This research examines Toronto’s transition to green jobs and the green economy, with a focus on the energy-related sector.

**OBJECTIVES**

- **✓ to foster a better understanding** of the green energy job sector and the green economy based on a **dialogue with key stakeholders** in Toronto
- **✓ to investigate pathways for community and stakeholders to build capacity** to frame the transition to a green economy in more **socially inclusive terms**

**CONTEXT**

In light of climate change and scarcity of non-renewable resources, Toronto is facing a contradiction in energy. High levels of energy use and urban development characterize the city alongside growing concerns of environmental pollution and energy security. With a need to conserve and consider alternative sources of energy, there is momentum toward creating a green economy that can stimulate economic activity, reduce environmental risks, and improve social equity. Key policy initiatives, such as Ontario’s *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* and *The Power to Live Green: Toronto’s Sustainable Energy Strategy*, signal the growth of green economy.

The energy-related sector is a significant part of Toronto's growing green economy. Potential jobs can include consumer conservation, alternative energy production, and retrofitting of power plants and buildings with energy efficient equipment. New green job training initiatives are providing some of the skills re-training for this emerging labour market. The prospective job market in green energy is also associated with better paying opportunities.

Many racialized workers are re-training in order to seek better employment opportunities in the green economy. However, one study from Éco-Canada reveal women, new immigrants, and Aboriginal people are under-represented in green jobs across Canada, in comparison to the rest of the Canadian workforce. There is a need to frame green economy toward better social inclusion.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1) What are the multiple social constructions of green jobs by various stakeholders?
2) What do green jobs mean for racialized communities?
3) What do various stakeholders see as solutions to moving the green agenda forward?
RESEARCH PLAN and TIMELINE

In line with the objectives to foster community dialogue and building a more inclusive green economy, this study uses a collaborative community-based research approach.

An advisory group to this project will consist of leaders and individuals in green energy sector and representatives from key organizations. The community advisory group will ensure community involvement and collaboration. The group will informally guide interaction with stakeholders, help with interview recruitment, and contribute to research dissemination.

In-depth interviews and focus groups are to be conducted to gain perspective on the green economy and green energy job sector in Toronto. This qualitative research strategy can enable an understanding of how different groups of people perceive and define the emerging green economy. Through this discussion, the study strives to open up opportunities for a more inclusive green economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year I + Year II</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Set-up</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-depth Interviews</td>
<td>45 interviews 90 minutes</td>
<td>green energy business leaders, green energy and green jobs policy key informants, labour organizations and trade union key informants, green jobs training program organizers, green job seekers from diverse racialized communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year III</td>
<td>Focus Groups</td>
<td>5 focus groups 90 minutes 6-9 mixed participants per group</td>
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RESEARCH TEAM

Cheryl Teelucksingh
Ryerson University

Grace-Edward Galabuzi
Ryerson University

Blake Poland
University of Toronto

Winnie Ng
Ryerson University

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Cheryl Teelucksingh, PhD
Associate Professor
Ryerson University
Jorgenson Hall 314
350 Victoria Street
Toronto, ON, M5B 2K3

Tel: 416.979.5000 ext 6213
Email: teeluck@ryerson.ca