

## 4.2 Issues facing Urban Centres



# Urban Land Use

- The activities and events that you experience on a daily basis use the land in different ways.
- Land Use: A term that geographers and community planners use to identify the different areas where people live, shop, work, play, and go to school.

# **Six Major Designations for Urban Land Use:**

# 1. Residential:

- The land that has been allocated to living space.
- This includes a variety of dwellings such as single family houses, apartment buildings, town houses, and etc.
- Example: Downtown, St. John's. (Prescott St.)



## 2. Transportation:

- The land that is used for transportation systems including parking lots and airports.
- Proper transportation land use is important for urban area. It allows people and goods to be transporting easier and more efficiently.
- Ex: Toronto Subway System



# 3. Commercial:



- The land that has been assigned to business activities, or the buying and selling of products and services.
- This land could be seen on a main street or even a shopping mall.
- Ex: Younge St. In Toronto.



## 4. Industrial:

- Refers to land allocated to factories (where goods are manufactured), warehouses, and other secondary industries.
- Usually located along major transportation routes.
- Ex: Amazon.com Warehouse in Seattle



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**Amazon.com Warehouse in Seattle**

# 5. Institutional:

- The urban land that is occupied by schools, hospitals, places of worship, and Government offices.



## 6. Open Space and Recreational:

- Open Space Land Use: Land that has been left in its natural state.
- Recreational Land Use: Land that is used for recreational events such as sports, playgrounds, and parks
- Ex: Ski Resort in Whistler, B.C.



# Canada's Booming Urban Centers

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the completion of Canada's railway city centers would begin to prosper.
- After the WWII there was an explosion of urban centers across Canada.
- This was a very prosperous time economically.

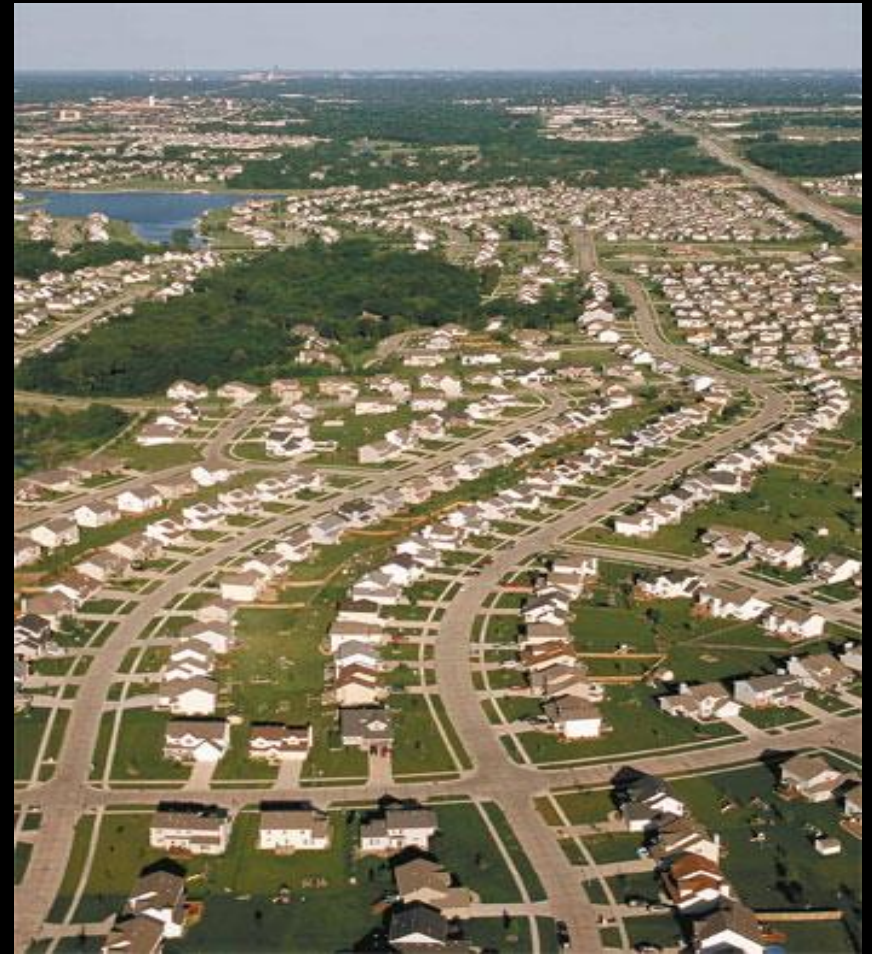


- Your average Canadians were now starting families and were able to afford automobiles.
- Suburbs began to emerge with this new found prosperity.
- People began migrating out of the core of the city to opt and leave within these suburbs.
- With that migration pattern, service industries would begin to do the same.

