

## ***ECOPOLITICS PODCAST EPISODE 4.1: We're Back!*** ***Talking about the Anthropocene....***

### **Additional Pedagogical Resources**

*Summary: We're back and excited to share where the Ecopolitics Podcast is going with Season 4. Hosts Peter Andree and Ryan Katz-Rosene reflect on where we've gone over the last three seasons. Together, they explore how many of the themes and topics of the podcast remain relevant and continuously changing, from the Carbon Tax and Sustainable Food Systems to Indigenous Environmental Politics. Tune in to hear Ryan and Peter introduce Season 4: Politics of the Anthropocene! We are excited to share a series of episodes that put today's politics into the longer-term context of how our societies engage with the more-than-human world with expert insights, thought-provoking discussions, and practical solutions.*

### **Key Takeaways**

- The major themes of the Ecopolitics Podcast continue to have relevance but changed and evolved over the last 3 seasons. Peter and Ryan will continue to explore changing themes, such as sustainable agriculture, Indigenous environmental politics, and collaborative governance, and how they fit in a longer-term perspective of the Anthropocene, a new geological epoch that is defined by human activity.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What does the term "Anthropocene" mean to you, and how do you think it reshapes our understanding of human-nature relationships?
- What are some of the themes from the Ecopolitics Podcast that remain at the forefront for you? How have these issues evolved since 2022, from your perspective?
- What episode of the podcast would you revisit? How have things changed on that issue?
- What does 'hope' mean to you when it comes to the environment? What work and actions in the world and your community bring you hope?

## Explore resources mentioned in these episodes:

Select articles, books, projects, resources, and previous episodes

### Green House Gas taxes:

- In season 1, we unpacked [Canadian Federalism and Environmental Politics with Kathryn Harrison and Andrea Olive](#), which lays the groundwork for our focus on the Carbon Tax in the Canadian context.
- For more on He Waka Eke Noa collaborative governance process, you can find our previous discussion on Māori environmental perspectives in mainstream thinking in Aotearoa season 2 episode [Dairy Cows, Climate Change, and Settler Colonialism, insights from Aotearoa \(New Zealand\)](#).

### Sustainable Food Systems:

- We're excited to continue the conversation on sustainable food systems with Peter and Ryan's work on [The Strategic Framework for Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture in Canada: Recommendations for Philanthropy](#). This report was created under the umbrella of [The Transition Accelerator](#), mentioned by James Meadowcroft in [Season 1, Episode 2 : Introduction to Ecopolitics](#).
- We discuss regenerative agriculture in our [season 3 episode 2 with Paige Stanley and Tara Garnett on sustainable protein](#).

### Indigenous Environmental Politics:

- Resources on recognizing ecosystems as legal rights holders, like the Whanganui River in Aotearoa and the movement led by elder and former chief of Kitigan Zibi, Gilbert Whiteduck, [for legal personhood for Te-nagàdino-zibi \(Gatineau River\) in Ontario](#).
- The "[Sustainability Transition Challenge Wānanga](#)", co-organized by Peter and John Reid, took place in Otautahi/Christchurch in June 2023.
- [The Living Relations Partnership](#) brings together Indigenous and academic partners from Canada and Aotearoa. It began with an [in-person gathering](#) in N'Dakimenan, the traditional territory of the Teme Augama Anishinaabe, in August 2024.

### Growth-Environment Debate:

- Ryan Katz-Rosene's book, [The Growth-Environment Debate](#) (due to be published in Spring, 2025), introduces the debate about the future of the relationship between growth and the environment and is a major theme for

this season.

### **The Anthropocene:**

- International Union of Geological Sciences rejection of moving from the Holocene to the Anthropocene Epoch.

### **Mindful Approaches to Ecopolitics:**

- Joanna Macy and Christopher Johnstone's Active Hope is a guiding resource supporting the theme of taking a mindful approach to eco-politics.
- Leggett, W. (2021). Can Mindfulness really change the world? The political character of meditative practices. *Critical Policy Studies*, 16(3), 261–278. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19460171.2021.1932541>
- Richter, Nadine and Marcel Hunecke, (2022). Mindfulness, connectedness to nature, personal ecological norm and pro-environmental behavior: A daily diary study. *Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology* (vol 3): 100038.
- Berila, Beth. (2024). *Integrating Mindfulness into Anti-Oppression Pedagogy: Social Justice in Higher Education. (Second Edition)* London: Routledge.

