



International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab

Newsletter – December 2025

The International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab is pleased to share the fifth newsletter of 2025.

Activities and Events

Winter / Spring IEFL Speaker Series

We have an exciting list of events lined up for our IEFL winter / spring speaker series, including:

University scaling of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity

- January 21, 2026, at 6:30 AM PST; 9:30 AM EST; 2:30 PM GMT
- Virtual – [Register here](#)

Developing a Satellite-Based Methodology to Estimate Built-up Biocapacity for use in the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts

- February 19, 2026, at 8 AM PST; 11 AM EST; 4 PM GMT
- Virtual – [Register here](#)

Launch of the 2026 Edition of the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts

- April 22, 2026 (Earth Day!)
- Virtual – More information coming soon...

Training

IEFL Winter / Spring courses

As we come to an end of the fall term new IEFL students are wrapping up the first two courses in the training program. There are three courses being offered in the winter/spring term that are available for all IEFL students. If you are interested in participating in any of these courses, please contact info@footprintpartnership.net

At York University: **Ecological footprint informatics** covers an in-depth introduction to 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.

At University of Iceland: **Systems dynamics modeling** covers an introduction into how to analyze and generate economic and environmental systems stock and flow models. This course will be offered in hybrid format, on a synchronous and asynchronous basis.

At British Columbia Institute of Technology: a new **GHG emissions and ecological footprint analytics course** will be offered virtually. If you are interested in this course, please contact us for more information.

Research

Exploring Indicators of Human Wellbeing and Ecological Sustainability in the Nordic Countries with Marina Ermina

Marina Ermina presented her master's thesis research this November, as part of our IEFL speaker series. In this presentation, Marina discussed interconnections between human wellbeing and ecological sustainability in the context of Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden). Marina compared a series of different indicators including ecological footprint and biocapacity, human development index, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, among others. Marina found there are high levels of wellbeing, often above the world average, while still considerable ecological overshoot. The audience asked interesting and intelligent questions, one IEFL alumnus wondering if the higher levels of human wellbeing could be compensated for by higher levels of environmental exploitation from the country's economic production. Marina also noted that she found it interesting that countries seemed to pick certain indicators out of convenience, for instance none of these countries have committed to UNSDG 14 to protect life below water, even though they are countries with large fishing industries.

Conference Proceedings from the IEFLL Research Symposium

In June 2025, researchers, students, and faculty from York University (YU), in Toronto, Canada, travelled to the University of Iceland (HI), in Reykjavik, Iceland, to meet with their counterparts', in which they are all part of the International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab (IEFLL). This week-long visit was the first time IEFLL members from YU and HI were meeting in-person, after having collaboratively conducted research virtually for two years.

One aim of meeting in-person was to share ongoing and future research on Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity. This was achieved by fostering spaces of insightful and deep conversations. The IEFLL Research Symposium was a half-day long event for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to present on their future and ongoing work to other IEFLL members to collect feedback and discuss potential collaborations. The conference proceedings are available on the IEFLL blog, [link available here](#).

From Crisis to Creativity

The Environmental Studies Association of Canada is holding their 2026 annual conference in Toronto Ontario, at Université de l'Ontario français & George Brown Polytechnic. The conference is running from May 26 to 28, 2026. The theme, "From Crisis to Creativity", will bring together scholars, practitioners, and artists to share creative solutions. New to this year, is the call for artworks as ESAC hosts their first art exhibit! More information is on the submission portal, [link available here](#).

Looking for (the) Just Judges – Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Well-Being in Turbulent Times

The European Society for Ecological Economics is holding their 16th biannual conference in Ghent, Belgium this summer. The theme and title for this conference, is referencing to the missing panel in the alter piece of the Saint Bavo cathedral in Ghent. From June 30 until July 3, 2026, researchers from across Europe will share their exciting research. The call for abstracts is open until December 19th, [link available here](#).

Knowledge Mobilization

A Look Back at INTERGEO 2025: A Journey of Innovation and Inspiration

A short article by Joanne (Anne) Louise Van Berkum, recent graduate of the Master's in Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Iceland, about her experience attending a geospatial conference in Germany. Accessible on the IEFL blog, [link available here](#).

