



International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab

Newsletter – April 2026

The International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab is pleased to share the second newsletter of 2026.

Partnership Announcements

Events Evaluation Form

The International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab is looking for your input on future events. Are there specific topics you want to learn more about? Do you want to hear from someone in particular? Please email info@footprintpartnership.net

Activities and Events

Summer IEFL Speaker Series

Accounting for Wetlands in Biocapacity

- June 4th from 12 pm – 1 pm EDT / 16:00 – 17:00 GMT
- Virtual – [Registration link available here](#)

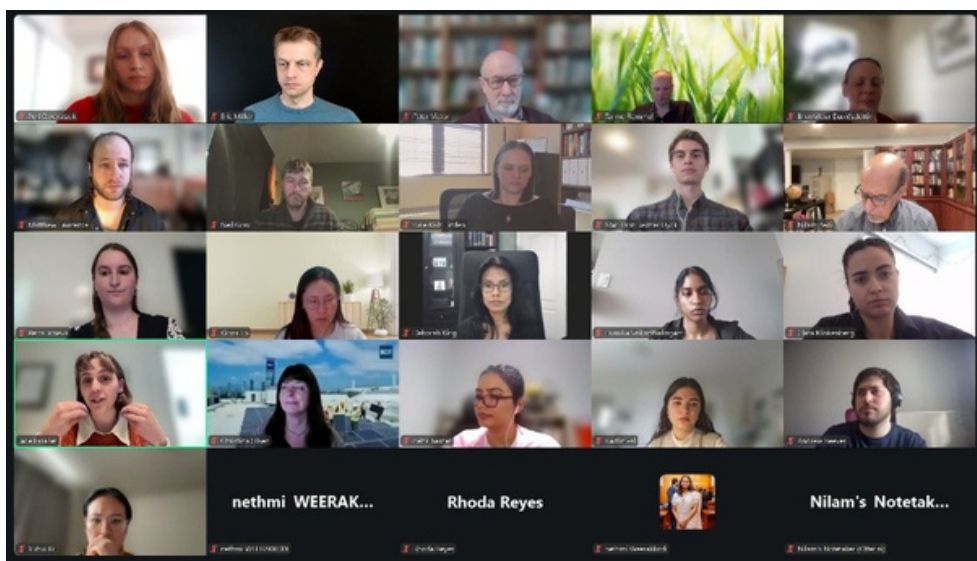
Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity to support legal claims of Indigenous Title and Treaty

- June 23 from 12 pm – 1:30 pm EDT / 16:00 – 17:30 GMT
- Virtual – [Registration link available here](#)

Research

IEFLL Research Symposium 2026

For the second time, IEFLL hosted a research symposium for students and researchers to share their footprint-related projects. This year the event brought together students and researchers from five post-secondary institutions across three continents. Presenters were from York University, the University of Iceland, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, the University of Stirling, and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Other IEFLL partners, also attended the event and provided comments on the presentations. If you want to learn more about the presentations, the conference proceedings are on the IEFLL blog, [available at this link](#).



CANSEE – Changing Tides

The Canadian Society of Ecological Economics (CANSEE) is hosting their annual conference in Sydney, Cape Breton Nova Scotia at the University of Cape Breton from October 7th to 9th, 2026. The call for submissions closes on May 31, 2026. Check out the conference website, [link available here](#).

Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir presented at the Wellbeing Economy Forum

The Wellbeing Economy Forum and European Union hosted a panel of speakers to discuss ways of eliminating poverty through a wellbeing economy. Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir, Co-Director of IEFL, spoke on this panel and brought in the ecological footprint concept. The panel was moderated by Caroline Costongs, Director of EuroHealthNet, and Brynhildur was joined by speakers Bent Madsen, CEO of the Danish Federation of Non-Profit Housing & Chairman of NBO – Housing Nordic, and Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.



From left-to-right: Olivier De Schutter, Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir, Bent Madsen, and Caroline Costongs

Recognitions

Congratulations to Rakel Bærings Halldórsdóttir at the University of Iceland for completing her masters!

Rakel has completed her Master's in Science in the Environment and Natural Resources program at the University of Iceland, where she conducted research with the IEFL partnership.

Rakel successfully defended her thesis titled “Ecological footprint of the City of Reykjavík, Iceland”. Rakel also co-produced one edition of the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts.



Eric Miller received EUC Dean’s Teaching Award

In April 2026, Eric Miller was awarded the Dean’s Teaching Award from the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC) at York University. This award recognizes and celebrates teachers in the EUC faculty who challenge, motivate, and inspire students, and who innovate pedagogy and curriculum to enhance the quality of student learning.



From left to right: Alice Hovorka Dean of EUC and Eric Miller.

The Environment and Natural Resources Program at the University of Iceland wins University award in leadership

The University of Iceland’s award in leadership is given to groups or teams at the university that demonstrate exceptional initiative and leadership in developing and implementing innovative projects within the University of Iceland.

The Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Program, founded by Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir, Co-Director of the IEFL Partnership, won this award for interdisciplinary collaboration. The ENR Program holds the only interdisciplinary graduate program at the University of Iceland that links the institutions five fields of study. IEFL students at the University of Iceland are in the ENR Program and supervised by Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir. Read the full story on the University of Iceland's website, [link available here](#).

National Accounts Production

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

On Earth Day, researchers from the Ecological Footprint Initiative held a webinar to showcase the launch of the newest edition of the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts. Eric Miller, Kiona Lo, Neha Basnet, Bumika Srikanthalingam, Joanna van Berkum, and Petra Toneva presented in the webinar; where they shared highlights of trade and crop data, analyzed footprint in relation wellbeing data, and discussed updates on research and development. Audience members asked interesting questions, about the impact of global events on the data and the inclusion of waste landfill sites in the accounts. The presenters reflected on Earth Day, noting the importance of reducing our impact to be within biocapacity limits. Watch the launch on the IEFL YouTube channel, [link available here](#).



From left to right: top row: Kiona Lo, Neha Basnet, Eric Miller, Bumika Srikanthalingam, Beatrice Foley, Johanna van Berkum, Anna Hao Long, Petra Toneva, Marina Ermina, and Clara Klinkenberg

Knowledge Mobilization

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

Anne van Berkum, a recent Master's graduate of the Environment and Natural Resources program at the University of Iceland, presented her thesis research on improving the national accounts data by integrating earth observation data. This methodological improvement will enhance the calculation of built-up land biocapacity by measuring the biocapacity in urban green spaces. Anne tested the proposed methodology on a 2,800-ha area in The Hague, Netherlands, to compare the effects of spatial resolution, classification algorithm, and segmentation technique on the results. The recording of the presentation is available on the IEFL YouTube channel, [link available here](#).

Ecological footprint of the City of Reykjavík, Iceland

Rakel Bærings Halldórsdóttir, a recent Master's graduate of the Environment and Natural Resources program at the University of Iceland, presented her thesis research on generating ecological footprint data for the City of Reykjavík. This approach applied a top-down methodology scaling the national-level Icelandic footprint accounts using local data on consumption, housing, commuting, among others. This builds upon the methodologies tested to scale footprint accounts to various levels; highlighting how the methodologies can be applied across jurisdictions. Rakel was joined by Hrönn Hrafnisdóttir, the Head of the Climate Change Unit at the City of Reykjavík, who discussed the benefits of engaging footprint data at the City of Reykjavík. Hrönn is a member of IEFL and advisor on Rakel's research. The recording of the presentation is available on the IEFL YouTube channel, [link available here](#).

Tales From the Field: One Farm's Dedication to Building Biocapacity by Matthew Lawrence

"We're not doing anything, we're just growing old grains," * Chris insists. I have managed to catch him on the phone in a rare sedentary moment as he winds down for the winter.



It will become apparent over the course of our conversation that this initial assertion is a gross understatement. Chris and Mary Wooding run Ironwood Organics, a hundred-acre regenerative organic grain farm and mill in Athens, Ontario where they grow 'heritage' cereal grains. When I ask Chris how he thinks about ecological footprint on his farm he turns it around on me. Emphasizing a focus on building biocapacity he says that "our ecological footprint is how negative can we make it, in terms of decreased soil compaction, carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement." Read the full article on the IEFL Blog, [link available here](#).

"Bill Rees: Ecological Footprint Analysis Grew from a Boy's Contemplation of 'Soil and Sun'" written by Robert Jensen

An article written by Robert Jensen in CounterPunch Magazine profiles the personal story of Bill Rees and how this lead to his ecological worldview. Link for the full article is [available here](#).

"Measuring Ecological Limits: The United States and the World" written by Peri Dworatzek

An article written by Peri Dworatzek in the Steady State Herald explores United States ecological footprint and biocapacity data; from detailed data points on crop harvests all the way to the US in respect to their global ecological balance. Link for the full article is [available here](#).

Join the Kickstarter Campaign for the Herman Daly Movie Project

You are invited to contribute to the worldwide Kickstarter campaign for the creation of a documentary on the life and influence of Herman Daly. The movie is called "Econoclast: Herman Daly and the Gospel of Growth" and is being directed by noted filmmaker John DeGraaf. It will help educate humanity about the importance of ecological economics and the steady state as the world moves forward in these perilous times. The movie has already been largely filmed. The Kickstarter campaign is seeking funds for post-production and wide dissemination of the movie. Find the campaign and a five-minute clip from the documentary is [at this link](#).

Meet an IEFL Member

Reykjavík's Local to Global Climate Action

Iceland's capital, a city of 140,000 people, has an impressive track-record measuring and reducing environmental impact. Hrönn Hrafnisdóttir, the head of the climate change unit at the City of Reykjavík, leads several projects mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change at the municipal level. This fall is an important milestone for the City of Reykjavík as the Climate City Contract is being renewed. Hrönn leads the development of this contract that represents the City of Reykjavík's commitment to being climate neutral by 2030. Read the full article on the IEFL Blog, [link available here](#).



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/>