



Global Greenbelts Conference

Overview and Proceedings



March 22nd - 24th, 2011

Radisson Admiral Hotel

Toronto, Canada

www.globalgreenbeltsconference.ca



Possibility grows here.



Global Greenbelts Conference

Local Solutions to Global Challenges



Foreword 1



Greenbelts Speak, the World Listens 3
An International Gathering



Citizens Grow Greenbelts 4
The Importance of Civic Engagement



Ecosystems: An Investment for Life 6
Appraising a Most Precious Resource



Inspiring Voices, Friendly Faces 8
Event Gallery



Agriculture: Sowing Viability 10
Farming the Future



Fostering Sustainable Economies 12
Landscapes of Opportunity



Our Natural Protectors 14
Greenbelts Address Climate Change



Moderators and Speakers 16



Sponsors 17



Foreword

The true significance of the Toronto Global Greenbelts Conference, which these proceedings speak to, will grow with the passing years. The Conference will prove to be an international watershed moment, a useful and many faceted event. These Conference highlights document the results of a gathering of minds, and a sharing of experiences in order to bring discipline to urbanization and respect for the rural environment.

As the Conference proceeded, it became ever clearer that there is much to do, and that a great deal of permanent damage has already been done. We could have buckled in the face of the diversity of the challenges. But, instead, the Conference, and now these proceedings offer optimism, tempered with realism and garnished with a sense of urgency.

The Conference ended with a clear call to establish a Global Greenbelts Network to share best practices and lessons learned, and to acknowledge that one size does not fit all landscapes. Some greenbelts will be mainly farmland, others predominantly natural features whilst, elsewhere, the emphasis may be on helping manage growth. No country or region need feel again that they are pursuing a lonely path.

This is just the beginning; delegates are aware that there is much to be done. We must pester, cajole, embarrass and be tenacious in order to ensure that where, hitherto, there might have been short-term thinking there will now be long-term planning that recognizes the many benefits greenbelts provide to people in our cities, towns, and villages.

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation is to be congratulated. It was a privilege to have been present at Toronto in March 2011 and a pleasure to write the foreword to this report.

Peter Waine, Chair, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), United Kingdom



Warsaw, Mazovia Region, Poland

“We need to transform all our greenbelts, into living, learning, laboratories for change”

– Pam Warhurst, Forestry Commission, Incredible Edible
Todmorden and Pennine Prospects

Greenbelts Speak, The World Listens

For three days in March of 2011, Toronto, Canada opened its doors to a new era of possibilities, by hosting the first ever Global Greenbelts Conference. As an internationally recognized leader of robust greenbelt policy, Ontario proved a fitting setting for the unprecedented event. Organized by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, the Conference welcomed a mix of policymakers, practitioners, academics and advocates of greenbelts from across the globe. Over 200 attendees from Canada, Europe, Australia, South America and the United States converged to share ideas and forge an ongoing collaboration.

Speakers and delegates shared much common ground given all greenbelts incorporate complex systems, including woodlands, water resources, biodiversity, productive farmland, vibrant communities, and cultural heritage. Attendees discovered the diversity of the world’s greenbelts – from long-established greenbelts created to preserve rural landscapes and provide separation between urban areas and countryside, to second generation greenbelts with more specific aims and greater public appreciation of their natural assets, to greenbelts just in the making.

In every case, the greenbelts represented at the Conference are living, working landscapes, each providing social, economic, and environmental benefits to residents, including fresh local food, clean water and air, flood protection, and pollination – all vital services helping the world’s communities cope with climate change, food security, rising oil prices, and water scarcity.

Engaging these communities was a recurring Conference theme, with an emphasis on the essential role of citizen involvement – in particular how to build political will to sustain greenbelts by bringing land-use protection policies to life for the public, and inspiring them to celebrate and enhance their local greenbelts.

The Conference also focused on ways to ensure the permanence and expansion of greenbelts, including proactively fostering agriculture and the economic potential of rural communities, and enhancing the functioning of ecosystems. Delegates expressed a need to improve policies and practices with respect to infrastructure development and resource extraction in and around greenbelts. Discussion also highlighted the importance of anti-sprawl policies, and of developing more effective governance over these important regional landscapes.

