

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 15)

[Episode 15: Climate Action in and by Canada: ENGO Voices](#)

Overview: What role do ENGOs play in the Canadian ecopolitical sphere? Catherine Abreu, Executive Director of Climate Action Network Canada, and Colleen Thorpe, Executive Director of Équiterre walk us through the roles their organizations play in fighting for climate policy and shifting cultural norms in Canada.

Key Takeaways

- Civil society organizations often bridge the gaps between national and global, building collective action and mobilization that may lead to policy solutions across various countries. Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOs) may work at the local community level, nationally, or globally.
- Various types of organized work contribute to change at various levels of governance. For example, ENGOs may advocate for change through mobilization, policy work, environmental campaigns, and other types of expertise offered through civil society.
- ENGOs work in a challenging political space both nationally and globally, for example, navigating tensions between resource extraction and environmental protection for changing social norms within Canada's national policies.
- The work of Canadian ENGOs is evolving, by, for example, creating a more inclusive movement that recognizes intersectionality and thus the diverse and uneven consequences of the climate crisis within Canada.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think are obstacles and opportunities for collective action by ENGOs, and other actors, on climate change and related policy within Canada today?
2. Thorpe and Abreu discuss the roles that ENGOs may play within ecopolitics. Do you agree that ENGOs are important players in domestic and global climate politics today?
3. What difference might having more diverse voices in the climate movement make to the types of actions and policies ENGOs advocate for?
4. To what extent do you think cynicism limits both individual and collective action on climate policy within Canada, and what can be done to counter it?

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Learn more about our Guests

Catherine Abreu

- <https://climateactionnetwork.ca/ourteam/>

Colleen Thorpe

- <https://www.equiterre.org/en/equipe/colleen-thorpe>

Select articles and videos

- Omni Television. “Climate Change - **Catherine Abreu**.” July 3 2021. Web. <https://www.omnitv.ca/bc/pa/videos/climate-change-catherine-abreu/>
- **Abreu, Catherine**, Deb Abbey, Elizabeth Sheehan, Norm Tasevski, and Peter Chapman. “Tracking the Transition to Clean Energy.” Policy Options. April 12 2017. Web. <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/april-2017/tracking-the-transition-to-clean-energy/>
- Centr’ERE. “23 mars - 3e panel : Quels leviers?” Youtube. March 30 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGrhmj86pww>
- McDonnell, Edward and **Colleen Thorpe** “Harassing the power of soil to help farmers build climate resilience.” The Hill Times. May 3 2021. <https://www.hilltimes.com/2021/05/03/harnessing-the-power-of-soil-to-help-farmers-build-climate-resilience/295985>

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Explore resources mentioned in this episode

- Catherine Abreau's twitter thread
<https://twitter.com/catabreu/status/1306262589215735810>
- Canada Labour Congress <https://canadianlabour.ca/>
- David Suzuki Foundation <https://david Suzuki.org/>
- GreenPeace <https://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/>
- Just Recovery for All <https://justrecoveryforall.ca/>
- Klein, Seth. *A Good War : Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* . ECW Press, 2020. Print.
- Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change
www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/pan-canadian-framework.html
- Pembina Institute <https://www.pembina.org/>
- Oxfam <https://www.oxfam.ca/>
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - Earth Summit 1992
<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992>
- United Nations. "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" 1992.
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>

Learn more about Civil Society, Mobilization, and ENGOs

- Andrée, Peter, Jill K Clark, Charles Z Levkoe, and Kristen Lowitt. *Civil Society and Social Movements in Food System Governance*. 1st ed. Taylor & Francis, 2019.
- Nulman, Eugene. *Climate Change and Social Movements Civil Society and the Development of National Climate Change Policy*. 1st ed. 2015. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2015. Web.
- Sussman, Reuven, Robert Gifford, and Wokje Abrahamse. *Social Mobilization: How to Encourage Action on Climate Change*. Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, 2016.
- Klein, Naomi and Rebecca Steoff. *How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other*. Penguin Random House Canada Young Readers. 2021.