

Green Collar Futures

Career Conference 2022



Welcome to this year's conference!

Do you know that based on a wide range of sources, the green elements of BC's economy are growing faster than the province's economy as a whole and are expected to continue to do so over the next decade? This is important information as you start your career journey; knowing what careers will be in demand when you graduate is a key to success.

Today, career mentors who are excelling in the green economy are here to share their career journey with you. You have 7 sessions throughout the day in which to meet these career mentors so read over the career mentor profiles and plan your day. Which mentors do you want to meet?

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We hope you enjoy your day as you explore the green economy. If you connect with a mentor and would like to contact this person after the conference, please email fiona@greenbricks.ca and we will help to connect you.

Questions to ask the mentors

When you meet these mentors, you may want to ask questions so start to think about what you want to ask. Maybe you want to know....

“Why did you choose your career?”

“What did you want to be when you were my age?”

“What advice can you give me as I plan what I will do after high school?”

“What personality traits do I need to do your career?”

“What do you love about this career? What are the challenges?”

“What steps should I take to pursue this career?”

Morning Keynote

Dr. Love-Ese Chile



Dr. Love-Ese Chile is Owner and Technical Director at Regenerative Waste Labs. As a young person, Dr. Chile always had her head in a book and new ideas twirling through her mind. She has always been amazed at the wonder of nature overlaying all that is around her.

She was drawn to science and chemistry to help to explain everything that she was seeing in the world around her. Now Dr. Chile works to find ways to take organic waste and convert it into new materials like plastic, she works with people in government, industry, and universities to make her ideas into reality.

Afternoon Keynote

Julie Poitras-Saulneir

Julie, a committed entrepreneur, has more than 10 years of experience in the field of sustainability. Even as an adolescent, Julie always had a keen interest to start projects. With a bachelor's degree in communication, and a master's degree in environmental science and sustainable development, she is incredibly passionate and committed to bringing innovation to the food industry, thereby improving the environmental impact that our food choices have on the planet.

After leading many companies' green initiatives, she left everything behind to co-found LOOP Mission, a circular economy company that aims to reduce food waste by upcycling food from the industry and transforming it into delicious products. A great supporter of female entrepreneurship, Julie has been CEO of the company since its creation in 2016 and was recently named on the Clean 50 list and one of the 3 favorites of Femmessor's "100 women entrepreneurs who changed the world" campaign.



Zoom Links & Conference Layout

Welcome & Morning Keynote

Time: Feb 12, 2022 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

Link in your email or by visiting
<https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/>

Time	Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
	<p>Mentor Sessions: Moderator Fiona 604 828 7593 Time: Feb 12, 2022 10:00AM to 2:00PM</p> <p>Link in your email or by visiting https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/</p>	<p>Mentor Sessions: Moderator Josie 604 202 9708 Time: Feb 12, 2022 10:00AM to 2:00PM</p> <p>Link in your email or by visiting https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/</p>	<p>Mentor Sessions: Moderator Diana 604 992 5939 Time: Feb 12, 2022 10:00AM to 2:00PM</p> <p>Link in your email or by visiting https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/</p>
10:00	Architect	Environmental Lawyer	Hydrologist Renewable Energy / Lithium Mining
10:30	Landscape Architect	Circular Economy Entrepreneur and Marketer	Engineer / Building Commissioner
11:00	Interior Designer	Values-Based Wealth Planner	Robotics Engineer
11:30	Affordable Housing Developer	Sustainable Fashion Consultant	Energy Management Engineer
12:00	BREAK		
12:30	Environmental Scientist / Erosion & Sediment Control Lead	Sustainable Health Care Manager	Design and Manufacturer Engineer
1:00	Outdoor Educator / Teacher	Climate Justice Advocate and Researcher	Mechanical Engineer / Passive Design Specialist
1:30	Physicist / Lighting Specialist	Environmental Anthropologist	Chemical Engineer