From Country to Community – How Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Data is being applied across Canada

This fall, members of IEFL at York University presented to the Canadian Association of the Club of Rome (CACOR). Eric Miller, Director of the Ecological Footprint Initiative and IEFL; Peri Dworatzek, Partnership Coordinator of IEFL and PhD student; Kiona Lo, Senior Data Analyst at EFI; and Andrew Reeves, IEFL Post-doctoral Researcher, shared examples of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity data, research, and policy application specific to the Canadian and Ontario contexts. CACOR members were enthusiastic to share this data and research with their networks and asked insightful questions about how the data is generated.

Meet an IEFL Member

Footprinting from Southern Ontario to Sydney Nova Scotia: A glance into Katie Linden's past and current research



Katie Linden, previously known as Katie Kish, is an ecological economist and community economic development assistant professor at the University of Cape Breton (CBU) in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Before receiving a tenure-track professorship at CBU, Katie was working with the Ecological Footprint Initiative (EFI) at York University and spearheaded the grant application for the International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab. Read the full article on the IEFL blog, [link available here](#).

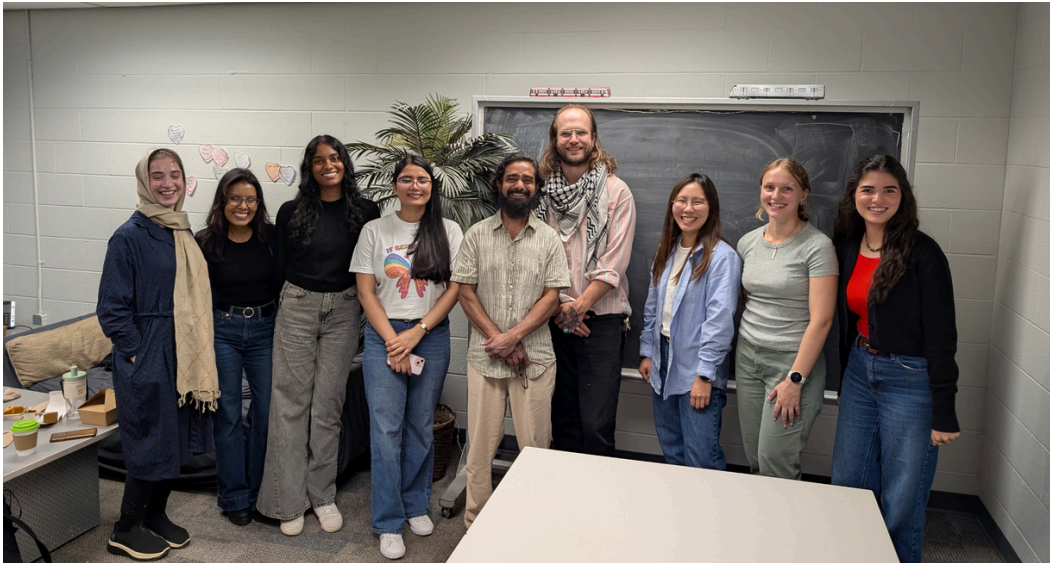
Partner Visits

IEFL Students Connect Across the Ocean



University of Iceland students, from left to right: Matthew Don Reimer Dyck, Affaq Ahmed Anwar, Yuhui Li, Petra Dimitrova Toneva, Sania Ishaq, Jade Emma Farabet, Fareeha Anwar

Students at the University of Iceland and York University kicked off their semesters with social events to welcome to the new cohort of students in the IEFL training program. On both sides of the Atlantic ocean, alumnus and students met over food and coffee to support our group of new students.



York University students, from left to right: Eesha Ahmed, Deborah King, Bumika Srikanthalingam, Neha Basnet, Amit Praharaj, Matthew Lawrence, Kiona Lo, Peri Dworatzek, and Kaitlin Pal

Publications

Dworatzek, P., Miller, E., & Letang, D. (2025). Deriving the Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity of Ontario Cities and Rural Areas. *Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy*, 4(2), 300–339. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jccpe-2024-0058>

Submit to the IEFL Newsletter

Have something you want to share? [Fill out this online form](#) to share announcements, publications, and events in our next newsletter.

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: info@footprintpartnership.net