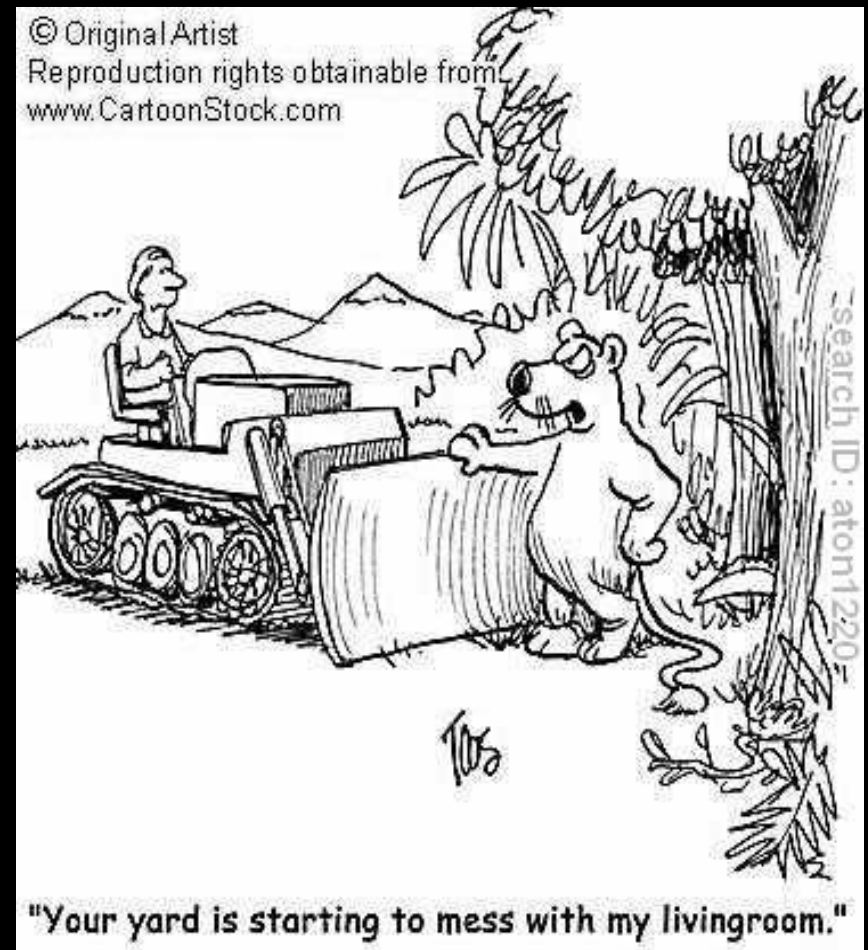
# Issues in Urban Areas:

# 1. Urban Sprawl:

- The phenomenon of outward expansion of urban centers to nearby bordering areas.



- With these suburbs needing more infrastructure, the land that gets taken by this urban sprawl in many cases is prime farm land.
- Also with this development a lot of wildlife is disturbed and overall the environments that the development takes place are practically compromised.
- **Greenbelt**: Land in urban areas that is protected from development.