In the end, Conference speakers and delegates launched a new beginning, by calling for the creation of a Global Greenbelts Network to facilitate an ongoing sharing of research, tools, best practices, advice and support. This exciting network will not only bring together people and nations, but has the potential to position greenbelts in the world’s eyes as a model for sustainability in an increasingly urbanized age – a reality that the Conference proved, again and again, is already underway.

Join the dialogue with the Global Greenbelts Network at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/globalgreenbeltsnetwork>



Possibility grows here.



Citizens Grow Greenbelts

While many greenbelts owe their creation to a citizen push, civic engagement is just as important for greenbelts to flourish. Throughout the Conference, speakers and delegates emphasized the necessity of going beyond raising awareness of the benefits and possibilities greenbelts offer, to engaging residents directly in activities in, and for, greenbelts. Delegates shared their own experiences on civic engagement, including three inspiring examples from the United Kingdom, Germany and Ontario.

*Photos:
Incredible Edible Todmorden, United Kingdom (top left)
Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, Canada (top right)*

Incredible Edible Todmorden, United Kingdom

A community-led initiative has been literally taking root in the hamlet of Todmorden, West Yorkshire. *Edible Todmorden*, a “grow-your-own” movement founded by residents, was created to get townspeople to accept personal responsibility for sustaining their natural environment.

Without eliciting permission from local government and other authorities, the initiative’s co-founders began quite modestly, by firstly converting degraded, garbage-strewn environments into public herb gardens. They then replaced ornamental flowers with vegetables along canals and neglected roadsides, and planted fruits, vegetables and herbs in and around public spaces and civic buildings. By year three, the population’s mounting involvement stirred the local government to buy in. Today, the town-wide movement has completely transformed how Todmorden’s residents engage with food and their public green spaces.

By encouraging individuals and businesses to celebrate locally-grown foods in their everyday lives, this city once characterized by industrial grey has become inspiringly green, with 15 other towns having adopted the Todmorden model.

www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk

Iron Curtain Green Belt, Germany

The original Iron Curtain, which once separated East and West Germany, stood as a testament to division. Where this imposing border once stretched now lays a testament to openness: the Iron Curtain Green Belt, a vast, welcoming ribbon of land spanning 1,393 kilometres.

The region’s myriad of landscapes and habitats, with over 600 endangered animal and plant species, weave together a diverse tapestry of experiences for visitors. In collaboration with local governments and NGOs across three

“We have to make these greenbelts resilient... they need to be owned and supported by the people within them and that benefit from them”

– Agata Cieszewska, Warsaw University of Life Science

regions, the Germany Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) developed 29 tourist programs that combine nature conservation with sustainable tourism. Learning and adventure camps have also been established to enable younger generations to actively experience the Green Belt through outdoor work, visits to historical sites, and discussions with local residents about the region’s heritage. Whether cycling, hiking, bird watching, or paddling along an enchanting waterway, the area’s return to its earlier origins offers a variety of wonders.

While the area’s past reflects how politics were once used to separate, today’s Green Belt is proof positive that collaborative political will can open up an inclusive and expansive future.

www.experiencegreenbelt.de

Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, Canada

As one of the most welcoming destinations in the world, the Greater Toronto Area is home to a growing immigrant population. While many of the region’s economic and educational benefits are known to these new Canadians, the benefits of Ontario’s Greenbelt – a 1.8 million acre expanse of precious ecosystems, exquisite farmland and vibrant communities – haven’t always been.

Enter the *Places to Go* project. Developed by a regional NGO to attract new Canadians to the Greenbelt, the initiative began by understanding the barriers preventing immigrants from exploring the area, and then worked to remove those barriers.

The group successfully generated enthusiasm for Greenbelt outings among different immigrant communities. Through organized trips, families have been introduced to the Greenbelt’s numerous farmers’ markets, parks, conservation areas and heritage sites, with guides and interpreters adapting their narratives to suit non-native English speakers. The result: more new Canadian families are experiencing an appreciation for the Greenbelt.

For the next phase, the NGO has created a program with activities such as developing trails, planting trees and removing invasive species, all to foster an engaging, lasting bond with the Greenbelt among new citizens – one that should transcend cultures, and generations.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Some greenbelts are particularly notable for the role citizen-driven action has played in their establishment.