Afternoon Keynote & Prizes

Time: Feb 12, 2022 2:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

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Career Mentors' Bios

10:00 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Architect - Mingyuk Chen

Born in Hong Kong, Mingyuk is a graduate of McGill University School of Architecture, with over 15 years of project experience including many innovative Mass Timber projects and airports. Working on award-winning projects such as the recently completed Catalyst Building in Spokane, WA, Mingyuk led the architectural design team from concept to completion. The Wood Innovation Design Centre, where Mingyuk was the project manager overseeing the construction, was the tallest mass timber building in the world at the time of completion in 2015. Mingyuk is an accomplished technical designer with an incredible mind for detail, coordination, and quality control. She is passionate about sustainable architecture that improve the quality of the occupants, the community, and the planet. Mingyuk, a (self-proclaimed) foodie is also an all-weather cycling enthusiast. She can often be found hiking with my son in first grade, who she claims to have given birth to on her bike while riding to the hospital!

STREAM B

Environmental Lawyer - Andhra Azevedo

Andhra is a staff lawyer on the Climate team in Ecojustice's Vancouver office. Before going to law school, she completed a bachelor's degree in environmental science at Simon Fraser University. She realized her passion was advocacy after becoming involved with climate action on campus. She went to law school at the University of Victoria and then clerked (worked for judges) at the Federal Court and Supreme Court of Canada. Now at Ecojustice, her practice focuses on using the law to push for just and timely climate action from governments and corporations and protecting species at risk. In her free time, you can find her playing soccer, perfecting a recipe, or exploring outside.

STREAM C

Hydrologist/Renewable Energy/Lithium Mining - Alexi Zawadzki

As an avid paddler and skier, Alexi has always held an interest in water. Trained as a hydrologist with a Master's degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, Alexi's graduate research focused on the effect of climate change on snow and glacier hydrology in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Following graduation, Alexi joined an international engineering company where he provided consulting expertise to various water resources, environmental and geophysical projects across the Americas. In 2007, Alexi followed his passion for clean energy and formed a renewable energy company that focused on building two hydroelectric projects in northern B.C. Alexi is currently working on developing lithium mines in Argentina and Nevada. What's lithium? Lithium is the new gasoline, and a key ingredient of high-tech batteries that are required to transition to a renewable energy society. With electric vehicle and Li-ion battery sales soaring, the lithium boom is just beginning, and the industry requires (highly paid) hydrologists, engineers, chemists, financiers and other professionals to make it happen. Learn how you might enter the fastest growing sector of the economy in a career that will help reverse the impact of climate change.

10:30 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Landscape Architect – JB Taylor

Justin 'JB' Taylor is a Landscape Architect working at the firm Durante-Kreuk, since finishing his Masters at UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) in 2016. Being in landscape was not exactly what he had in mind at 16, but because it has so much variety, he loves it. In high school JB did a couple internships as a residential architect. Then he went to uWaterloo School of Urban Planning, where he majored in Urban Design & minored in Knowledge Integration (transdisciplinary studies). JB has co-founded an organization Black + Indigenous Design Collective (BIDC) to raise awareness with bipoc youth about the spatial design fields, to increase representation in these fields over as quick as we can.

STREAM B

Circular Economy Entrepreneur and Marketer - Marc Wandler

Marc is Co-Founder & CEO of Susgrainable, a circular economy company that upcycles beer by-product into sustainable baked goods. Susgrainable looks to be the leader in the fight against food waste in Canada. Marc is responsible for leading and growing the brand as a model circular economy business within the Canadian food industry. Marc has over 10 years of Frontline/Irregular Operations experience within commercial aviation with WestJet, and 7 years of clinical and preventative healthcare experience with Alberta Health Services. Marc holds an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from UBC and a BSc Honours in Kinesiology from Western. To complement his strong corporate and educational background, Marc has earned several accolades