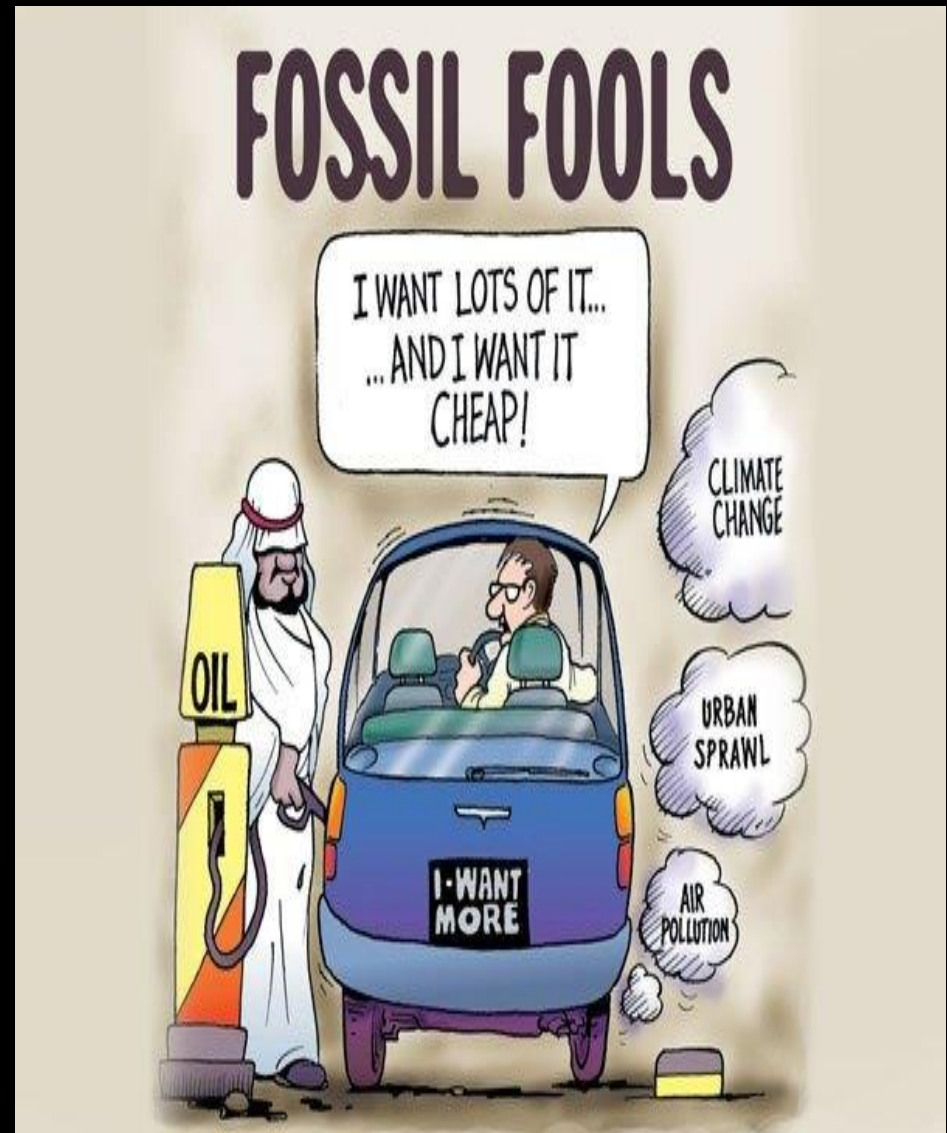


## 2. Traffic:

- With a large percentage of Canadians now living in these suburbs and not the city core there has been a dramatic increase in traffic.
- With the shift in of services to the suburbs a need emerges to accommodate these automobiles.
- With more cars come more burning of fossil fuels and infrastructure (Parking Lots).



- With the burning of fossil fuels comes more pollution.
- With commutes to the city centers from these suburbs more fossil fuels are being burned.
- The roads, parking lots, infrastructure and maintenance costs are high because of the high volume of traffic.



# 4. Smog:

- The word "smog" was coined in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a combination of the words smoke and fog to refer to smoky fog.
- It first was applied to conditions in London from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The word smog was first used to describe a mixture of smoke and fog.



- Today when we talk about smog, we're talking about a harmful mixture of gases and particles.
- Smog is a form of air pollution.
- On humid days it's not uncommon to see a thick murky layer of smog hovering over Canada's urban areas.





# Health Effects of Smog:

- Eye, nose and throat irritation.
- Coughing and wheezing.
- Worsening of symptoms for people who have lung diseases like asthma and COPD.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Reduced lung capacity.
- Lowered resistance to infections.
- Increased heart and lung conditions.
- Increases in visits to emergency room and hospital admissions.
- Premature death.

**Video:**

**[The Devastating Effects of Pollution in China](#) – 13:57**

# 5. Crowding:

- Overcrowding refers to the situation in which more people are living within a single dwelling than there is space for.
- Crowding causes huge problems such as housing, congestion, unemployment, air pollution, and social problems.
- Poverty can ensue in extreme cases of overcrowding and unemployment.



# The Future Of Cities:

- Today's suburbs are looking much different than old suburbs in Canada
- They appear like small towns within cities with its own recreation facilities, shopping facilities, walking trails, bike trails, bus lanes, etc.
- Narrow row housing is being constructed with small front lawns and back alleys for car access



# Smart Growth Cities:

- Services will be easily accessible by all community members.
- Employment, shops, schools, and entertainment are all located within neighborhoods
- Garages are now sometimes detached and placed in the back of the home.
- Houses in suburbs now have apartments added for family or rental tenants.



