

EES C21 Urban environmental issues of the Greater Toronto Area

Day: Thursdays

Room: BV: 363

Time: 10-12

Fall 2010

Purpose

The world is increasingly urban and urban development is proceeding at an astonishing pace. By 2050 it is estimated that 5 billion people will live in a city; 80% of Canadians already do. The effects are far reaching; environmental impacts arise from the need to import energy and other resources and as waste materials are exported to surrounding areas. The risk from natural hazards increases as urban areas grow; the regional climate is also altered and there are massive impacts on watersheds, the hydrological cycle and groundwaters. Most cities face the challenge of 'historic wastes' disposed of in the past under lax environmental regulation while grappling with modern wastes.

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the impact of urban development on watersheds and waterfronts principally across the Greater Toronto Area but we will also touch on global issues. It will interest students from a broad range of disciplines from specialist environment scientists to those interested in urban planning and design, or urban ecology. What you learn in this course can be applied to any urban area. At the conclusion of the course we will attempt to answer the simple question; are urban areas environmentally sustainable? Can they be made to be sustainable?

Course content and major themes

Lectures (and an all day field trip during week 5 at a time convenient for all) will familiarize you with the broad, wide-

A group written project (2 students max) is due at the *beginning of class* week 6 (October 21