STREAM C

Engineer / Building Commissioner – Jeet Mondal

Growing up, Jeet loved video games so he wanted to be a video game designer. As life would have it, in his second year of computer engineering he realized that he was quite ungifted at coding! Jeet graduated from university with a Master's degree in electrical engineering and started working at a small LED lighting start-up. During this time, he was fortunate enough to read some of Buckminster Fuller's work, which suggested that we should consider sustainability by thinking of the planet as a closed system with limited resources. Jeet eventually wanted to work with green buildings but wasn't sure how to transition so he started volunteering for the CaGBC and met people in the industry who gave him a more accurate map of how the industry worked. Jeet likes how complex buildings are and how everything works in a seamless flow altogether at the end. His work primarily involves the mechanical and electrical side of things but it's quite exciting to see all the different disciplines work synergistically to bring a building to life at the end. When not working, Jeet spend a lot of training and entering competitive breakdance battles. It's a nice contrast to some of the mentally engaging work that his career demands!

11:00 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Interior Designer - Angela Bridge

Angela always knew she wanted to be an interior designer. Always a proactive person, she wanted to figure out her career path while in high school, so she worked with a counselor in grade 10 who suggested interior design. She tried this out for one week at BCIT (their building technology program) and sat in the classes and talked with a lot of people in that field. She planned her electives around getting there so she took art and drafting. Angela obtained a degree in applied design in interior design from Kwantlen and has worked in this field for 20 years! Now an associate with her firm, her career has grown into coaching and developing the staff she works with to creates design solutions that are both profitable and sustainable. What does she like most about her career? It is the diversity, creative aspects, and working with amazing people. Angela loves art and is restoring an old home with her husband. She also loves running and cycling.

STREAM B

Values-Based Wealth Planner – Josephine Machira

When Josephine was in secondary school in Nairobi, Kenya, she was conflicted picking career options because she loved painting and calligraphy but also interested in the exchange and flow of goods and services and how that impacted the world. Josephine pursued a Bachelor's degree in Economics at Daystar University in Kenya. After a few years, she moved to Vancouver to pursue the Financial Planning program at BCIT and later took the Canada Securities Course. She is now in the final stages of pursuing her Financial Planner designation and is interested in developing curriculum around financial literacy for all ages. Josephine loves working with Vancity, a values-based financial co-operative that uses its assets to improve the financial well-being of its members as well as their communities. She feels blessed to get to know and grow with her clients from different walks of life, each trying to do their best for their community, environment and family. When she is not working, Josephine enjoys travelling, swimming, and spending time with her family and friends.

STREAM C

Robotics Engineer - Sheldon Maciel

When Sheldon was 16, he knew he wanted to be an engineer, but he did not know what type. He discovered a Mechatronic Systems Engineering Degree program offered at SFU - which is a combination of Mechanical, Electrical, Software, and Systems Engineering. One of the best parts of this program is the co-op and he has worked at Parasol Advanced Systems (robotic engineering), Cellula Robotics (seafloor robotics) and even Tesla where he had a position in the battery department. In 2018 he earned his BAsC Degree; with a Major in mechatronic systems engineering and set off travelling! He is currently working at an electric bike company and an engineering consulting firm and working with embedded systems - designing circuit boards and programming microcontrollers with a goal becoming a Robotics Manager. What Sheldon likes most about his chosen career is the diversity it offers since he is “specialized” in four major disciplines. He also enjoys the option to be portable and work anywhere in the world as long as he has a laptop, internet connection, a power source, and a work visa of course! When he is not working, Sheldon loves to spend his time hiking, camping, exploring, learning, and challenging himself.

11:30 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Affordable Housing Developer – Nadia Hill

Nadia has both a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Theatre and Production and a Bachelor of Technology in Construction Management. I think it’s clear to see that she didn’t know exactly what she wanted to do when she was younger! Throughout her career, she has had many different jobs: from tree planter, to English teacher, to stage manager, to engineering proposal writer, to construction and development coordinator, to project manager. All of these different jobs and experiences have led to her current role as a Sr. Development Manager with New Commons Development, a non-profit real estate developer building Social Housing projects. Nadia is passionate about providing affordable housing while considering functional design, sustainability and promoting positive urban development. In her free time, you can find her hanging out with her teenage son, snowshoeing, hiking and travelling.