# Smart Growth Cities:

- Look at the smart growth principles on p. 225.
- What are the benefits of these principles to the environment and the people who live in the communities?



# HOV

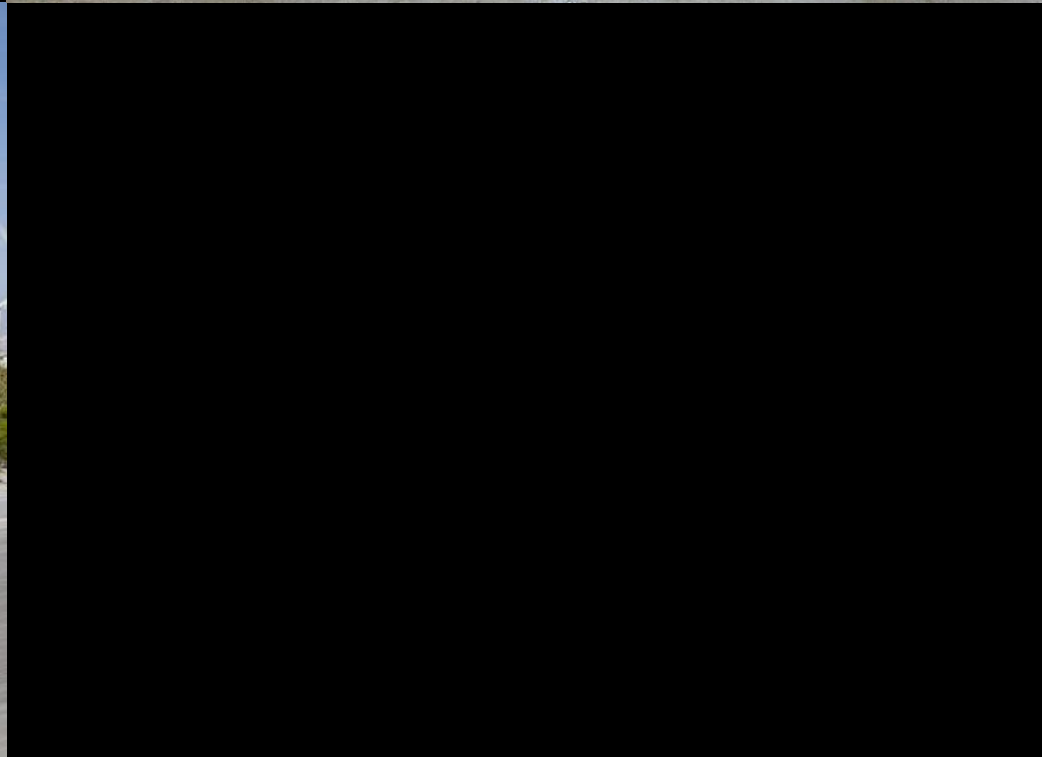
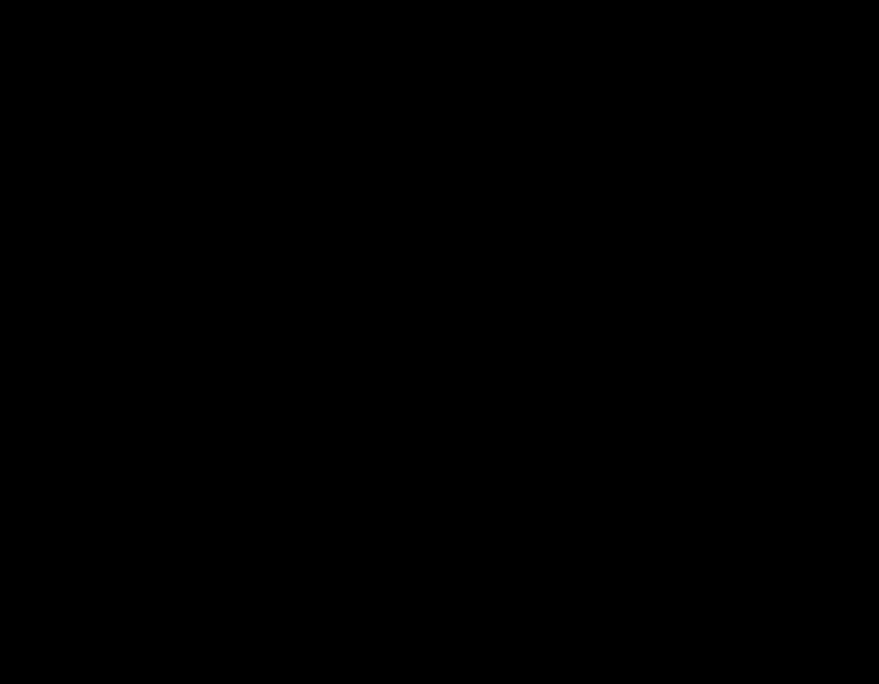
- **One way cities have attempted to decrease smog is the availability of High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes**
  - **Lanes solely used by buses and vehicles with at least two people**
    - **Designed to help move more people through busy areas quickly**
    - **Help ease congestion in regular lanes**
- **HOV lanes currently exist in the **Greater Toronto area****



