

Trottier Institute for Science and Public Policy

Symposium on Nitrogen, Nitrogen Footprints and their Management

Friday, November 18, 2016 14:30 to 19:00 h

Faculty Club, McGill University, 3450 rue McTavish, Montreal

14:30 Welcome and outline of Program: Tim Moore, Director TISPP, McGill University

14:35 The global nitrogen cycle and anthropogenic effects: James Galloway, University of Virginia

15:05 Social and economic costs of nitrogen pollution: Jana Compton, US EPA

15:35 N-Print and its combination with carbon footprints: Allison Leach, University of New Hampshire

16:00 The McGill N footprint: Aidan Goertzen (with Graham MacDonald, Tim Moore and Brian Robinson), McGill University

16:25 Calculate your personal N footprint (access the online N-print calculator): Izzy Castner, University of Virginia

16:45 Options for managing N footprints: panel discussion
Moderator : Graham MacDonald, Geography, McGill University

Panellists :

Jana Compton, US EPA

Jim Galloway, University of Virginia

Subhasis Ghoshal, TISED, McGill University

Aidan Goertzen, McGill University

Audrey Moores, Chemistry, McGill University

Kathleen Ng, Office of Sustainability, McGill University

Brian Robinson, Geography, McGill University

Oliver De Volpi, Residences, McGill University

17:45 Closing remarks and audience N footprint results

18:00 Reception

Humans have fundamentally altered the global nitrogen cycle - even more profoundly than the carbon cycle. The creation of 'reactive nitrogen' has fuelled human progress and helped to vastly increase food production, but has unintended consequences for air and water pollution that have immense costs to society. See Galloway and Leach (2016) 'Your feet's too big' Nature Geoscience 9: 97-8.

There is now a movement to better identify the sources and effects of 'reactive nitrogen', to create a 'nitrogen footprint' at individual, institutional and national levels and examine ways to reduce the magnitude of this footprint. This Symposium examines the science, causes and effects of accelerated nitrogen use, the development of nitrogen footprints and ways in which footprints can be reduced, either personally or institutionally.