Consider São Paulo, Brazil, where, in the 1970s, a broad-based civil society movement opposed a circular highway that would have intruded on sensitive natural heritage areas. The force of opposition transformed into a force of proposition with a proposal to create a biosphere reserve. Their efforts, supported by the Forest Institute, led to the establishment in 1993 of the São Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve – a region encompassing 17,000 square kilometres, including 6,000 square kilometres of invaluable forests and precious ecosystems.

In Frankfurt, Germany, city planners designed a highly participatory process to engage citizens in the development of the city’s Green Belt. They received input from a variety of stakeholders – some advocating that the Green Belt primarily be a nature reserve while others felt it was better suited to recreation. City government planners incorporated both objectives into the final Green Belt Charter in 1991, creating an experiential preserve that protects sensitive species while offering visitors a wealth of outdoor activities.



Ecosystems: An Investment for Life

Natural and managed ecosystems provide an essential array of services like food, water purification, climate regulation and recreation. Governments and NGOs are looking to estimate the monetary values of these services to ensure that they be properly considered when making land use and public investment decisions. Tools to assess these values are becoming more sophisticated, and Conference delegates learned about examples from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Ontario. They also heard the latest on innovative programs to restore and enhance our greenbelts' precious ecosystems.



Photos:
Mersey Forest, United Kingdom (top)
Iron Curtain Green Belt, Germany (bottom)

Mersey Forest, United Kingdom

The Northwest Region of the United Kingdom has a history of making public investment decisions that support key greening initiatives, including the designation of two community forests in the early 1990s. One of those, The Mersey Forest is a network of community woodlands and green spaces containing over eight million trees planted since 1994. This flourishing expanse is the result of a program that provides grants to help create, improve and manage woodlands while supporting businesses that further the local timber industry.

“Just as growing communities need to improve and develop their grey infrastructure (i.e. roads, sewers, utility distribution infrastructure) their green infrastructure needs to be upgraded and expanded”

– Will Williams, Natural Economy Northwest

The team behind the program positioned the forest and the larger Green Belt as a vital network of green infrastructure connecting the region's cities, towns and villages. The value of the forest's environmental, social and economic benefits was recently assessed at £ 2 million annually. With the help of special events and other resources, residents and visitors are also discovering the forest's intrinsic value to their well being.

www.merseyforest.org.uk

Natural Economy Northwest, United Kingdom

Natural Economy Northwest has been at the forefront of identifying, disseminating, and promoting the economic advantages and financial value of ecosystems.

Among the partnership's efforts is the development of a practical valuation toolkit to help make the case for natural infrastructure. By assisting decision makers considering environmental projects as part of wider economic development investments, the toolkit helps quantify the fiscal benefits of ecosystems, demonstrating the irrefutable connection between economy and ecology.

www.naturaleconomynorthwest.co.uk
www.bit.ly/givaluationtoolkit

Iron Curtain Green Belt, Germany

Six is the magic number in the Iron Curtain Green Belt, where Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation has, together with the Federal Ministry of the Environment, developed and financially supported six large-scale nature conservation projects. Through collaboration with local authorities and NGOs, each project has its own objectives, embracing the unique local conditions and natural features. For example, 400 hectares of

the Elbe River floodplain were restored by relocating a river dyke, allowing flood dynamics to naturally model the landscape. Other projects include the purchase or long-term leasing of land, as well as compensatory payments for conservation-related restrictions, and measures to manage and develop the sites.

Germany's Friends of the Earth (BUND) are also working to restore key Green Belt landscapes to their natural state. Using funds generated through its *Green Share Program*, BUND purchases land and implements wetland restoration and other projects to enhance biodiversity. Throughout the region, yesterday is reclaiming tomorrow.

www.bund.net
www.bfn.de/index+M52087573ab0.html

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Conference was abuzz with discussions about integrating nature into cities, in particular the incorporation of vegetation into the fabric of urban structures. Examples included plants growing on walls and roofs, and alternative green infrastructure such as permeable and porous paving systems and cisterns.

Greening a city's architecture and infrastructure can ameliorate the heat island effect, help cool individual buildings, assist in water recycling, and enhance air quality. It also supports habitats to nurture biodiversity. The lesson: building with nature is building a better urban future.

