

Spring of Sustainability Workshop Series

Retrospective Report

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In the spring of 2022 Climate Paradigm Collaborative's precursor organization "The Sustainability Association of Victoria" held a 6-part workshop series targeted at interdisciplinary professionals seeking to develop solutions to modern social and environmental issues.

The workshop series was a capstone project intended to concatenate multiple years of running workshops, grief circles, and think tanks related to social enterprise and sustainable business. The intended output of the workshop series was to generate a succinct list of 8-12 social enterprise concepts viable in the Greater Victoria area. Time was also spent developing the concepts to a level where a baseline feasibility study could be carried out by the group. Participants were given the option to focus on the concept(s) that were most exciting to them and were granted the autonomy to take the ideas as far as they had capacity for after the series.

A summary of the concepts that were conceptualized by the group follows:

- **Sustainability certification center for professionals** – An accreditation service to validate professional understanding of modern sustainability metrics, climate science, social issues, decolonization, and mental well-being.
- **Group based climate anxiety counselling** – Although not a novel idea, a need was identified to increase the capacity and accessibility of group counselling specifically targeted at climate anxiety.
- **Creative co-working space** – Arts focused co-working space that is financially accessible for artistic professionals with lower income.
- **Arts-focused sustainability programs for youth** – Alternative after-school program that focuses on art, gently blending in social issues and activism to care for climate anxiety amongst the youth.
- **Climate anxiety lunch and learns + sustainability consulting for small businesses** – This concept was slowly developed into what Climate Paradigm Collaborative is today. The original concept focused on climate grief workshops and basic climate change education for professionals.
- **Temporary placement of technical professionals with non-profits** – A need was identified in the non-profit sector for financially accessible contracting / consulting with technical professionals.
- **Community workshops on energy and climate policy literacy** – Although the climate crisis (polycrisis) is an impending threat, many individuals do not have the time, resources, or desire to become educated on the issue and what can be done about it. Despite many groups making continued efforts in this field more is needed to influence significant social change.
- **Subsidized sales, consulting, and integration of distributed energy** – Accessible small-scale renewable energy system design and installation.