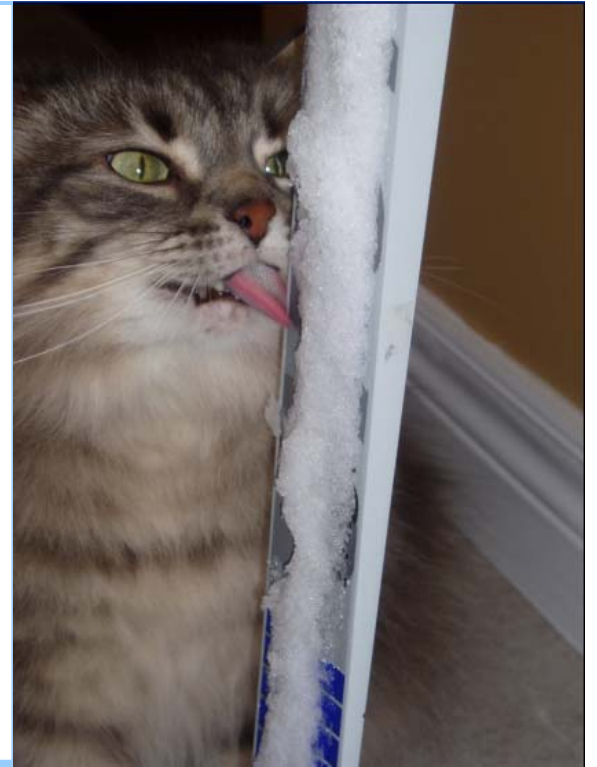


# **Improving the Environmental Performance of Ontario Ski Resorts**



**Presented by: Tania Del Matto  
Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention**



# Significance of Ontario Ski Resorts to the sport of alpine skiing in Canada

- The Province of Ontario has the largest proportion of alpine skiers in Canada with **1 102 000 or 33%**
  - » Canadian Ski Council, 2004
- Blue Mountain Resort has the largest capacity for snowmaking in Canada



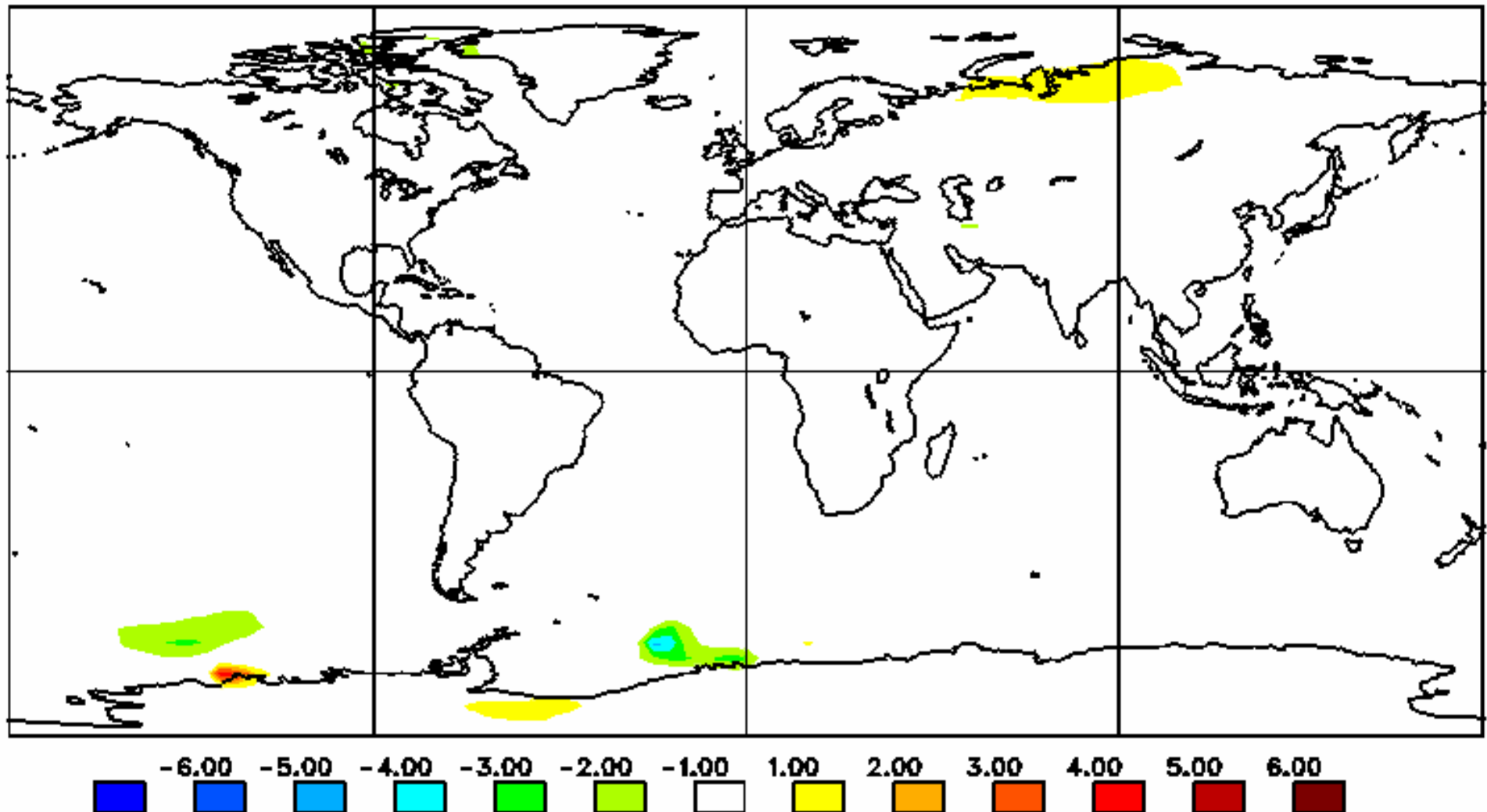
# Agree or Disagree?