**“The creation of greenbelts is really an act of optimism,
it’s really an expression of hope for the future”**

– Rick Smith, Environmental Defence



Inspiring Voices, Friendly Faces

Plenary Speakers

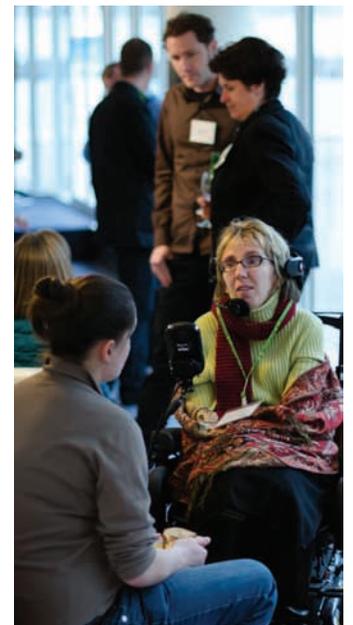
Margaret Atwood (top left)
Honourable Jim Bradley, MPP (top right)
Dr. Ronald Williamson (middle right)
Jan Whitelaw (middle left)

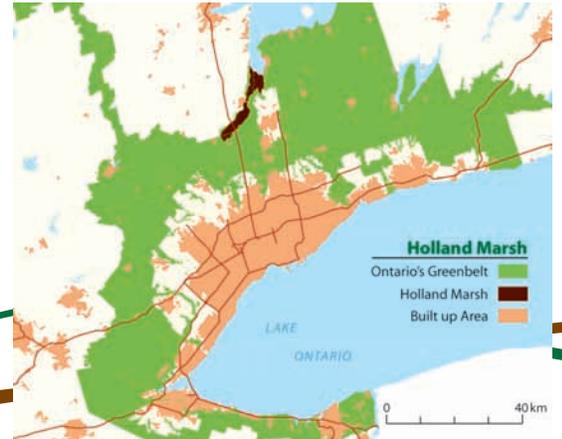


Conference Photos by: Craig Wheeler



Sarah Harmer (right)
Second City (above)



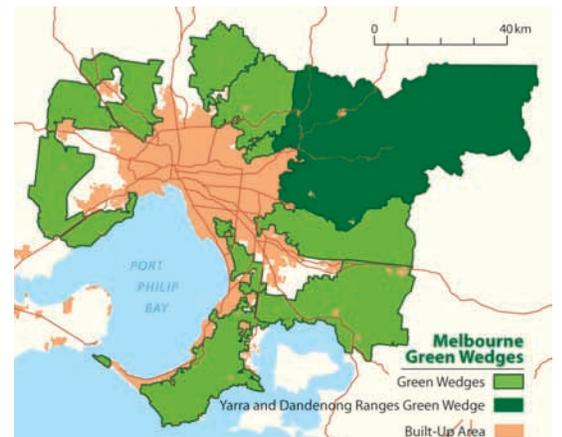


Agriculture: Sowing Viability

Farmers working in and around greenbelts face a number of challenges, some in part due to their proximity to large urban centres. Conflicts with the amenity interests of rural life-stylers, complex regulatory requirements and processes, and loss of farm infrastructure are driving farmers to create new ways to benefit from neighbouring cities and related markets. The result: more policymakers and consumers are recognizing the importance of a secure local food supply, as well as reawakening to the freshness, diversity, and quality of locally grown food. Speakers at the Conference provided some exciting examples of how farmers and partners are working to stay viable, for now and into the future.

Photos:
Holland Marsh, Canada (top left)
FarmStart, Canada (middle right)

Maps:
Holland Marsh, Canada
Melbourne Green Wedges, Australia



“The conclusion I keep coming to is that a city in isolation from its hinterland is unsustainable, most of our food comes from the areas closest to urban centres”

– John Ginivan, Department of Planning and Community Development,
Victoria State Government

Ontario's Greenbelt: Holland Marsh, Canada

For the several million consumers living in the Greater Toronto Area, the appetite for local food has been steadily growing. Farmers in the Holland Marsh area of Ontario's Greenbelt have responded by adjusting their operations and sounding a collaborative charge. Several key strategies have helped this fertile region turn its densely-populated urban neighbour into a highly viable market.

