

# VALUES, ETHICS, AND SUSTAINABILITY

David Thompson: May 14–18, 2012

Faculty of Extension: EL 21

University of Alberta

April 30 – May 18, 2012

10:25 am – 11:35 am Monday-Friday

Location: Education South, Room 165

# May 14: Overview

- Moving from high level, abstract, conceptual to local level, concrete
- Why consider local level?
- Why focus on sprawl?
- Film: Radiant City



# Why consider local level?

- Less partisan than federal, provincial
- Less ideological than federal, provincial
- Thus less subject to gridlock?
  - More open to change?
- However...
  - More subject to developer influence?

# Why focus on sprawl?

- Climate change major threat to sustainability, to civilization
- James Hansen, Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies
- May 9 N.Y. Times

The New York Times

## The Opinion Pages

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHN

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

### Game Over for the Climate

By JAMES HANSEN

Published: May 9, 2012



## James Hansen N.Y. Times:

“If we were to fully exploit [tarsands and conventional fossil fuels], concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere ... would assure that the disintegration of the ice sheets would accelerate out of control. Sea levels would rise and destroy coastal cities. Global temperatures would become intolerable. Twenty to 50 percent of the planet’s species would be driven to extinction. Civilization would be at risk.”

# James Hansen N.Y. Times

“Over the next several decades, the Western United States and the semi-arid region from North Dakota to Texas will develop semi-permanent drought, with rain, when it does come, occurring in extreme events with heavy flooding. Economic losses would be incalculable. More and more of the Midwest would be a dust bowl. California’s Central Valley could no longer be irrigated. Food prices would rise to unprecedented levels.”



# Why focus on sprawl?

- Motor vehicles largest source of climate change emissions
  - Growing quickly
- Sprawl locks in automobile dependency
- Sprawl also linked to heart disease, obesity, social isolation, mental health issues, etc.

# Film Discussion

Radiant City