

# TRANSITIONS MASTERCLASS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TRANSITION TO A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY

Offered by the Faculty of Environmental Studies (York University) and the Academy for Sustainable Innovation, this one-week intensive graduate course introduces students to the concept of 'transition' to a low carbon and socially just economy. Explore the implications of transition for all aspects of society and the economy.

## As a Transitions Masterclass student, you will:

- › Discover and discuss the political, economic, social, technological, legal and ecological drivers for transition.
- › Consider the implications of those unfolding drivers for social/community systems, financial/capital systems, energy systems, transportation systems, food systems, water systems and urban/infrastructure systems in Canada and around the world.
- › Learn basic principles of strategy and sustainable design, and explore approaches to effective leadership and cooperation across sectors: public, private and civil society.
- › Examine the importance of an interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial mindset to addressing challenges and enhancing value through sustainable innovation.

## Students develop knowledge and experience of:

- › Applying systems thinking, design thinking and principles of social innovation within the constraints of a 'one planet' reality.
- › Applying drivers of the world's transition to a low carbon economy to real organizations in different social realms — turning complex challenges to opportunity in public, private and civil society/community organizations and social enterprises.
- › Developing mindsets and personal skills needed to lead organizations pursuing transition through new forms of value creation.
- › Organizational strategy and product design for transition in different systems: social, financial, energy, transportation, food, water and urban/infrastructure.

## Masterclass Students report back:

"The course outline and opportunity to meet industry experts and learn from peers clearly aligned with my career goals."

"The course was fantastic and is definitely on the right track to growing the number of sustainability professionals. Thank you so much!"

"These sessions motivated me to think about sustainability more as we got to hear from those companies who actually practice to be sustainable."

## Presented by the Academy for Sustainable Innovation

Working in Association with the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University and other universities in Canada, the Academy for Sustainable Innovation is a game-changing new initiative to train and certify a generation of professionals to lead Canada's transition to a low-carbon economy.

**Our goal:** to provide a 100,000 professionals with the skills, knowledge, and experience to manage Canada's shift to a more sustainable world over the next 15 years.

# SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE Draft Program Outline

## Class Experience (in person or online):

- › Program will run like a typical intensive class – ten sessions of approximately 3.5 hours spread over five days.
- › Each 3.5-hour session will include some or all of the following: Consideration of readings and the broader literature and/or contemporary developments featured in the media in recent days; Lecture/guest lecture; Video commentaries; Case studies; Group work.
- › In-class assignments and presentations (no examination).
- › If applicable, students wishing to seek a personal academic advisor for participation, deliverable and grading requirements.
- › Students completing the course will receive a certificate of attendance which may count towards professional certifications.



## COURSE DETAILS

**Location:** York University, 519 Kaneff Tower, Toronto ON

**Dates:** July 8 – 12, 2019

**Registration:** <https://asi-yorku.eventbrite.ca>

**Class size:** Limited – prospective students are encouraged to register their interest as soon as possible.

## MASTERCLASS: Challenges and Opportunities in Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy

### SESSION 1: Learning to Think Like Leonardo

Design-thinking meets systems-thinking to foster experimentation and innovation

### SESSION 2: Drivers of transition to a low-carbon economy

Learning to live on one planet

### SESSION 3: Follow the Money

Understanding Capital Markets and How and When they Reward Social and Environmental Performance

### SESSION 4: Society and Technology

Understanding the Role of Technology in Disruptive Social Change

### SESSION 5: Leadership Skills for a Sustainable World 1

Reconstructing Value in Corporate Environments

### SESSION 6: Leadership Skills for a Sustainable World 2

Entrepreneurial and Start-Up Environments

### SESSION 7: Inspirational Cases in Transition 1

Energy and Transportation

### SESSION 8: Inspirational Cases in Transition 2

Food and Water

### SESSION 9: Inspirational Cases in Transition 3

Urban and Infrastructure

### SESSION 10: Summary and Personal Action Planning

ASI gratefully acknowledges a grant from the McConnell Foundation in support of this class.

