to address issues related to resource consumption within sustainable development discourse. Governments tend to ignore demands for change involving consumption unless they can first measure or quantify it in some way. This session examines how communities are addressing sustainable consumption (and production) at the local level. Following the UN Summit in Johannesburg, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) established the Marrakech Process, a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption (and production) including global and regional meetings with expert task forces. This process has assisted development of national sustainable consumption plans in countries such as Germany, Finland, and the UK. In Canada, Industry Canada's Office of Consumer Affairs has recently launched a sustainable consumption initiative. Nevertheless, sustainable consumption initiatives remain virtually ignored by local government authorities, a distant blip on most municipal radar screens. Just as local governments have given sustainability tangible meaning (e.g. Local Agenda 21); opportunities avail to articulate sustainable consumption policies to influence local plans, policies and outcomes. This session presents tangible examples of sustainable consumption programs within municipal jurisdictions and how to initiate integrated processes. Community and institutional capacity building involves actors such as city councillors, boards of directors, senior staff, department champions, non-profits, special commissions, task forces, advisory groups, and public outreach.

### **Speaker Biography**

**Moderator Mr. David J. Hendrickson** David manages sustainability planning and reporting with the UBC Sustainability Office. He is completing his doctoral studies at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development, Simon Fraser University. His expertise includes sustainable consumption and production, indicators and assessment, and sustainable community development. He consults locally and internationally, having worked in diverse settings such as Boston, El Salvador and China. He is writing a book about sustainable consumption and production.

**Panelist - Dr. James Tansey** James co-founded Offsetters Climate Neutral Society in 2005, and currently sits as its President. Since 2006, he has been a professor of Business Ethics at the University of British Columbia, jointly appointed between the Sauder School of Business and the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics. James's research activities cover a number of areas including social enterprise, climate change, and the social impacts and acceptability of new technologies. His current research focuses on emerging international markets for carbon exchange, social determinants of health in developed countries and the governance of biotechnology and genomics in Canada.

**Panelist - Ms. Carol Boutin** Carol considers herself a transformational change agent. As Program Manager of the Sustainability Purchasing Network at the Fraser Basin Council, she is tasked with promoting a healthier community and environment by educating, connecting, and inspiring organizations to make more progressive purchasing decisions. Carol has more than 18 years of experience in marketing and communications, relationship development, and client service, as well as project initiation, management, and implementation. She got her feet wet (and her passions nudged) in the sustainability arena when she joined The Ethical Funds Company in 2003.

Joyce Thayer – Executive Director, Electronics Stewardship Association of British Columbia Ms. Thayer is a barrister in private practice as a sole practitioner, with an emphasis in environmental law. She has appeared before the BC Court at both the trial and appellate level in proceedings on environmental matters including the RAV Line and Sea to Sky challenges. She has also appeared as counsel before the Environmental Appeal Board. She represented the Cornwall Watershed Coalition in their fight against the proposed Ashcroft Landfill, in which capacity she was an early advocate of Metro Vancouver adopting a zero waste policy. Since July 14, 2008 Ms. Thayer has also assumed the role of executive director of the Electronics Stewardship Association of British Columbia