

Research & Innovation Week

Lakehead University March 7-11, 2022

Open Call for Presentations - deadline February 1, 2022

Research Showcase 2022

Lakehead University declared the 2021-2022 school year the Year of Climate Action (YOCA). **In support of the YOCA, we are excited to announce the theme for this year's Research and Innovation Week is Planetary Stewardship, which will showcase Lakehead's contributions to climate change and climate action research.**

Lakehead University faculty, along with their students and community partners, from all disciplines are invited to organize panel discussions, workshops, and creative presentations that showcase how Lakehead University research projects, innovative collaborations and initiatives are playing a role in the achievement of planetary stewardship. This day-long event will take place Tuesday, March 8 from 9 am - 4:00 pm. Additional time in the schedule may be available depending on interest.

Over the years, scientific evidence and research has made the case for climate action and the need to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in each year of this decade if we are to avoid the worst of human-caused climate change. To respond to this urgent call, collaboration, research, and innovation on climate action and planetary stewardship is necessary. Faculty, staff and students, as well as their wider stakeholder community and alumni play a critical role in responding to the challenges of climate change by delivering climate-related knowledge and innovation into society and educating global citizens. Help us showcase how our research is amplifying the change needed for societal transformation.

We are approaching climate action and planetary stewardship broadly. If you are unsure whether your research relates to climate action or planetary stewardship, the [glossary](#) of terms below may provide some assistance.

Faculty members interested in delivering a presentation/panel/workshop event are asked to complete the simple Google application form which can be accessed [here](#) by **February 1, 2022**. One hour time slots are available through the Pheedloop virtual platform. Panel presentations that fit the RI Week "Planetary Stewardship" theme are encouraged.

Faculty members selected to host events will receive the following support from the Office of Research Services: access to our virtual platform Pheedloop, graphic design services, advertising and social media support. Faculty members are responsible for all other aspects of event planning, including advertising and promoting the event beyond Lakehead University through their own networks.

Our virtual platform, Pheedloop, also supports an Exhibit Hall. We are also looking for suggestions of funding agencies, foundations, and community partners who can be invited to showcase how their organizations can support universities in achieving planetary stewardship.

Please contact Sheena Allard, Research Events Coordinator (events.research@lakeheadu.ca), if you have questions about participating in the Research Showcase.

Glossary of Climate Action and Climate Change Terms:

The definitions below were sourced from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with additional support from the YOCA Coordinating Committee.

Climate Mitigation

The IPCC defines climate mitigation as: “A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gasses” ([IPCC](#)).

“Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other “sinks” to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere” ([UNFCCC](#)).

Climate Adaptation

The IPCC defines climate adaptation as: “In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects” ([IPCC](#)).

“There is no ‘one-size-fits-all-solution’—adaptation can range from building flood defenses, setting up early warning systems for cyclones and switching to drought-resistant crops, to redesigning communication systems, business operations and government policies” ([UNFCCC](#)). Lakehead has a rain garden and Thunder Bay has many *low impact developments*—areas designed to naturally slow runoff and filter water during rain events, easing the volume in storm sewers; these are examples of adaptations designed to minimize flooding and protect water quality.

Resilience

The IPCC defines climate resilience as: “The capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation. This definition builds from the definition used by the Arctic Council (2013)” ([IPCC](#)). While adaptation may focus on specific accommodations to long-term anticipated climate impacts, resilience is about the ability of our larger systems to absorb multiple climate-related stressors while maintaining their essential function. In the words of Connect4Climate, “If adaptation is about bailing water from our sinking ship, resilience is about reinforcing the parts of the hull that haven’t yet been breached to reduce future risk” ([Connect4Climate](#)).

Climate Activism

Climate activism refers to actions aimed at affecting political and social change related to climate change and its impacts, or to stopping destructive practices. Climate activism can include campaigns to encourage individual behavior change or systemic change. Examples include the *Friday’s for Future* movement, Indigenous resistance to pipelines, and talking to friends or family about climate change.

Climate Education and Raising Awareness

Climate education and raising awareness refers to education, knowledge mobilization, and awareness-raising on climate change and its impacts. Examples include embedding climate change or climate action into curriculum, as well as podcasts, articles, books, art, and more.