The farmers began by branding their product with an identity, and marketing it extensively. They also became certified as local and sustainable to appeal to new markets, and developed alternative market channels by selling at local farmers' markets and creating food box programs – allowing them to connect directly with consumers. To ensure their supply could meet the evolving demand, some have diversified their produce to appeal to the ethnically diverse population of Southern Ontario, while adding value to their raw produce for good measure. Through their collective savvy, Holland Marsh farmers have proven that changing times can also be prosperous times.

www.hollandmarsh.org

Melbourne Green Wedges: Yarra Valley, Australia

In the late 1960s, Australia's Victoria State government realized that the natural resources and agricultural productivity of the Upper Yarra Region (now part of the Yarra Valley, Yarra and Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge, the largest of Melbourne's 12 green wedges) were far more valuable than the economic benefits from intensive urban land development.

That revelation led to the introduction of strong regulatory measures to protect the land base, which continue to underpin the output of this highly productive agricultural region – home to a wealth of environmental,

recreational and tourism services, as well as a broad range of business activities. It demonstrates how deliberate policy and action taken 40 years ago, together with ongoing support for agriculture, continues to allow a region's potential to blossom.

www.dpced.vic.gov.au/planning/plansandpolicies/green-wedges

FarmStart, Canada

As we consider agriculture's future, many jurisdictions and greenbelts are concerned about who will succeed the aging farming population. Taking action on this potential crisis is FarmStart, an Ontario-based organization working to support a new generation of farmers. With support from partners including the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, FarmStart began with a multi-layered strategy to provide new farmers with the resources they lack most: contacts in the farming community, access to farmland, and access to financing.

The program's two "incubator" farms provide small plots of land along with small start up grants and equipment, support, mentorship, and networks such as *FarmLINK Ontario* – which brings new farmers together with farm owners who have land and expertise to share. While it typically takes 6-10 years to get a new farmer fully established, the program's successes suggest the inheritance of Ontario's agriculture is in good hands.

www.farmstart.ca



Fostering Sustainable Economies

Economic sustainability is inextricably linked to social and environmental sustainability, particularly in communities within greenbelts. While their proximity to major cities benefits these towns and villages through a trickling out of urban economic growth, more proactive tactics need to be taken to ensure their ongoing productivity and economic relevance. At the Conference, several examples showed how strong collaborations and new approaches can keep greenbelt communities thriving.



Photos:
Green Heart, Netherlands (top left)
São Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, Brazil (top right)
Catalonge, France, PURPLE Member (bottom right)

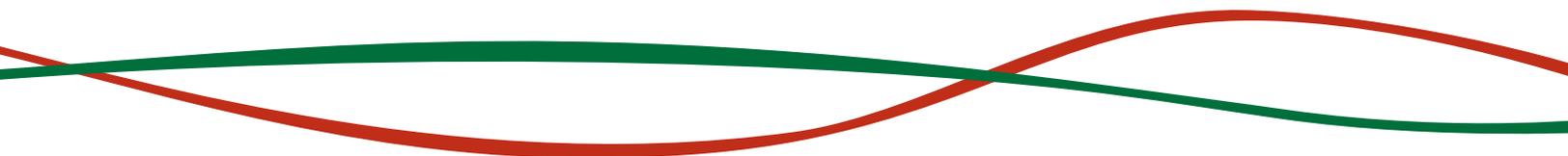
Green Zone 2025, United Kingdom

Collectively, the municipalities in and around the Merseyside Green Belt make a significant contribution – valued at £ 4.6 million annually – to the greater regional economy. To help grow their economic potential, the group created *Green Zone 2025*, a joint strategy to identify and capitalize on some truly outstanding assets: a highly skilled and educated local population; attractive employment opportunities; farmlands producing a wide range of distinctive local food; and a vibrant visitor economy driven by an extensive network of green infrastructure, including the Green Belt.