# Green Technologies:

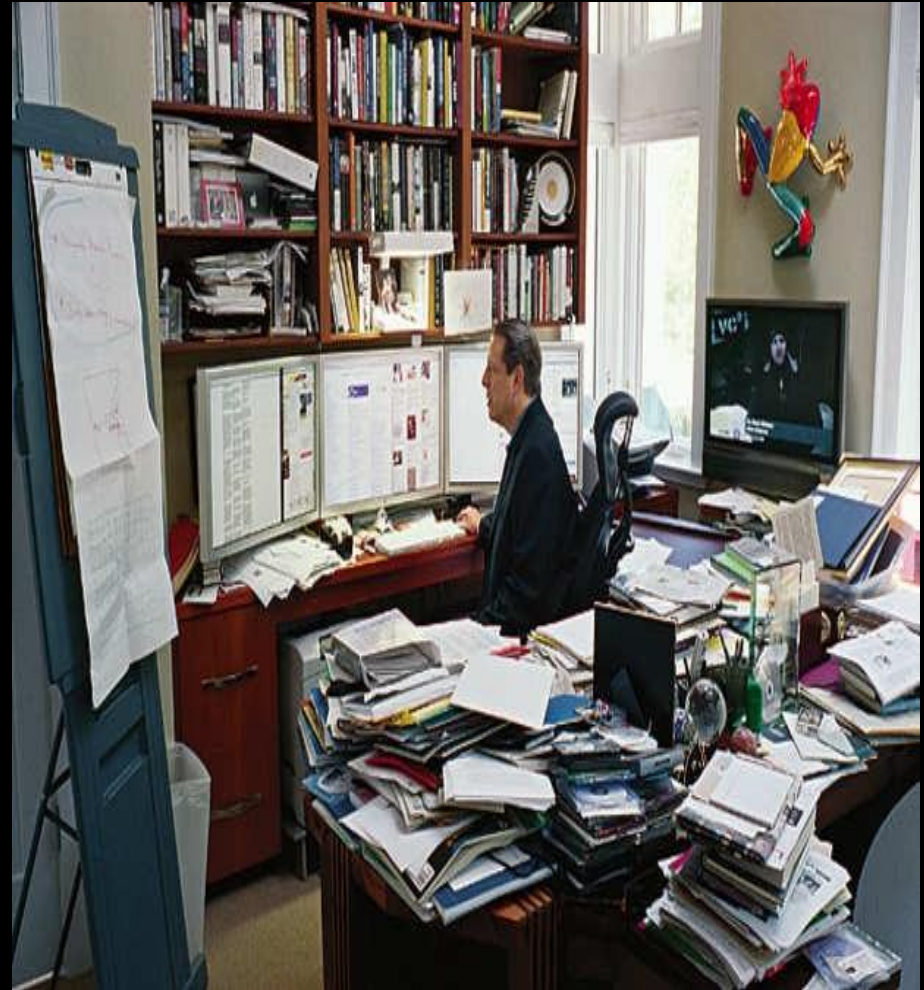
- Environmentally conscious ways of constructing buildings and devices (solar energy, wind turbines, energy efficient windows, more energy efficient insulations)
- Old tires being used to create rubber roofing tiles and driveways, green roofs (garden roof tops)





# Telecommuting:

- Commuting electronically to work
- Over 1 million Canadians now work from home (or anywhere) by using technology to connect to the workplace
- 1 million Canadians working from home saves 250 million kilograms of Carbon Dioxide going into the atmosphere, \$40 million in fuel, 800 fewer kilometers of mileage on streets and highways



# Benefits of Telecommuting:

1. Congestion and pollution levels reduced.
2. Stay in touch with clients anywhere in the world (smart phones, iPads, etc)
3. On-line conferencing connect people around the world
4. It is changing the meaning of going to work and making options available to Canadian workers



