

Project Title: Under the Weather: Climate Change Research and Justice

Budget Requested: \$26,558

Project leader: Courtney Kirkby, News Coordinator, CKUT

I. Project Overview

Project summary:

Under the Weather: Climate Change Research and Justice will be a McGill Sustainability Fund & Radio CKUT year-long monthly broadcast lecture series with an alternating focus on research on causes and impacts of climate change and climate justice actors, with a priority on presenting McGill researchers and alumni. Each semester will have four events: three speakers and one roundtable. During the fall and winter sessions the events will be held on McGill campus, concluding with a feature speaker. The summer session will be held in the community venues dedicated to sustainability, for example, Cafe L'Artere, PHI Centre and Santropol Roulante. Speeches will last one hour, followed by audience interaction through questions, comments and discussion. The lectures will be live broadcast during one of CKUT's popular syndicated progressive lecture show 'Grey Matters', giving it a large base listenership.

We plan to partner with McGill environmental groups and departments, and Ecolibrium radio residency participants to co-sponsor different lectures and act as moderators. We have had various conversations with expressions of interest, but part of the research component of this project would go to researching and solidifying links to the McGill environmental community. The lectures will be broadcast live on McGill's campus radio station, CKUT 90.3FM (or www.ckut.ca) and podcast afterwards on the Ecolibrium blog, tumblr, CKUT's website and the Media Coop. Speakers will also be interviewed on CKUT. Every four months all the lectures will be packaged, distributed and promoted as an audio lecture course on climate change and climate justice through our co-sponsors, CKUT's website, the National Campus Community Radio Association, the Media Coop, the Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), Rabble.ca, Pacifica Radio Network, Alternatives and other available channels through the university. By distributing these lectures as widely as possible – bringing the campus to the community and the community to the campus.

Provide a brief background, describing the project, objectives and outcomes.

Project eligibility:

Over the last few years, we have continued to witness and gather research on drastic changes in our climate system, including melting glaciers, increased number of natural disasters, shifting coastlines and rising ocean. Likewise we have seen a climate justice movement that is gaining momentum and in size – lobbying President Obama to stop the Keystone XL pipeline that would carry oil from the Alberta tar sands, educating the public about proposed geo-engineering projects with wealthy funders with unknown impacts on our global ecosystem, and building a sustained, indigenous-led campaign against the biggest industrial project in the world, the tar sands, and countries to our south enshrining rights for the Earth. The research and action sides of climate change have come together last summer, garnering national attention, with scientists protesting “the death of evidence” under the Harper government.

We aim to provide popular education in the university and off campus contexts, bringing together the best minds and organizers at McGill and in Canada and bridging the gap between academia and the rest of the community. CKUT is uniquely positioned to coordinate this project. With one foot in the campus and one foot in the Montreal community CKUT community news and spoken word departments have a wide ranging base of contacts, both from the grassroots organizing perspective and at McGill University that the project coordinator will use in consultation to develop the series.

The lecture series will explore a range of topics related to climate justice. The first month of work will focus on research and developing some of these examples of possible topics and guests include:

-Geo-engineering and our planet, Dexter X from the Hands Off Mother Earth campaign, or Jim Thomas from

GRAIN

- Media and Climate Change, McGill Alumni, Martin Lukacs, Canada's Environmental blogger for the Guardian and Climate Justice organizer
- Understanding the results of warming experiments and predictions for plant species, Jonathan Davies, McGill Faculty, Biology Department
- Canada's Tar Sands, Clayton Thomas-Muller, Indigenous Environmental Network
- Behind the negotiations: understanding climate change negotiations
- Canada and Climate Change, David Suzuki, Nature of Things
- Melting Glaciers, James Balog, environmental photographer featured in the film "Chasing Ice"
- Gender and Climate Change, McGill Alumni and Professor, Judy Rebick
- Ecological Building – the Earthship Case – Francis Gendron
- Climate Justice, Naomi Klein
- The Science of 350, Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org
- We would like to work closely with McGill's Centre for Climate and Global Change Research to find the bring forward McGill's top researchers on these issues

Other topics, Canadian policy on Climate Change, the Death of Evidence movement, Sustainable Energy Alternatives to Oil, Fracking, Coal, Nuclear, line 9 reversal

How will the project contribute to building a culture of sustainability on campus?

We believe that accessible education is key to creating a sustainable culture. We aim to understand the biggest environmental and social threat facing us collectively from the research and policy to organizing and action. From there we have a deeper understanding of what sustainability means in this context. We believe environmentally sustainable lives is important and that we need to go beyond it and look at Canadian climate policy and the large projects like tar sands that are threatening the environment. The project will highlight research already being done on climate change at McGill and link those researching climate change to those working towards climate justice.

Provide any supporting information that demonstrates a need for the project on campus.

Many McGill students that have come to volunteer at CKUT express a desire to transfer the knowledge produced at university to the wider public. Students also look to make more connections outside the McGill bubble with the larger Montreal community working on issues social and environmental justice through the news and spoken word departments. CKUT highly values the role the station plays in bridging the gap and with this project we desire to go farther by both highlighting work done by McGill researchers and exposing students to ideas and organizing done outside of campus. Last year Canada saw the Power Shift event organized by climate justice activists, educating and building national and international strategies around our collective future. In our years of covering McGill events and lectures, we have not seen a series on this scale on this topic and neither have we seen an audio series that includes lectures by the wealth of individuals we aim to have.