Green Zone 2025 aims to build on these attributes by: maximizing the productivity of farmlands; enhancing delivery of ecosystem services through natural capital; growing the tourism economy; increasing productivity of existing businesses through adapting skills of the workforce

“Successful greenbelts must be economically, as well as socially, and environmentally vibrant”

– Rob Hindle, Rural Innovation



and infrastructure development; and establishing new businesses including green energy. With *Green Zone 2025*, these communities are poised to claim a more prominent place on the economic map.

www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/881

Creative Rural Economy, Canada

It's smart thinking all around, as Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is helping communities capitalize on the knowledge-based, creative economy – a world where innovative and information-savvy workers play a central role.

While larger urban cities have a greater concentration of highly-skilled workers, smaller neighbouring cities and rural regions can offer much to attract such professionals to come live and work in their communities. OMAFRA has developed self-assessment tools to help communities identify and analyze their existing workforce, which can be used to build strategies to retain existing, and appeal to new, creative businesses and workers. With OMAFRA's help, smaller communities are keeping pace with big change.

www.omafra.gov.on.ca

São Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, Brazil

Since 1996, the Forest Institute has run an eco-job and entrepreneurship program for young people living in and around the São Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve. Linking the future of Brazilian youth to the future of the environment, the Institute is addressing the region's social inequities as part of its long-term conservation efforts.

Working with local partners managing 15 eco-job training centres, the program provides training in small scale agro-forestry and agro-industry,

sustainable tourism, and recycling. Since the eco-job market isn't yet ready to absorb all graduates, the program also identifies and converts corporate environmental liabilities (e.g., ecological damage) into job opportunities.

Not only have students gained greater access to permanent jobs, but their improvements to the landscape have fostered a better understanding about the Reserve from the private sector, municipalities and other partners. Boasting 3,600 graduates since the program began, the Institute is, in effect, growing a forest of human potential.

www.iflorestal.sp.gov.br

PERI-URBAN REGIONS PLATFORM EUROPE (PURPLE)

A unique European alliance captured the imaginations of Conference delegates: PURPLE, a network of peri-urban regions in the European Union links together 15 member regions, including the Netherlands' Green Heart, Frankfurt and its Green Belt, Poland's Mazovian Region, and the UK's South East England and West Midlands Green Belts.

PURPLE's members share much in common given their proximity to large urban centres. Each faces pressure from development despite their regions' significant green spaces, greenbelts, and active farming areas. Many contain sites of major infrastructure and natural resources that the near-by cities depend on, such as reservoirs and aggregate resources. Each believes in the need for tailor-made, peri-urban policies that recognize their mix of urban and rural characteristics, unique opportunities and challenges – all factors that colour PURPLE's resolve with the spirit of collaboration.

www.purple-eu.org

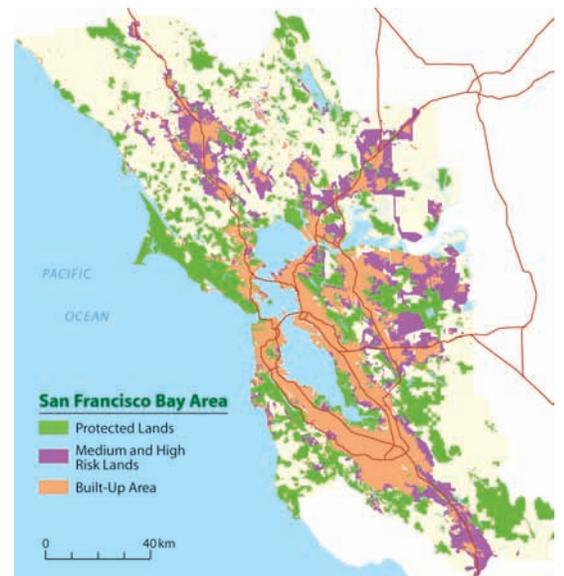


Our Natural Protectors

While there's a great deal of uncertainty as to the ultimate extent of climate change, there's a general consensus across the world as to which direction that change is taking. Natural systems including water resources, habitat and wildlife, as well as human activities such as agriculture and recreation are expected to be impacted. Delegates agreed we've never had a better opportunity to globally champion the virtues of greenbelts, and to apply their rich mix of functions in the global effort to nurture and protect our planet.