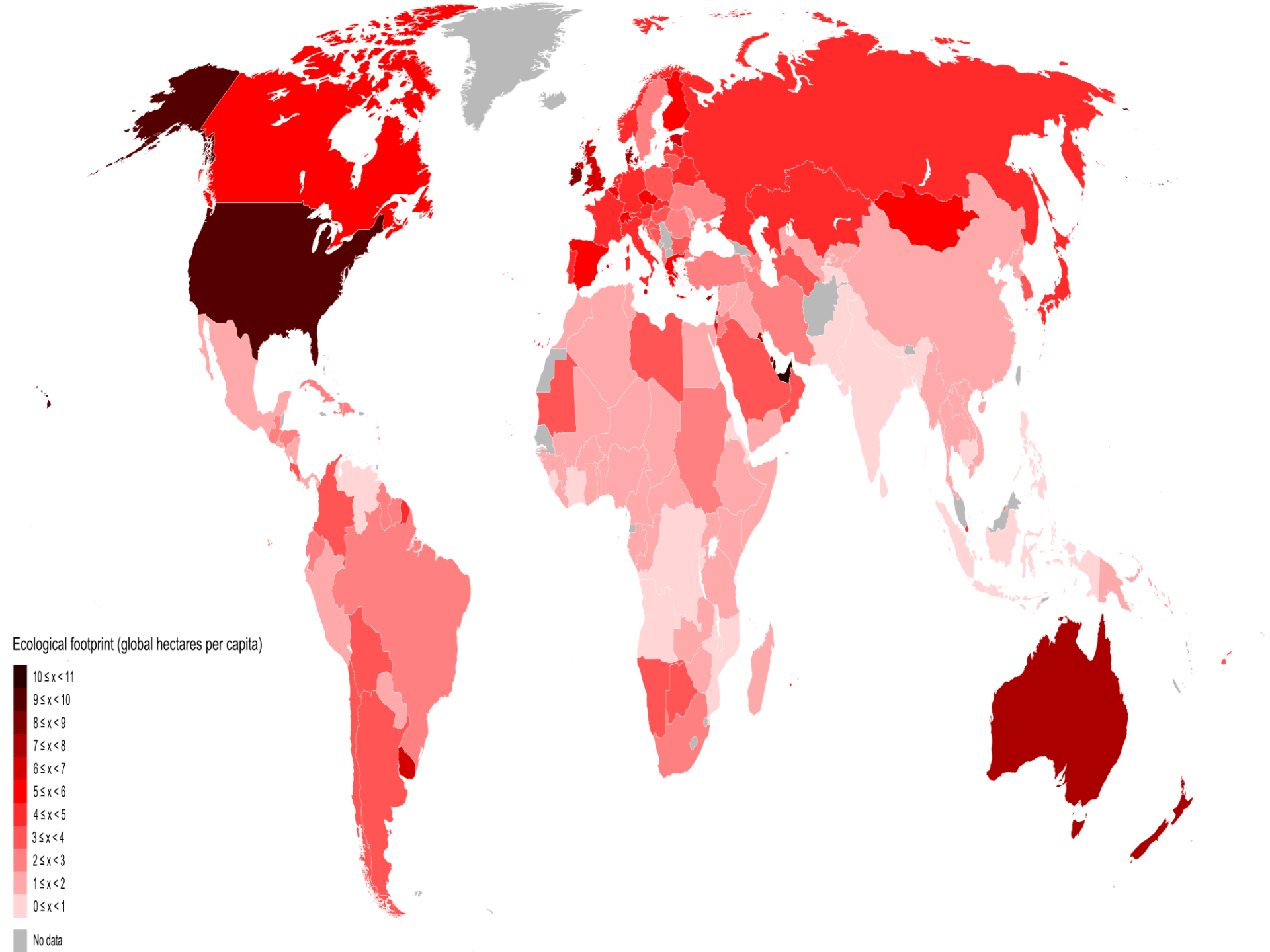
# The Ecological Footprint:

- The amount of the earth's resources it takes to support your lifestyle, measured in hectares
- All Canadian cities are above the 1.9 hectares that is available for our 7 Billion world population
- It educates us on our current lifestyle behaviors
- Developed in the 1990's by **Dr. William Rees**



## Made up of:

- Transportation use
- Water use
- Space for work and play
- How much money you spend?
- How far the food you eat has been shipped?
- How much living space you have?
- How much garbage you create?



Ecological footprint (global hectares per capita)



HELP!  
BIGFOOT!



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