

Green Recovery Dialogues

Green Recovery Dialogues Introduction - Transcript

See the video at <https://youtu.be/gH8lzUNJt0I>

SLIDE: Green Recovery Dialogues Introduction

- **Professor Jaime L. Toney, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Solutions, University of Glasgow**
- **Des McNulty, Deputy Director of Policy Scotland, University of Glasgow**
- **Gavin Slater, Head of Sustainability, Glasgow City Council**

SPEAKER: Jaime Toney

Hello. Thank you for tuning in and engaging with our City-University partnership looking at how we move from COVID-19 to COP26.

I'm Jamie Toney, I'm a professor at the University of Glasgow and I'm also the Director for our Centre for Sustainable Solutions. We're really pleased to be partnering with Glasgow City Council and Policy Scotland to host a series of dialogues that bring together a diverse group of people - so, academic researchers, policymakers, practitioners - who can come together and think about how we progress towards a just and sustainable future. We're currently living through unprecedented times and even though COVID-19 has made us postpone the COP26 conference from this November to November 2021 the need for us to act and make progress towards reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as well as safeguarding our environment hasn't changed in terms of its urgency. So we're pleased to be able to host these dialogues while we're still thinking about the lead up to COP26 when over 30,000 delegates will be converging on the city of Glasgow to talk about these important issues. So what we're hoping to do over the next couple of weeks is think about how we actually implement green futures by increasing green space around the city, by implementing nature-based solutions, such as connecting up habitats or increasing biodiversity. We're also interested in raising ambition around the net zero carbon agenda and specifically we'll be talking about low carbon forms of energy and housing solutions, and then we'll also be rethinking consumption. So, thinking about how we achieve a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 through green and circular economy routes. These dialogues are designed to bring a diverse group of people together to think in a new sort of way about how we create solutions to move forward that are both just and will accelerate our progress towards environmental sustainability. We'll convene a group of senior leaders from across Scotland and within our partner cities abroad to make recommendations on how we take these solutions forward and we'll further discuss those recommendations with sustainable Glasgow in their summit which is due to take place in March 2021.

Our goal is to take action to move forward toward carbon neutrality but also climate resilience and we really see Glasgow as a city that can be a driver for this sort of change. We hope that you'll be able to take part in these conversations or if you're interested in the other activities that are taking place ahead of COP26 please get in touch through the Centre for Sustainable Solutions at the University of Glasgow. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Des McNulty

Hello, my name is Des McNulty. I'm assistant vice-principal here at the University of Glasgow and I'm welcoming you to the Green Recovery Dialogues which we're setting up in conjunction with the

Centre for Sustainable Solutions at the University. Policy Scotland also based at the university and Glasgow City Council the idea behind these dialogues is to bring together academics and practitioners to talk about what practically can be done to improve and address the issues of climate change at city level. There's a lot of ambition I think, both from the city and from the University, to tackle climate change very proactively and to mobilise people and resources in order to do so. We're not short of ambitions, particularly in terms of zero carbon, to try to get to that point by 2030. And, of course, we have the huge stimulus of COP26 coming to our city in November 2021. But the real question is how do we change things? It's all very well having statements and ambitions about what we want to do about addressing climate change but how do we actually move things forward? How do we bring forward solutions? And that's where we need to mobilise practitioners and academics to come together to identify new ways of looking at these problems and taking them forward in a way that is imaginative and innovative. There are some quick wins that could be done with climate change. We all know that improving, for example, the way in which we utilise transport, looking at more efficient systems of heating and energy use, can actually deliver some solutions but there are some big intractable issues. For example, how do we improve people's insulation in their houses? How do we - particularly after COVID and the experience of COVID - how do we move people back from their cars to use public transport, more effectively? These are only two issues. There's a whole range of issues which academics have highlighted and which practitioners are facing. So these dialogues are intended to develop and think through solutions and to move these forward in such a way that they can actually be brought to a senior panel of policymakers both from the University and the City and from elsewhere to see how we can develop a systemic approach to improving our climate performance. Of course, Glasgow is only one city and there are many cities around the world trying to do this so we're keen to learn from what people are doing elsewhere, to bring the lessons from elsewhere to our city, and to see whether, you know, things that we're doing here are going to be of interest and use to people elsewhere. One of the great things about an academic institution like the University of Glasgow is that it can actually bring together its networks, its international networks, its national networks as well as its networks in Scotland. We're part of a broad academic community so we can draw on the resources, not just our own academics within the University of Glasgow but our academic colleagues elsewhere, to work out, you know, get their ideas and to work out what they're doing to take forward the issues that we've got a common interest in. And equally Glasgow City Council has always been forward-looking and open to ideas. We want to stimulate partnership working, we want to stimulate collaboration, we want to stimulate new forms of thinking, and above all we want people to work together to try to take forward solutions. So once we've identified the correct approaches then the next step after these dialogues will be to implement them and to take them forward into something deliverable. At the end of the day climate change is not something we can spend all our lives talking about but not achieving any change. We need to start here and now in our city to actually deliver the changes that the planet needs and actually the people of the city need as well. We believe that building back better, trying to find new ways of doing things is the right thing to do. I hope you'll join our dialogue. I hope you'll participate as fully as you can. I hope you'll be interested and stimulated by the different things we're trying to do, and I hope you'll partner with us to try to take forward solutions for our city and solutions that can be used elsewhere in the world. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER: Gavin Slater

Hello. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to these Green Recovery Dialogues. These unprecedented times, defined by the climate and ecological emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic, have brought about the need for concerted recovery efforts. A recovery which must be green and support the continuing efforts to make the city carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by

2045, all the while ensuring a just transition to a low carbon economy. To achieve a green recovery the collaboration between town and gown is critical. This collaboration forms part of a broader city partnership called Sustainable Glasgow which is focused on looking at innovation in technology, finance and governance to support our sustainability ambitions. We are very pleased to be involved in these three dialogues which span many of the key issues faced by the city and its people. Our message is clear: nation states pledge, and cities deliver, and this is a key element of our host role for COP26. In addition sustainability and social justice must go together as 'people make Glasgow' is not just a motto; it's a truth about our greatest asset - one which is central to our climate ambitions. Finally let me thank you for listening, I hope you enjoy these dialogues and are able to participate and continue to support us as we head towards COP26 and beyond. Thank you.

SLIDE:

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