



International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab Newsletter – December 2024

The [International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab](#) is pleased to share the second edition of the partnership newsletter.

Upcoming Events

[Workshop Series: A Deeper Dive into Methodologies of Subnational Applications of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity](#)

In 2025, IEFL is hosting a series of workshops that provide a deeper understanding of methodologies for generating subnational ecological footprint and biocapacity accounts. Dates and registration links are below. All workshops will begin with a presentation from our panel of experts, followed with a question-and-answer period, and an interactive activity.

- [Institutional scaling](#): February 20 at 11 am EST = 16:00 GMT
- [Community scaling](#): March 20 at 11 am EDT = 15:00 GMT
- [Geographic scaling](#): April 10 at 11 am EDT = 15:00 GMT

Training

[Winter Term Courses](#)

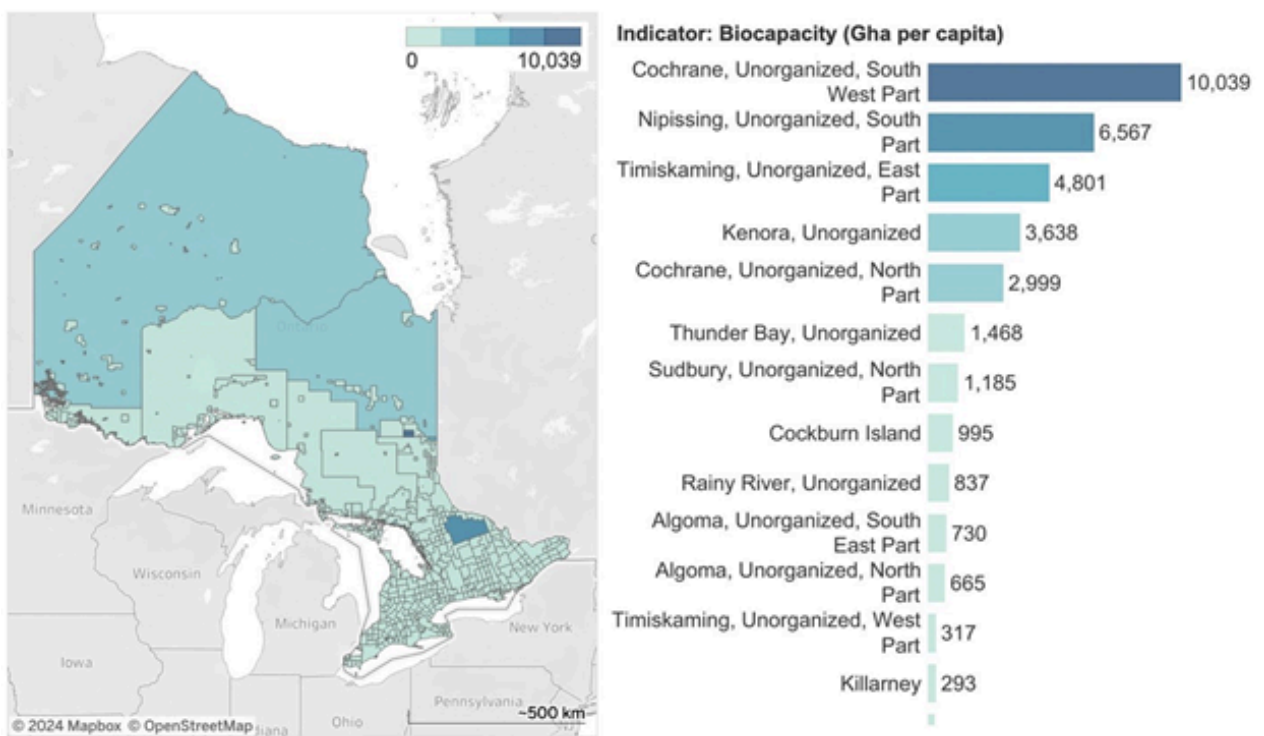
Graduate students within the partnership at University of Iceland and York University can access two graduate courses at either university to develop their skills in sustainability informatics:

- **Systems Dynamics Modeling** offered at the University of Iceland covers an introduction into how to analyze and generate economic and environmental systems monitoring. This course will be offered in a hybrid synchronous and asynchronous basis.
- **Footprint Informatics** offered at York University covers an in-depth introduction into data analysis and coding skills in SQL, R, and Microsoft Excel. This course is taught by **Eric Miller**, Director of the Ecological Footprint Initiative and offered virtually synchronously.

Undergraduate students in environmental studies at York University will be offered the first trial of Footprint Fundamentals: a one-day intensive to introduce undergraduate students to the concept, measurement, and applications of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity, and with access to the micro data about crops, livestock, fish, forest products, and sectoral carbon emissions. The course is co-developed and taught by **Eric Miller, Peri Dworatzek, Kiona Lo**, and undergraduate student Kaitlin Pal who is already experienced applying the data through research supported by IEFL.

Research

Release of Ontario Municipalities Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts



This fall was the first ever release of ecological footprint and biocapacity data for Ontario municipalities! This data provides information on the breakdown of the components for ecological footprint and biocapacity, including an innovation to include wetlands as a biocapacity component.

Additionally, the data provides proportional breakdowns of household consumption within each community.

