A stylized, light-colored illustration of a plant with several leaves and a cluster of small, round buds or flowers, positioned on the left side of the slide against a dark brown background.

ALBERTA CLIMATE DIALOGUE (ABCD) PROJECT - CONNECTING TO ARBRI

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ABCD is...

- A five-year project (2010-2015) exploring how direct participation by citizens in policymaking processes can enhance Alberta responses to climate change at municipal and provincial levels
- \$2 M in funding, \$1M through SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant
- University, government, civil society and industry partners
- Researchers and practitioners from Canada, US, Europe, and Australia contributing their expertise to Alberta-based practice and learning

Principles of deliberative democracy

- **Balance:** framing, briefing materials, and process represent diverse viewpoints, have broad support from across sectors
- **Inclusion:** representative of population and inclusive of diverse viewpoints and values; equal opportunity for all to participate
- **Deliberation:** participants have, space to understand and reframe issues, exposure to diverse perspectives, weigh trade-offs, and are disciplined by need to decide
- **Influence:** the process should have the ability to influence policy and decision making
- **Integrity:** openness and honesty about the scope and purpose of engagement

Well designed citizen deliberation

John Gastil: “Four glimpses
of democracy’s future” on
YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBvGG7wsMhM>

- Increases our understanding of complex systemic challenges
- Creates a cadre of citizens—those directly involved in deliberations—who can advocate for tough policy choices, and advise on implementation
- Where citizen participation is seen by the broader public to be balanced, inclusive, deliberative, and influential, it can:
 - Increase the broad public legitimacy of government decisions
 - Educate a broader public about the issue
 - Build capacities and willingness for citizen *action*

Our core research questions

- How do design choices in citizen deliberations affect the process?
- How and to what degree citizen deliberations influence policy?
- How and to what degree does participation in formal deliberations shape citizen knowledge, motivation, and capacity to act on climate issues?

Strategy

- Start with municipalities: currently working with Edmonton and looking for rural partners
- Policy openings around GHG reduction, adaptation, sustainability planning
- Possibly scale up to the provincial level



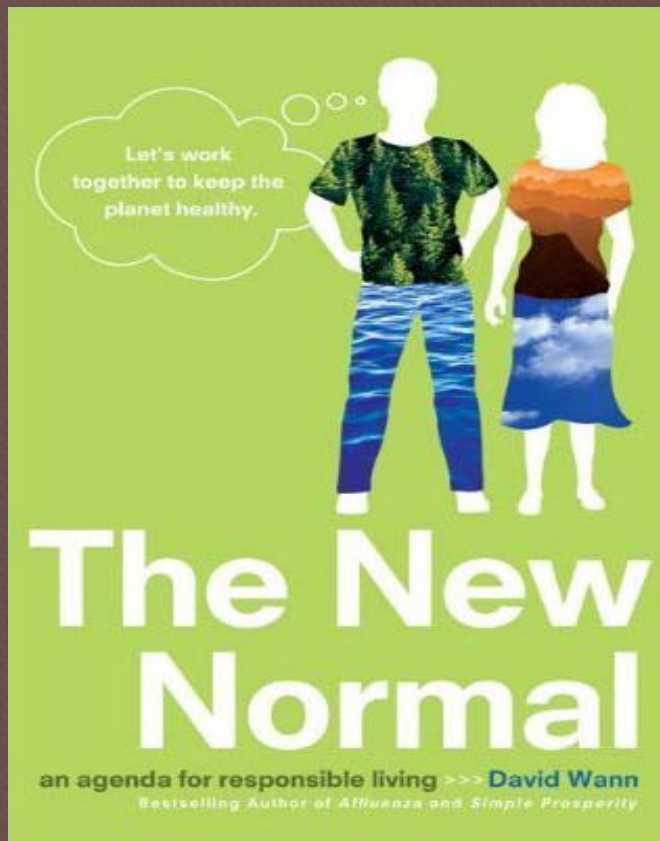
Contributing research - Hanson

1. Historical context

- Alberta energy and climate change on-line timeline
- Analysis of Edmonton's *The Way We Green* strategy development
- Media analysis of climate change in AB
- In-depth analysis of specific public consultation exercises conducted in Alberta (climate change/Land Use Framework for lower Athabasca)

2. Storytelling

Contributing research - Filax



Youth Mobilization

- We cannot talk about children's or youth human rights without talking about climate change. The generations that follow us are born into an already existing world.
- Young people have a right to a healthy, living planet.
- Let's change our norms.
- The New Normal = GREEN

Connections to ARBRI

- Building collaborations:
 - cities of Edmonton and Red Deer
 - partnerships with CPI
 - maybe ARBRI?
- Examples:
 - Transiting to rural community sustainability
 - Adaptation to climate change
 - Building citizen capacity