



Media release

RYERSON UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF *CLIMATE HACK-TO-ACTION*

*Winning app helps commuters compare methods of transportation
based on greenhouse gas and fuel savings*

TORONTO, April 19, 2016 – The Brookfield Institute for Innovation + Entrepreneurship (BII+E) at Ryerson University and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change proudly announced today the winners of *Climate Hack-to-Action*, which challenged participants to develop and pitch creative policy solutions to one of the biggest issues facing our society: climate change.

The event, which took place April 7 to 9, brought together over 80 individuals, including Ryerson and high school students, policy experts, community leaders, and behavioural economists, to examine what challenges people face in making low carbon choices and empower them to reduce their carbon footprint. The three winning teams will share \$9,000 in total prize money to support the successful development of innovations that will accelerate the shift to a low-carbon Ontario. The winning teams will also participate in a networking lunch with Paul Evans, Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change. All participants in *Climate Hack-to-Action* will be introduced to Ryerson’s zone learning ecosystem as an opportunity to further develop their innovations.

“*Climate Hack-to-Action* was Brookfield’s second major initiative as part of our Policy Innovation Platform, connecting academic, industry, government, not-for-profit and entrepreneurship sectors, to infuse new ways of thinking into tackling government policy challenges,” said Sean Mullin, Executive Director of the Brookfield Institute. “We are thrilled by the high caliber of solutions and to be the convener of so many diverse and enthusiastic partners committed to empowering people in putting an end to climate change.”

The winners of *Climate Hack-to-Action* are:

- **First Place:** Team Ease , aims to tackle the issue of transit and congestion, making multi-modal commuting appealing for Ontarians with the use of an app that demonstrates greenhouse gas and fuel savings based on an individual's method of transport.
- **Second Place:** Best Practice looks to connect young farmers to landowners with backyards to rent for local food production.
- **Third Place:** Team RG Green created CarbonConquest, an app that utilizes a gaming element to teach and engage young people about how their choices impact their carbon footprint.

The winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges, including:

- Karen Clarke-Whistler, Chief Environmental Officer, TD Bank
- Jim Baxter, Director of the Environment and Energy Division, City of Toronto
- Karen Clark, Director of Air Policy and Climate Change Branch, Government of Ontario
- Fatima Crerar, Social Impact, Senior Manager, Ecobee

Climate Hack-to-action was generously sponsored by TD Bank, The City of Toronto and TransformTO. For more information, visit www.Hack2Action.ca.

The Brookfield Institute for Innovation + Entrepreneurship (BII+E) is a new independent, nonpartisan institute, housed within Ryerson University that is dedicated to studying and strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem within Canada. BII+E supports its mission by developing innovative, forward-thinking and useful policy advice that supports innovation and entrepreneurship; testing and piloting projects that have the potential to support the work of innovators and entrepreneurs; and engaging in advocacy and practicing thought leadership on behalf of innovation and entrepreneurship. For more information, visit www.brookfieldinstitute.ca.

The Policy Innovation Platform is a new initiative that connects and enables academic, industry, government, not-for-profit and entrepreneurship sectors to collaborate on public policy problems; integrates and applies new methodologies from the start-up and innovation worlds, to traditional public policy challenges; and provides a safe space for policy professionals to test, experiment and develop new solutions before broader adoption. For more information, visit www.policyinnovationplatform.ca.

Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career-oriented education and a university clearly on the move. Ryerson offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs, and is home to more than 41,500 students, including 2,400 master's and PhD students, 3,200 faculty and staff, and nearly 170,000 alumni worldwide. Research at Ryerson is on a trajectory of success and growth: externally funded research has doubled in the past four years. For more information, visit www.ryerson.ca.

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