

# CASCA Sustainability Committee Report

January 2020 – May 2020

Submitted by Christopher Matzner, Chair

Note: The committee came into existence during this period.

## Mandate

The Committee is tasked with working to reduce the ecological impact of the Society, especially concerning greenhouse gas emissions; to promote ecological and climate considerations in decision-making across the discipline of astronomy in Canada, and to advance the availability of relevant materials for teaching and public outreach.

## Current Committee Members

The current membership of the CASCA Sustainability Committee is:

- Chair: Christopher Matzner (2020-2021), University of Toronto
- Nick Cowan (2020-2021) McGill University
- Vincent Henault-Brunet (2020-2021) St. Mary's University
- Martine Lokken (2020-2021) University of Toronto
- Sharon Morsink (2020-2021) University of Alberta
- Magdalen Normandeau (2020-2021) University of New Brunswick
- Joel Roediger (2020-2021) National Research Council
- James Taylor (2020-2021) University of Waterloo
- Michael De Robertis (Ex Officio: 2020 AGM LOC Chair) York University
- Roland Kothés (Ex Officio: 2021 AGM LOC Chair) NRC

## Major Activities, February-May 2020

### Establishment of the Sustainability Committee

The Committee was established at the beginning of February 2020.

### Planning for a remote session for CASCA AGM 2020

Prior to the cancellation of the in-person AGM at York University, the Sustainability Committee's efforts were devoted toward establishing a remote-participation session of that AGM as a means to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with conference travel while increasing access to the

meeting. Once the AGM was cancelled, these plans rapidly evolved into the online-only virtual AGM. For this purpose an Online Organizing Committee was struck, separate from the Sustainability Committee. Several of the S.C. members volunteered for the OOC.

## Sustainability Committee Telecons

The Sustainability committee held group telecons on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Activities

Once the AGM is complete, the Sustainability Committee will devote its efforts towards: 1. Reviewing the performance of the online AGM to ascertain how to promote remote conference options in normal times; 2. Encouraging Canadian astronomers and institutions to conduct an emissions census of professional activities; 3. Developing and promoting sustainability-related resources for teaching and public outreach; and 4. Making contact with cognate groups in other countries