Ski resorts rely on the quality of their surrounding ecological environment to attract skiers.

Ski resorts play a significant role in local economic development and offer the benefits of income generation and employment opportunities.

Ski resorts are vulnerable to a variable climate that results in poor snow years.

CCCma Surface Temperature Change Projection for 1990  
Simulated by CGCM1 (<http://www.cccma.bc.ec.gc.ca>)



Climate change and the skiing industry in southern Ontario (Canada): exploring the importance of snowmaking as a technical adaptation

Daniel Scott<sup>1,\*</sup>, Geoff McBoyle<sup>2</sup>, Brian Mills<sup>1</sup>

# Ski Resort Operations

LIFT  
OPERATIONS

VEHICLE  
MANTENANCE

SNOWMAKING

GROUNDS

BUILDINGS

LODGING

CONSTRUCTION

FOOD  
SERVICE

COMPLIANCE

PLANNING

PURCHASING

ACCOUNTING

ENVIRONMENTAL  
PERFORMANCE  
MEASUREMENT

OFF-SITE  
IMPACTS

CUSTOMER,  
STAFF, AND  
COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS

POLICY AND  
SYSTEMS

# Opportunities

## Resource Use and Waste Generation: materials, energy + water

### – Upstream impacts:

» Ability to influence suppliers

### – Direct Impacts:

» Travel to destination, skier/tourist activities, operation and maintenance of facilities that cater to skiers/tourists

### – Downstream impacts:

» Ability to influence the behaviour or consumption patterns of skiers/tourists



# Taskforce - Mandate

To provide the OSRA membership with a forum on issues related to pollution prevention, where ski resort operators can **exchange information** on best practices and **work with one another** and with other partners to **prevent pollution** locally and regionally

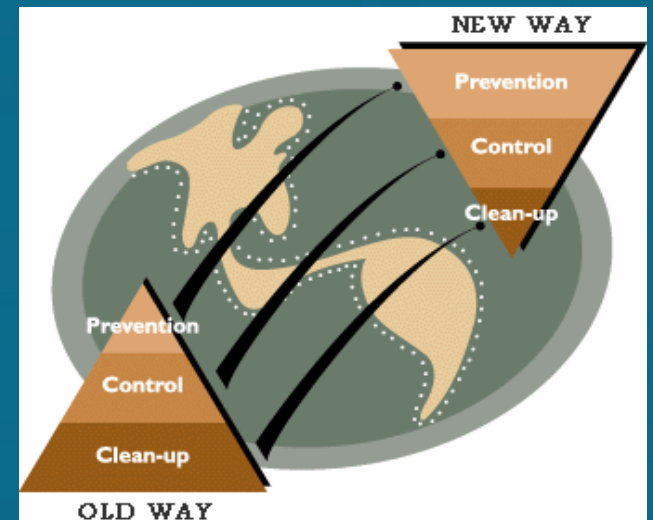


Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

**ONTARIO**

**SNOW RESORTS ASSOCIATION**



# Taskforce - Members

- Ontario Snow Resorts Association
- Blue Mountain Resort
- Osler Bluff Ski Club
- Snow Valley Ski Resort
- Georgian College
- Environment Canada
- Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention



