



"This film
made me question why I'm
living *on* the grid."

-CBC Montreal

LIFE OFF GRID

A FILM ABOUT DISCONNECTING



A FILM BY JONATHAN TAGGART PRODUCED BY PHILLIP VANNINI EDITOR JESSICA GLASGOW DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN TAGGART
 AND CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS "LIFE OFF GRID" STORY BY MATT CLARKE AND JONATHAN TAGGART WRITTEN BY JONATHAN TAGGART AND PHILLIP VANNINI CONCEPT BY PHILLIP VANNINI
 CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN TAGGART COSTUME DESIGNER JONATHAN TAGGART MATT CLARKE AND JOSEPH SCHWEERS COLLECTOR JOSEPH SCHWEERS ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CAYNE MCKENZIE SOUND BY SCOTT NEUFELD
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESSICA GLASGOW TITLE DESIGNER LAURA BANCROFT ACCOUNTS EVELYN GOEDHART MEDIA RELATIONS KATE O'ROURKE LINDSAY MARIE STEWART AND LINDSAY VOGAN



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

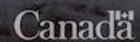
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Electronic Press Kit for Life Off Grid

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Link to Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/114820642>

Link to Stills:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n7h3vrwlbs5a1ea/AACDEI822PtVhC7Feb5MAC7ja?dl=0>

Film Festivals (2015)

Ethnogra FF - France

Nickel FF - Canada

Passenger FF - UK

London Sci-Fi FF - UK

Reel Earth FF - New Zealand

Flagstaff Mountain FF - USA

Log Line

A film about disconnecting.

Short Synopsis

Life Off Grid is a two-year journey exploring the lives of Canadians in every province and territory who have made the choice to disconnect. *Life Off Grid* is a film about people who have chosen to build their lives around renewable energy, with beautiful, inspiring, and often challenging results.

Medium Synopsis

Off-grid isn't a state of mind. It isn't about someone being out of touch, about a place that is hard to get to, or about a weekend spent offline. Officially, "off grid" refers to a home or town that is disconnected from the electricity and natural gas networks that serve a region. Living off-grid, therefore, means having to radically re-invent life as we know it. It means choosing to live in a way that is dramatically innovative: a way that draws on skills of the past and is inspired by concerns for our collective future.

Life Off Grid explores the lives of Canadians in every province and who have made the choice to disconnect. The film explores the ways by which a variety of people, all with different environmental concerns and constraints, live away from contemporary civilization. It raises important questions about the future: questions about the struggles and successes found along our path towards a life that is environmentally and socially more sustainable. Off-grid homes are experimental labs for our collective future, an intimate look into unusual contemporary domestic lives, and a call to the rest of us leading ordinary lives to examine what we take for granted.

Life Off Grid travels from west to east, from province to province and territory to territory, on a two-year journey exploring how and why Canadians disconnect from larger infrastructures. The

film explores themes of motivation and inspiration, unpacks the challenges associated with regional climates and economies, and shows how people living off the grid deal with the everyday demands of heat, light, water, food, and waste.

Long Synopsis

Off-grid isn't a state of mind. It isn't about being out of touch, living in a remote place, or turning off your mobile phone. Off-grid simply means living without a connection to the electric and natural gas infrastructure. To live off-grid, therefore, means to radically re-invent daily life in a dramatically innovative but also quite traditional way. From 2011 to 2013 Jonathan Taggart (Director) and Phillip Vannini (Producer) spent two years travelling across Canada to find off-gridders and visit them in their homes. Following the ethnographic tradition sometimes they lived with them for a short period of time. Sometimes they followed them around as they hunted, fished, harvested, collected wood, and built their homes. And at times they too practiced living in off-grid homes and cabins. Over two years Taggart and Vannini visited about 100 homes and interviewed about 200 off-grid Canadians, as well as many American and British expats living in Canada. They met off-gridders in every single province and territory and through their film they narrated their travels and chronicled in depth the experiences, challenges, inventions, aspirations, and ways of life of some of them.

To make their travel and encounters with off-gridders possible Taggart and Vannini had to fly on dozens of planes, ride snowmobiles, paddle kayaks and canoes, don snow-shoes, ride ATVs, sail ferries and small boats, drive on ice roads and city streets, and bike and trek across many regions of the country. Their documentary film renders the intensity of that experience through the style of a travelogue. But their film isn't just a road story. Their encounters with off-gridders young and old, far and near, and rich and poor, have inspired them to reflect not only about off-grid life in itself, but also to question our collective, modern, on-grid way of life. This is a film on disconnection as much as it is on everything we all take for granted about the modern condition and its comforts, conveniences, and connectivity.

Off-gridders are often the subject of stereotypes. Hippies, hermits, outlaws, rebels, misfits—these are just some of the labels applied to them. But their filmic portraits reveal a different picture, one that is less sensational, less radical, and more nuanced and subtle. Their intimate encounters show off-gridders to be individuals who care about their family and their environment, about their homes, communities, and their place in the world. Off-gridders' experiences show us what it means to question how we all procure and consume energy, food, and water, and more broadly what we can all do to rely more on renewable resources and technologies. Without romanticizing their struggles or glossing over their troubles this film shows in detail both why and how people live off the grid, revealing whether this might even be the future way of life for all of us.

About the Team:



Jonathan Taggart (left) and Phillip Vannini (right)

Phillip Vannini is Canada Research Chair in Innovative Learning and Public Ethnography and a Professor at Royal Roads University in Victoria, Canada. He is author/editor of ten books, including the recent *Ferry Tales: Mobility, Place, and Time on Canada's West Coast* (Routledge, 2012).

Jonathan Taggart is a graduate of Royal Roads University's MA in Intercultural and International Communication and currently a University of British Columbia doctoral student and an award-winning Vancouver-based photojournalist. His photography and writing have appeared in many magazines and academic journals. He is a member of the Boreal Collective.

Technical Specifications

- Production company: Canada Research Chair, Phillip Vannini
- Program title: Life Off Grid
- Program length: (Both versions) 85 mins (Feature Length) 52 mins (TV broadcast)
- Image Format: 1920 x 1080 (both 1080i interlaced and 1080p available)
- Type of audio, channel assignments: CH 1. left and CH 2. right full mix stereo, 24 bits, 48 Khz
- Type of time code: SMPTE, Drop frame
- Presence of closed captioning: Available
- Year of Production: 2015

Crew

Director: Jonathan Taggart

Producer: Phillip Vannini

Story: Matt Clarke, Jonathan Taggart

Writers: Jonathan Taggart, Phillip Vannini

Concept: Phillip Vannini

Camera: Jonathan Taggart

Editors: Jonathan Taggart, Matt Clarke, Joseph Schweers

Colour: Joseph Schweers

Score: Cayne McKenzie

Sound: Scott Neufeld

Dialogue: Jessica Glasgow

Titles: Laura Bancroft

Accounts: Evelyn Goedhart

Media: Kate O'Rourke, Lindsay Marie Stewart, Lindsay Vogan

Funding: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Royal Roads

University, Canada Research Chairs