

“Green is Good” (Atlantic Climate Change Conference, March 3 - 6, 2008)

(Opening remarks to conference by Steering Committee Chair - Cameron Ells)

It's not easy being Green. Last evening, Atlantic Climate Change 2008: Risks, Responses, and Tools for Action, began with Carl Duivenvoorden's personal presentation of "An Inconvenient Truth." There are challenges for each of us individually, for our families, for our friends, for those we work with, and for our various communities. It's not easy being Green.

It's not easy being Green. There is diversity in how we meet these challenges in our own ways. There is common purpose, an uncommon effort, and a kindred spirit in how we seek to improve our communities. The Environmental Services Association of Nova Scotia, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Energy, Environment Canada, the Halifax Regional Municipality, Scotian Windfields, SLR Consulting, Climate Canada Atlantic, the key note speakers, those making presentations, and others have contributed to making this event possible. Those experienced with committee decision making would appreciate how this event became possible. It's not easy being Green.

It's not easy being Green. Yet, we gather here to exchange ideas and experiences from the public sector and the private sector, from organizations and associations, from academic and from student perspectives. There are presentations, panel discussions, public lectures and private workshops. May there be useful and practical outcomes with respect to many aspects of climate change - energy options, carbon markets, community action, advancing science, adaptation tools, risk and resource management. It's not easy being Green.

It's not easy being Green. Or so once sang an amphibian of some repute. We are here in support of a Greener tomorrow, although different people of good intent, may differ in how they perceive we can get best move from the winter of today, and arrive at a Greener brighter (warmer?) spring. It's not easy being Green.

Still, for those with a noticeable touch of grey, and who might give a nod to Mr. Gecko over there deeply ensconced in the back corner of our memories

The point is, ladies and gentleman, that "Green," for lack of a better word, is good. Green is right, Green works. Green clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Green, applied in all of its forms; Green in our lives, in our loves, in our knowledgeable use of financial and other resources, has marked the upward surge of mankind. And Green, you mark my words, will not only preserve and defend our various local communities, but that broader interconnected community of communities, this planet we call the good Earth.