This data is available on the Rural Ontario Institute's [Community Wellbeing Data Dashboard](#) or for download in an Excel file. The data is accompanied with a [summary results report](#) and a detailed [technical methodology report](#).

This work was done by researchers, **Peri Dworatzek** and **Eric Miller** at the Ecological Footprint Initiative and **Danielle Letang** and **Yogesh Mandel** at the Rural Ontario Institute.

Recognitions

Peter Victor Awarded Major Research Award



In September 2024 **Dr. Peter Victor**, York University Professor Emeritus and Co-Director of the IEFLL partnership, was awarded the Research Award for Major SSHRC Grants by York University. Congratulations Peter! This award highlights the success of the successful application to the grant the work within in thus far.

Mathis Wackernagel Awarded Nobel Sustainability Trust Award



In September 2024 **Dr. Mathis Wackernagel**, President of the Global Footprint Network and co-originator of the concept of ecological footprint and biocapacity, was awarded the Nobel Sustainability Trust award by the Technical University of Munich. Congratulations Mathis! This award recognizes Mathis' leadership in producing sustainability measures and the outstanding contributions this has made in the fields of agriculture and water. This award was bestowed at the Sustainability Summit on November 20, 2024. More information about the award is [available here](#).

Knowledge Mobilization

Panelist at the Doughnut Economics Collective Toronto Kickoff



From left to right: Mike Layton, Stefan Hostetter, Chloe Brown, Eric Miller, and Jennifer Hutcheon

Eric Miller, Director of the Ecological Footprint Initiative and Co-Director of IEFLL, was a panelist at the kickoff event for the Doughnut Economics Collective Toronto. The panel was made up of individuals with diverse professional backgrounds who spoke about their work and the relationship it has to the doughnut economics framework. Eric spoke of innovative ways that ecological footprint and biocapacity data could be incorporated into doughnut economics frameworks.

Ecological Footprint Initiative and Environmental Studies Association of Canada Panel and Social



Group photo of presenters and event participants

The Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC) hosted a panel and social event this fall in collaboration with the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University. This event showcased research and projects done by IEFLL and the Ecological Footprint Initiative (EFI), with presentations by **Eric Miller**, Director of EFI; **Kiona Lo**, Senior Data Analyst; and **Kaitlin Pal**, Project Assistant.

Peter Victor Interviewed for Podcast Series, Moving Beyond Growth

Peter Victor, York University Professor Emeritus and Co-Director of the IEFLL partnership was interviewed by Richard Heinberg, Senior Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute, for their Deep Dive series Moving Beyond Growth.

In this discussion, Peter spoke about post-growth and degrowth and how ecological footprint data can be used to understand the path of degrowth. Read more in an excerpt on the [IEFLL website](#).

[TED Talk: Will the End of the Economic Growth Come by Design or by Diaster?](#)

Explore this insightful TED Talk on how the end of economic growth will come whether it's planned or not. Gaya Herrington, Econometrician and Sustainability Researcher, details her interesting findings and proposes a shift in thinking from "never enough" to "enough for each". Gaya mentions ecological footprint and overshoot several times, watch the [TED Talk here](#).

Meet an IEFLL Member



Les Kuzyk, Planning Analyst at the City of Calgary and IEFLL partner, drew on detailed local data to document Calgary's Ecological Footprint. In his 2023 paper "[Census villages and the ecological footprint](#)", published in Ecological Indicators, offered a method of integrating detailed municipal data with national-level Ecological Footprint accounts. As a result, he was able to estimate neighbourhood-level carbon emissions from vehicles and from residential electricity use. More information about Les is available in an [IEFLL profile story](#).



Partner Visits

In August 2024, **Ravi Ponnudurai**, York MES student and Research Assistant with IEFLL, visited Colombo and Jaffna in Sri Lanka where he met with local academics, government officials, and members of non-governmental organizations to raise awareness about the project and the data it generates and to identify opportunities for research and training and data validation related to Sri Lanka.

In October 2024, IEFLL hosted a virtual webinar on subnational applications of ecological footprint and biocapacity. This webinar invited partners to an introduction of various types of subnational scaling that have been done in the partnership. The panelists were: **Eric Miller**, **Peri Dworatzek**, **Kiona Lo**, and **Peter Victor** from York University, **Jennie Moore** from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, **Brynhildur Davidsdottir** from the University of Iceland, and **Danielle Letang** from the Rural Ontario Institute. This webinar was an introduction to the methodological workshop series that is taking place in the new year.

Publications

Dworatzek, P., Letang, D., Miller, E., Mandel, Y. (2024). Ontario Municipal Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts. First Edition. [Dataset]. Produced for the Rural Ontario Institute by York University Ecological Footprint Initiative in partnership with Rural Ontario Institute.

<https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/wellbeing/dashboard/environment.aspx>

Dworatzek, P., Letang, D., Miller, E., Mandel, Y. (2024). Methodological Handbook: Deriving Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts for Ontario Communities. Report. Prepared for the Rural Ontario Institute.

Letang, D., Dworatzek, P., Miller, E., Mandel, Y. (2024). Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity for Rural Ontario. Report. Prepared for the Rural Ontario Institute.



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Explore our website: <https://www.footprintpartnership.net/>

The International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab partnership newsletter is edited by Peri Dworatzek. If you have any questions or comments, please email: iefll@footprintpartnership.net