Photos:
São Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, Brazil (top left)
São Paulo City Green Belt Biosphere Reserve, Brazil (top right)

Maps:
San Francisco Bay Area, United States



“I have one question...is our greenbelt moving us to a more desirable and resilient future or is it merely slowing our decline into ever deeper unsustainability...if all we’re doing is slowing the sinking of our ship, we probably should be doing more and perhaps we should be doing it differently”

– Bob Gibson, University of Waterloo

Regge River, The Netherlands

The re-naturalization of the Regge River, east of the Netherlands’ Green Heart, is an inspiring example of how to return canalized rivers to their naturally functioning state – a key strategy in climate change adaptation.

Flooding risks in the Netherlands have been a high priority for decades, and the traditional response was to enhance dikes and embankments. But that’s changing. Instead of working against nature, Dutch Water Boards are making rivers an ally in efforts to stabilize water levels and prevent floods. The Water Board of Regge and Dinkel is in the process of providing more space for the river and floodplain in the Regge Valley, increasing its water buffering capacity to better deal with the irregular and heavier on-average rainfalls. Other advantages of the re-naturalization of the Regge include enhanced recreational and tourism opportunities, as well as associated economic benefits for municipalities. By welcoming nature back, the Regge is taking this region forward.

<http://doc.utwente.nl/77392/1/Boer11new.pdf>

San Francisco Bay Area, United States

*PDA*s. *PCA*s. Both stand for effective change in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and its partners are taking action against the single biggest contributor to the region’s greenhouse gases: transportation, the result of past sprawling land use patterns.

Financial support is being provided to facilitate smart growth in *Priority Development Areas (PDAs)* – areas within existing cities near existing or planned transit – and *Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs)* – areas protected for their significant agricultural, wildlife habitat, and recreational values.

The *Priority Development Areas* are vital. They facilitate cleaner transportation such as transit, cycling and walking; they limit greenfield development by ensuring that 97% of growth be in existing developed areas; they focus growth in cooler areas near the Bay; they reduce pressure on delta areas prone to sea level rise due to climate change; they reduce energy and water demands; and they curtail development in wildfire-sensitive areas. *Priority Conservation Areas* are equally critical, limiting development near levees, restoring wetlands, protecting watersheds, and preserving precious habitat. By stepping in with the right strategies at the right time, the Association of Bay Area Governments is stepping up its efforts to mitigate emissions and adapt to climate change.

www.abag.ca.gov

PURPLE, Europe

Since peri-urban areas include both urban and rural characteristics, they’re vulnerable to a diverse range of climate change impacts. The PURPLE network is looking at how these areas – including their greenbelts – offer ideal environments to explore innovations that could help in emissions mitigation and climate change adaptation. PURPLE has identified the importance these regions will have in feeding Europe’s growing population, their continuing role in sequestering carbon, and their potential as hotbeds of renewable energy development and distribution.

Ever open to new ideas, PURPLE is interested in hearing from other regions, networks, and organizations working on climate change strategies in a peri-urban context, inviting the world to join the conversation.

Other examples of peri-urban potential and initiatives can be found at www.purple-eu.org/publications

Global Greenbelts Conference

Local Solutions to Global Challenges

Moderators and Speakers

Patricia M. Boeckner, Director, Transportation Planning Branch, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Ontario

Dr. Trevor Budge, Associate Professor, La Trobe University, Australia

John Burke, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, Ontario

Dr. Michael Buxton, Professor, RMIT University, Australia

Annemiek Canjels, Senior Advisor, Department for Rural Development, Limburg Province, Netherlands

Dr. Agata Cieszewska, Department of Landscape Architecture, Warsaw University of Life Science, Poland

Cheryl de Boer, University of Twente, Netherlands

Lenie Dwarshuis-van de Beek, member of the Executive Board of the Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE) network, and Vice-Governor, Province of South Holland, Netherlands

Debbie Field, Executive Director, FoodShare, Ontario

Michael Florio, Community Economic Development Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario

Dr. Liana Geidezis, BUND Project Office Green Belt, BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V., Germany

Dr. Bob Gibson, Professor, Department of Environment and Resource Studies, University of Waterloo, Ontario

John Ginivan, Executive Director, Planning Policy, Department of Planning and Community Development, Victoria State Government, Australia

Franz Hartmann, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance, Ontario