We want to bring this level of conversation and education to McGill University and we believe it is an essential part of any sustainability project on campus to be aware of the largest environmental and consequently social danger in our midst. Also, by implicating the radio and professional quality podcasting, we go beyond a classic lecture series and create an audio lecture course with the cutting edge scientists, research analysts and organizers on the issue at McGill and across the country, which given almost universal internet access across the country and our solid relationships with various distribution channels, we are confident can reach a listenership of hundreds of thousands.

Timeframe/Milestones:

Start date: August 1st, 2013

August 1-September 1: research and plan outline for speaking series, contact co-sponsorship groups, find professors who may be interested in integrating the content into their curriculum and ask for their input, preliminary contact with speakers, book space for first semester, book CKUT equipment and tech assistance,

contract poster designer, have promo materials ready

Every second Thursday of the month, 7-9pm are speaker events

Promotion for each speaker will happen a minimum of 2 weeks in advance

Podcast series will be available one week after

Partial audio lecture series will be distributed in January 2014, May 2014 and the full series will be distributed in September, 2014

What performance indicators may be used to gauge the success of the project?

- number of participants that attend the event
- number of distributors that share the lecture series
- number of co-sponsorships and partnerships
- number of downloads of the podcast from our website
- evaluation forms handed around at the end of each event
- tracking initiatives that come out of this lecture series

How will the outcomes be shared with the community?

•CKUT is a benefiting from a privileged position in its relationship to a wide variety to many community groups in Montreal and beyond through the airwaves and our social media, as already mentioned we will promote this McGill-based series amongst other members of community and campus radio stations both nationally and internationally as well as such networks as Alternatives, Media Coop and Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), Rabble.ca, Pacifica Radio Network, Alternative Radio Network, TVM and more. Julia Solomon from the Office of Sustainability said that she can promote the events if they are accepted.

Stakeholders include CKUT's volunteer body, some of whom will work to help produce the radio interviews, CKUT staff work on the project, radio listeners who will participate through listening, McGill student, staff and faculty that attend the events, the community-at-large that attend the events, listeners who receive the audio lecture series through a variety of online channels, as well as in media networks. Part of the research component will be gathering co-sponsorships, as currently we have little capacity to do that. But thus far, we have made contact with the GE3C, the Aboriginal Law Students Association and the Integrated Management Institute. We have a letter of support coming from the McGill Energy Project.

II. Project Implementation

Tasks and Responsibilities:

Type of Activity	Task Estimated	Time Required	Group Member
Logistics	Book space, book tech, book and liaise with speakers, be at event, book snacks, etc.	330 hrs	Project Coordinator
Planning Series	Online, networking with McGill researchers and Climate activists, working with CKUT contacts	50 hrs	Project Coordinator
Outreach to partners	Identity partners, contact, meet with them, strategize involvement, follow up	70 hrs	Project Coordinator
Podcasting	Putting audio online, documenting what it is, finding an image	40 hrs	Project Coordinator
Distributing	Packaging it, sending it to different outlets, following up to see if it was aired or downloaded	50 hrs	Project Coordinator
Promotion	Printing posters, postering, facebook, website, twitter, tumblr, getting other	240 hrs	Project Coordinator

	groups to put it on their website, getting it through McGill channels, classroom announcements		
Poster design		30 hrs	Poster Designer contracted
Technical	Setting up live remote equipment, monitoring live remote equipment	50 hrs	Izaak
In-studio tech	Sitting in studio to monitor the stream	50 hrs	Marc
Radio promo	Making radio ads and airing them	24 hrs	Louise Burns
Research	Research, development, passing along contacts	50 hrs	Tamara and Courtney
Online Promotion	CKUT website	50 hrs	Caitlin

III. Financials

Critical Date: (Please state if there is a critical date by which funding is required)

- August 1st, 2013

Detailed Expenses

Expense Description

Expense Description	Estimated Cost
Featured Speakers \$3,000 each X 2	\$6000.00
Honorarium for Speakers 15 individuals @ \$200.00 each	\$3000.00
Travel	\$2000.00
Space Rental Leacock 132 X 2 events + 10 smaller rooms	\$ 750.00
Live Remote \$300 x 12 events	\$3600.00
Posters and flyers \$50. X 12 events	\$ 600.00
Promo Design \$100 per semester	\$ 300.00
Donation to Midnight Kitchen (food) \$100.00 per sem	\$ 300.00
Coordinator 14 hours per week @ \$11.50	
August 1 2013 – Sept 30 2014 (14 mths 56 wks)	\$9016.00
Employer Contributions	\$ 991.75
TOTAL	\$26557.75

CKUT IN Kind Contribution (confirmed):

Radio Promotion - 2 weeks per event (\$300 per event)	\$3600.00
Staff and IT support for events and project	\$10800.00
Equipment for Remotes	\$ 900.00
General Office Expenses	\$ 850.00
TOTAL	\$16,150.00