



Green Choice

Forum 2009



PANEL MEMBERS

Wendy Avis is a policy analyst with *BC Hydro* and currently works on greenhouse gas strategies and related climate change issues. With a BA in Geography and Environmental Studies from Brock University and a Masters in Geography from UBC, Wendy worked at Environment Canada from 1997 to 2007. She has conducted research on the impacts of climate change, worked on numerous public education and outreach projects on both climate change and clean air, and was the Vice-Chair of the 2002 International Children's Conference on the Environment. Outside of work, Wendy is on the Board of Connecting Environmental Professionals, a non-profit society dedicated to promoting opportunities for networking, career development and capacity building for environmental professionals. Wendy loves to play music, travel and renew her spirit in the beauty of nature.

Kara Bowen manages the Sustainability Program at the *University of British Columbia* Sustainability Office. She has BA in International Studies and Community Sustainable Development from Simon Fraser University, as well as a diploma in Permaculture Design from the UK. Before joining UBC, Kara worked for the SFU Local Food Project and helped to start a pocket farmers market on Burnaby Mountain.

Angela Griffiths, Director of Conservation and Environmental Affairs *Vancouver Aquarium*. She has a Masters degree in Microbiology and a Doctorate in Environmental Science from the University of British Columbia, and a Bachelors of Science in Genetics from the University of Western Ontario. Angela has worked as a Research Director for the Macleod Institute in Calgary, an Executive Director of Clean Nova Scotia in Halifax, CEO of Sheltair in Vancouver and is now the Director of Conservation at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Allison Morrison, Manager of Technology Development in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer at *BC Hydro*. She sits on the British Columbia Institute of Technology Environmental Industry Advisory Committee, and is a regular speaker at Smart Grid and Sustainability related community and industry events. In her fifteen-year career at BC Hydro, Allison has spearheaded the use of new technologies to improve the company's environmental performance. Over the last two years her assignments included the development of BC Hydro's Smart Grid strategy and technology roadmap, several demonstration projects in robotics and alternative energy, and most recently the creation of a set of eco-system based metrics for measuring environmental performance.

Ting Pan has a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a Master's of Science degree in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from UBC. She is currently a consultant with *Recollective*, a green building and sustainable community development consulting company based in Vancouver. Her green building projects include school facility, social housing and commercial office.

Prior to joining Recollective, Ting worked as an independent sustainability researcher, educator and consultant for private business, municipal government and not-for-profit organizations such as GVRD, City of Vancouver Sustainability Group and the Vancouver Branch of the Cascadia Region Green Building Council. She initiated and delivered many community outreach and public education projects. She has been invited to present her research to graduate students at UBC, to developers and architects in special learning events, and to policy makers and educators in conferences. She was one of the panel speakers on the Canadian Institute of Planners national conference in 2005.

Susan Rutherford has been Staff Counsel with *West Coast Environmental Law* since 2004 and since 2006, has led West Coast's Liveable and Sustainable Communities program. Susan works with communities and local governments to promote local government bylaws and policy tools that support smart growth. This work includes researching and/or promoting tools to:

encourage compact, complete communities; integrate sustainability principles and planning into decision-making processes; avoid or reduce land use conflicts; encourage public participation in decision-making processes; reduce the potential negative environmental and social impacts of development (including resource development) on communities; encourage and support green buildings and "green infrastructure" (infrastructure that preserves or mimics natural ecological functions); and encourage fiscal sustainability. Susan holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Political Studies from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Laws from York University's Osgoode Hall. Prior to joining West Coast, Susan operated a sole practice in Vancouver.

Robyn Spencer is a planning analyst at *EcoPlan International* with particular expertise in community economic development, communications and public engagement. Over the past several years, Robyn has worked on a variety of projects related to integrated community planning, social enterprise and environmental sustainability in both the private and non-profit sectors. Robyn's recent work has included traditional land use and oral history mapping, feasibility studies for social enterprise development, sustainable transportation research, food security and environmental entrepreneurship. Robyn's international work includes a project assisting in the formation of a Sustainable Consumption Network that included 13 Central and Eastern European countries, attendance as an official delegate at the 2005 United Nations Climate Change Conference, and the organization of several local economic development learning events at the World Urban Forum in 2006. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Development Studies from McGill University and is currently completing her Professional Development Certificate in Community Economic Development at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Robyn was recently accepted as a Provisional Member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia and the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Angela Stadel Policy Analyst, *Environment Canada*. Angela Stadel is a policy analyst with Environment Canada and works on transboundary issues and partnerships in the Georgia Basin Puget Sound ecosystem. A Bachelor's degree in Geography at McGill University and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo lead Angela to pursue work experiences with a number of different organizations including the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, GVRD Parks, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Yellowknife and with Environment Canada since 2003. Through all these positions, Angela has maintained a strong interest in community-based resource management and the power bringing multiple interests to the table. Since 2005, Angela has also worked as a mediator and is a member of the BC Mediator Roster Society. Angela enjoys sharing her love of nature and the outdoors with her two young children and husband.

Vanessa Timmer Vanessa Timmer is co-founder and Director of the *One Earth Initiative* With her sister Dagmar, she co-hosts the Canadian television show, *The Sustainable Region* and co-founded three environmental organizations, including the One Earth Initiative and Environmental Youth Alliance.

Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sociology from Queen's University and a M.Sc. in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford and a Ph.D. in Resource Management and Environmental Studies from the University of British Columbia. Vanessa was a Fulbright Research Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and has participated in international academic and practitioner conferences including the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. She has co-authored various academic articles and "The Livable City" for the 2006 United Nations World Urban Forum. Vanessa has worked as a researcher for the exhibition team of a £100 million UK Millennium Flagship project, the Earth Centre. Vanessa sits on the Board of Judith Marcuse Projects, a not-for-profit that promotes art practice as a transformative tool, creating positive social change.