



Screening at Bishop's University  
Event Report  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2013

In spite of the midterm season, there as was a good turnout for the Switch film screening at the Gait (Student Union Building) on Bishop's University campus. The evening was put together by Bishop's University, Musée de la Nature et des Sciences de Sherbrooke, and Let's Talk Energy. Following the film, a diverse group of experts were gathered to participate in a round-table discussion about the film and the concerns that it addressed.

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR				
<b>Kassandra McAdams-Roy</b> , Co-President, Bishop's University Environmental Club				
ROUND - TABLE DISCUSSION MEMBERS				
<b>Michael Caron</b>	<b>Dr. Terry Eyland</b>	<b>Dr. Jean Manore</b>	<b>Dr. Matthew Peros</b> Canada Research Chair in Climate and Environmental Change	<b>Dr. Peter Stoett</b>
Director of Buildings & Grounds, Bishop's University	Professor, Economics Department, Bishop's University	Professor, History Department, Bishop's University	Associate Professor, Environmental Studies and Geography Department, Bishop's University	Professor and Director, Loyola Sustainability Research Centre, Concordia University

Highlights from the discussion included:

- The term “sustainable development” has been oft considered to be an oxymoron because ‘development’ has been defined as large-scale industrialization. Whether “sustainable development” is possible depends on how one defines the constituent terms.
- The difference between natural climate change and anthropogenic (human induced) climate change is that the latter is observable on shorter time scales. It was also argued that climate change should be animating public policy, economic development decisions, and individual actions.
- Bishop's University's geothermal energy project was entirely publicly funded and reduced its GHG emissions by 60%. Projects such as this are possible when the public creates the demand for it. It is also worthy of note that the implementation of renewable energy projects are dependent upon the types of renewable energy available in the specific geographic region.
- While it may not be possible to completely switch off of fossil fuels (fuel is still needed for airplanes and commuting long distances) much of its load can be shifted to electricity and natural gas which are cleaner sources of energy.
- Carbon taxes generally do not work because companies can shift their production to other countries where no such taxes exist. Furthermore, carbon taxes can increase the cost of production of a good, subsequently raising the sale price. Consumers can buy cheaper alternatives imported from countries without a carbon tax, hence the lower cost. A Border Tax

Adjustment relative to the GHG emission intensity could create an incentive for other countries and private sector corporations to reduce their carbon emissions, while levelling the playing field.

- The major hurdle to a societal change towards reducing of energy use is that the cost of energy is too low. Government subsidies create artificially low prices on non-renewable energy sources.