OSRA Environmental Best Practices  
Taskforce



# Taskforce - Objectives

- Generate awareness among ski resort operators
- Help ski resort operators identify opportunities and implement
- Generate environmental awareness among skiers and snowboarders
- Promote success stories from the Ontario ski industry

# Taskforce - Accomplishments

- 😊 Workshops
- 😊 Best Practices Manual
- 😊 Pollution Prevention video
- 😊 Website / Newsletter

[www.c2p2online.com/ski](http://www.c2p2online.com/ski)



**Progress  
over  
Perfection**

# ONTARIO SNOW RESORTS ASSOCIATION



**Be Cool**



**Be Green**



# Clean Air Champion: Karen Stemmle





- ☺ Engaging, staff, guests and vendors to consider environmental best practices.
  - Anti-vehicle idling initiatives for company vehicles and buses
  - Carpooling incentive programs for staff
  - Waste reduction/recycling projects (on-going)
  - Keep Winter Cool Outreach Day



3

Georgian Bay



## ☺ Fuel Savings / Improved Air Quality:

- Investigating substituting two-stroke engine snowmobiles to four-stroke engine snowmobiles

## ☺ Energy Savings:

- Use majority of their electric power during off-peak evening hours
- Snowmaking tower snow guns that do not use air
- Incandescent lighting to fluorescent
- Timers and motion sensors on lights
- Programmable thermostats

## ☺ Paper Savings:

- Electronic filing system



# OSLER BLUFF SKI CLUB

THE TRADITION LIVES ON...

## ☺ Health and Safety Improvements:

- Varsol parts washer to aqueous parts washer

## ☺ Energy Savings:

- Improve maintenance on all refrigeration and cooling condenser coils
- Timers and motion sensors for security lighting
- Incandescent lighting to fluorescent

## ☺ Water Savings:

- Converted 60% of sinks and urinals to motion activated faucets
- Converted 100% of toilets to low flush

# Mount St. Louis - Moonstone



## 😊 Improved Air Quality:

- Investigating Biodiesel

[AboutBioDiesel.com](http://AboutBioDiesel.com)

## 😊 Renewable Energy:

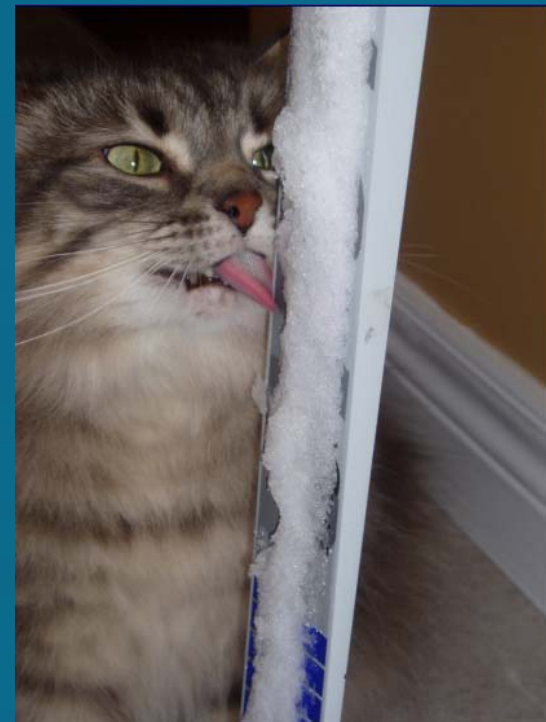
- Wind Study



- **Sustainable Resort Development**
  - Environmental impacts
  - Site selection to ongoing operations
  - Examples of excellence in environmental responsibility
  - Legal consequences of poor practices
  - Online course available
- **Student Activities**
  - Participate in an environmental audit of a department or resort property
  - Develop a green plan for a department/resort property

# What's Next?

- Generate awareness among ski resort operators
- Help ski resort operators identify opportunities and implement
- Generate environmental awareness among skiers and snowboarders
- Promote success stories from the Ontario ski industry



# Parting Thoughts

- Progress over Perfection
- Looking for partners across Canada
- Any ideas? / Let's talk



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