



International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab Newsletter – September 2024

The International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab is pleased to share the first partnership newsletter. As members of this international, multi-institutional partnership grant, we have a terrific opportunity to foster innovation, promote research, and train and empower students across our institutions. This newsletter serves as the first communication to keep members informed about the project's progress, research, upcoming events, and more.

Partnership Announcements

We are pleased to welcome **Peri Dworatzek** to the role of Partnership Coordinator for the IEFL partnership. Peri is an alumnus of the Master in Environmental Studies at York University and is now in the PhD program in Environmental Studies at York University. To learn more about Peri, [click here](#).



Upcoming Events

Webinar: Subnational Applications of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity

On October 24th from 10am – 11am Eastern Time (ET), IEFL is hosting a virtual webinar event for partnership members on subnational applications of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity.



The first half of the webinar will showcase three examples of subnational applications of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity. The second half of the webinar will discuss questions and interests that partners have related to subnational scales of Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity. This discussion will inform a series of workshops we will host in the winter term that partners and students can join. The workshop series will focus greater attention on subnational methodology that can inform students research related to partner's interests.

IEFLL Partners Meeting: Year 1

On November 21st from 10 am – 11 am Eastern Time (ET), IEFLL will host a virtual partners meeting. This meeting will be hosted once a year to recap the activities, events, and research that took place over the past year. We welcome all partner members to this meeting. The Zoom information and more details will be sent out in a calendar invite to all partners at a later date.

Training

First year of student training in IEFLL

The 2023-2024 school year was the first year that graduate students at York University and the University of Iceland completed the Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity training program. Including experiential learning to produce that 2025 Edition of the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts that will be released next year. This training program is hosted at York University in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change. To find more information about the training program, [click here](#).

New cohort of IEFLL students this fall

As a new school year has begun, we have more master's and PhD students entering the IEFLL partnership. A new cohort of master's students from York University and the University of Iceland have begun in the Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity training program. They will eventually produce the 2026 Edition of National Accounts. Master's and PhD students will undertake research fitting with the IEFLL research objectives.

Research

Introducing IEFLL Postdoctoral Researcher, Andrew Reeves



IEFLL welcomes **Andrew Reeves** as a Postdoctoral Researcher, at York University in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change. Andrew completed a PhD in Physics from the University of Waterloo. Andrew will contribute to the lab's research agenda on developing ecological macroeconomic simulation models and metrics. To find out more information about Andrew, [click here](#).

IEFLL wants your research ideas!

We have created a research template for IEFLL partners to fill out with research questions and topics that relate to your work. The research template [is accessible here](#), please download and fill this out. Once the template is completed and sent back to us, we will post the research questions on our website to inspire student research projects.

Research Presented at the Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC) Conference



From left to right: Eric Miller, Peri Dworatzek, Elaine Howarth, Kiona Lo.

At the ESAC Conference hosted by McGill University, the Ecological Footprint team shared its research. **Peri Dworatzek** presented on “Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts for Ontario Communities” which will have a first published data release this month. This research was supported by York’s CIRC geomatics interdisciplinary research clusters (led by EUC professor **Tarmo Remmel**) and with the collaboration of an IEFL partner, the Rural Ontario Institute. **Kiona Lo** presented “Accounting for a University’s greenhouse gas emissions and its Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity”. This research was supported by York University’s Sustainability Office, which is producing a new phase of the research to expand and enhance the measurement of emissions. **Elaine Howarth** presented “Revolutionizing the Imaginary: Visions for a degrowth future” which is her MES major research project. **Eric Miller** presented on “Engaging interdisciplinary students in sustainability informatics” about transferable lessons learned from developing and delivering the curriculum used by the Ecological Footprint Initiative to engage environmental studies students in sustainability informatics.

National Accounts Production

Launch of the 2024 Edition National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts



The image shows the cover of the 2024 Edition National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts report. The cover is primarily red and white with a colorful horizontal bar at the top. It features the logos of the International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab, the Ecological Footprint Initiative, and the FODAFE (Footprint Data Foundation). The title "National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts" is prominently displayed in white on the red background, with "2024 Edition: 1961-2023" below it. The York University logo is also present. A section titled "Accounts Production Team at York University" lists Eric Miller, Peri Dworatzek, Kiona Lo, Elaine Howarth, and Sandy Kazubowski-Houston, accompanied by small headshots. Another section lists the "International Ecological Footprint Learning Lab" with Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir from the University of Iceland. At the bottom, there is a small text block regarding York University's recognition of Indigenous Nations and a note about research support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

On June 5, the Ecological Footprint Initiative (EFI) launched the 2024 Edition of the National Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts, with a global webinar introducing the dataset, which is available on the EFI website and is also syndicated through several global data platforms. To access the recorded webinar, [click here](#). The accounts were produced by EFI staff and MES alumni **Peri Dworatzek, Eric Miller, Kiona Lo**, and MES students and research assistants **Elaine Howarth**, and **Sandy Kazubowski-Houston**.

The 2024 edition includes data for 246 countries and territories and the world from 1961 to 2023. Humanity's total Ecological Footprint in 2023 was higher than in any other year, and about 71% higher than planetary Biocapacity. Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity data, by total and by component, of production and of consumption, are available for all countries and the world on the [EFI website](#). Micro-level data, on the Ecological Footprint of specific traded commodities, is also available, please reach out to iefl@footprintpartnership.net for more details.

Meet an IEFL Member



Danielle Letang is the Manager of Data Strategy at the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI). ROI's data analysis program is focused on providing information and evidence for local decision-making. Danielle develops interactive rural data dashboards, writes factsheets to present rural and urban trends, and leads ROI's community well-being project.

Danielle has been working with IEFL to develop Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts for over 500 municipalities in Ontario, Canada. This data was released this week on ROI's digital data dashboard.

Partner Visits

In February 2024, **Brynhildur Davíðsdóttir**, Co-Director of IEFL, visited Toronto to meet local partners and faculty at York University. We had several Toronto-area IEFL partners attend from various businesses, non-government organizations, and institutions. The event covered a presentation on IEFL project objectives, provided one example of the IEFL partnership in action with the Rural Ontario Institute, and other examples of applied student research. This was the first in-person local partners event held by IEFL. We will continue hosting local in-person events once a year at one of the core institution's locations.



In April 2024, **Mathis Wackernagel**, President of the Global Footprint Network, visited Toronto where we met with local Toronto partners in High Park. This outdoor event was a great chance for partners and students to network in-person, building potential relationships for future research.

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

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