STREAM B

Sustainable Fashion Consultant - Max Feldman

Max followed his 16-year old goals and went to school for media arts. Instead of music, he focused on graphic design and worked as a graphic designer for the first few years after graduating with an undergraduate degree at Ryerson University and then an MBA from UBC. That led him to a startup clothing company, which piqued his interest in clothing manufacturing. He eventually moved to Lululemon and refocused his career from design to manufacturing. Since leaving Lululemon in 2012, he has worked for several other apparel companies like Arc'teryx, Kit & Ace and Sugoi. Over the past 20 years he has had the opportunity to work with factories all over the world and collaborate with many talented and creative individuals to develop and manufacture some of the clothes we wear today. He now focuses on helping fashion companies become more sustainable and responsible to people and the environment. He loves solving big challenges like textile waste and recycling but also loves the travel!

STREAM C

Energy Management Engineer - Lizz Hodgson

If you asked Lizz when she was 16 what she wanted to do as a career, she may have answered doctor or pilot as engineering was never on her radar! Lizz is a professional engineer with Prism Engineering, a multidisciplinary consulting company. Lizz holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and Society, with a minor in French, and an advanced certificate in Sustainable Energy Management. She has always been driven to use her talents to address complex, societal level problems. In her final year of engineering school, a guest lecturer by an energy manager propelled Lizz into her journey towards a career in energy engineering. Here she found a career that combines many of her strengths and interests. When not behind a desk, Lizz enjoys spending time ski touring, running ultra-marathons, and rock climbing.

12:00 PM Lunch Break

12:30 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Environmental Scientist / Erosion & Sediment Control Lead - Maria Luyten

A love of lakes, rivers, waterfalls and all things nature led me to train as a biologist at UBC Vancouver. My current role takes me throughout the Lower Mainland to collaborate with homeowners, engineers, contractors, and City officials to keep our environment clean while also building new spaces for people to work and live. At GeoWest Engineering Ltd., I have a variety of roles including project manager, construction site inspector and plan designer. I work with active construction sites, contaminated sites and environmentally sensitive areas, focusing on the protection of our natural environment and water quality while ensuring that our cities can continue to develop and thrive

STREAM B

Sustainable Health Care Manager – Sonja Janousek

Drawn to working with people and complexity, Sonja has always been interested in diverse career fields. As an undergraduate, her studies included a Bachelor of Arts with Major in Economics and Minor in Spanish. Initially working in a bank for 2 years, her dream to work internationally came true with an ecotourism internship in Ecuador. This was the beginning of a decade long career in international development that focused on social, financial and environmental issues. In 2005, Sonja graduated as a Master in Sustainable Development and began to work in the field of Education for Sustainable Development, participative and empowerment processes, and measurement tools for Macquarie University, UNESCO and IUCN. Later work shifted from research to implementation of sustainability projects for non-profits, universities and governmental organizations. Upon returning to Canada, Sonja found her place in the health care sector working initially as a sustainability consultant and, more recently, as manager with a team of four. Her day to day includes developing strategic communications and engagement strategies to embed sustainability across the organization, relationship building with health care leadership, and developing resources that support environmental decision making.

STREAM C

Design and Manufacturer Engineer – Jef Wiebusch Martins

Jef was always intrigued by machines and how they worked, especially cars and airplanes. After going to engineering school, Jef learned that there is way more than machines in the engineering world! Jef has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from UNISINOS, a Brazilian University and also did two semesters of engineering and an internship at the University of Liverpool in the UK. Jef was introduced to the environmental field once arriving in Canada starting a career with a start-up company focused on tackling waste issues through education and technology, called Intuitive AI. Once again, Jef was introduced to a whole world of possibilities that the engineering field can offer. Jef's job title is Design and Manufacturer Engineer; however, in a startup you can wear many hats, so Jef is a mechanical designer, mechanical assembler, logistics team lead, supply chain specialist, etc. What does Jef love about this career? It is always learning new things and interacting with people from different areas.