Dr. Wim Heijman, Chair of Regional Economics, Wageningen University, Netherlands

Nikki Henderson, Executive Director, People's Grocery, United States

Rob Hindle, Rural Development Consultant, Rural Innovation, United Kingdom

Sandy Houston, President, Metcalf Foundation, Ontario

Marcel Houtzager, Regional Portfolio Holder on Green Policy, Recreation and Tourism, the Hague Region, Netherlands

Ken Kirkey, Planning Director, Association of Bay Area Governments, United States

Tatiana Koveshnikova, Ecological Goods and Services Coordinator, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Ontario

Dr. Gail Krantzberg, Professor and Director, McMaster University Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, Ontario

Kirk Miller, former Chief Executive Officer & Chair, Agricultural Land Commission, and KB Miller & Associates, British Columbia

Peter Mitchell, Research Associate, Centre for Land and Water Stewardship, University of Guelph, Ontario

Dr. Faisal Moola, Director, Terrestrial Conservation and Science Program, David Suzuki Foundation, Ontario

Paul Nolan, Project Director, The Mersey Forest Team, United Kingdom

Steven Peck, Founder and President, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities and the Green Infrastructure Foundation, Ontario

Mike Puddister, Director, Restoration and Stewardship, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Ontario

Jamie Reaume, Executive Director, the Holland Marsh Growers' Association, Ontario

Stephanie Reyes, Policy Director, Greenbelt Alliance, United States

Dr. Uwe Riecken, Head of Habitat Protection and Landscape Ecology, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

Dr. Pamela Robinson, Associate Professor, Ryerson University School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ontario

Nicola Ross, Editor, Alternatives Journal, Ontario

Nick Saul, Executive Director, The Stop Community Food Centre, Ontario

Gabriel Schwaderer, Executive Director, Euronatur, Germany

Sri Sethuratnam, Program Manager, FarmStart, Ontario

Chandra Sharma, Watershed Specialist and Senior Manager Climate Programs, Toronto Region Conservation Authority, Ontario

Dr. Rick Smith, Executive Director, Environmental Defence, Ontario

Lori Stahlbrand, Founder and President of Local Food Plus (LFP), Ontario

Dr. Henrik Vejre, Professor, Forest and Landscape Department, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Rodrigo Victor, Director-General, São Paulo State Forest Institute, Brazil

Peter Waine, Chair, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), United Kingdom

Pam Warhurst, CBE, Chair, Forestry Commission GB, Co-founder, Incredible Edible Todmorden and Chair, Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom

Klaus Wichert, Head of the Environment Department, Frankfurt-RheinMain, Germany

Dr. Will Williams, Former Programme Director, Natural Economy Northwest, United Kingdom

Dr. Mark Winfield, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Ontario

Conference Sponsors

Many thanks to our Conference Sponsors:



Aeroplan – Canada’s Primer Coalition Loyalty Program



Taste of Nature – Producer of Go Ontario Bars



Bullfrog Power – Bullfrog Power is Canada’s 100% green electricity provider, offering a clean, renewable electricity choice



Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany



Green Living – A Canadian publication and portal offering information about organics, health, the environment, and eco-consumer products



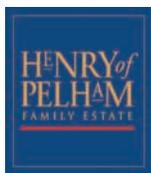
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Steam Whistle Brewing – Brewed at The Roundhouse, home of the steam locomotives that helped pioneer our nation, brings you authentically crafted Pilsner



Consulate General of the Republic of Poland



Henry of Pelham Family Estate Winery – Niagara winery producing since 1988, and founding member of Vinters Quality Assurance (VQA)



Mountain Equipment Co-op – Providing quality gear and excellent value to its customers



Southbrook Vineyards - Niagara winery producing Organic wines and following LEED-Gold Standards



Plan B Organic – A CSA committed to growing delicious, high quality organic vegetables, herbs and fruits



Ontario Professional Planners Institute



Cooper’s Farm & Maze – A CSA that is certified as a LFP, local sustainable, food producer

Front and Back Cover Photos:

Front Cover main photo: Global Greenbelts Conference March 2011

Front Cover smaller photos (left to right): Ontario Greenbelt, Ontario Greenbelt, Ontario Greenbelt

Back Cover: Ontario Greenbelt