1:00 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Outdoor Educator /Teacher - Luke Gjerdalen

Though he considered the pursuit of becoming a professional skateboarder, he instead took inspiration from both teaching parents, and completed a BA with two teaching majors: History and English from the University of Victoria. During the summers of the degree, he worked at a kayak shop, Mountain Equipment Co-op, various construction and landscaping jobs, and eventually began working for Metro Vancouver in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve. He then continued his education path by obtaining a TESOL certificate and taught English to exchange students in Vancouver. In 2019/2020 he then completed his Bachelors of Education at UBC to teach Social Studies and English in the public school system. His new role with Metro Vancouver as Watershed Education Coordinator has him designing and leading programs about drinking water to students across the Lower Mainland. He is currently transferring the organization's in-person tours and programming into online virtual formats to accommodate restrictions caused by Covid-19. He is passionate about sharing the importance of our natural spaces and water supply to students across the Lower Mainland and inspiring people to become personally engaged in protecting the natural world.

STREAM B

Climate Justice Advocate and Researcher - Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky

Sabrina is a climate justice advocate, researcher and youth consultant, currently working at Youth Climate Lab as their International Policy Specialist. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours in International Development Studies with a Minor in Political Science. She has been passionate about climate justice since joining Kids for Climate Action, a youth-led advocacy organization, when she was in tenth grade. Sabrina is passionate about connecting young people with the skills, knowledge and resources they need to take action on environmental and social justice issues, and in particular help them find impact-driven work, such as green jobs!

STREAM C

Mechanical Engineer / Passive Design Specialist - Thomas Bamber

Even at 16 years old, Thomas always wanted to be an architect. Thomas studied Civil and Architectural Engineering and during this degree became very interested in daylighting and passive ventilation as alternate means to cool and illuminate buildings. For the first seven years, Thomas was a general mechanical (building services) engineer, then became more specialized. Now Thomas' can be defined as a Mechanical Engineer, and Passive Design Specialist. Thomas earned a Master's in engineering at the University of Bath, with did an exchange program at the Technical University of Denmark. Thomas loves to see his projects get built! In his spare time, Thomas likes playing soccer, cooking, climbing and reading, just not all at the same time!

1:30 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Physicist / Lighting Specialist - Lynn Asselin

Lynn is a lighting specialist with over 30 years of experience in Theatrical, industrial, commercial and architectural lighting and holds a Sales position with Holophane Canada as BC Sales Manager. Lynn combines physics with sustainability as she holds a Lighting Certification with NCQLP and Bachelor Degree in Physics from University of Toronto, and an Electronic Certificate from BCIT, and has experience with Visual and AG132 Software for lighting design. She also teaches lighting courses with the Education Section for IESBC. Lynn approaches lighting by providing a solutions first to the application with economic and with recommended lighting levels suitable in all areas for indoor or outdoor needs. When it's "lights out" for work, Lynn enjoys hiking, cycling and hockey.

STREAM B

Environmental Anthropologist - Alisha Wilkinson

Alisha is a PhD student at the University of British Columbia studying environmental anthropology. Alisha holds a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Ottawa. Her research engages with a variety of environmental questions, including the impacts of urban pollution in Latin America and energy transition politics and urban climate mitigation planning in Western Europe. In addition to her academic pursuits, she is passionate about the value of social science research in helping resolve important environmental challenges and to produce engaging and accessible public scholarship. Her research and work with the federal government aims to bridge the gap between natural sciences and social sciences.

STREAM C

Chemical Engineer - Carolyne Tran

When Carolyne was in high school, she really enjoyed science and mathematics. For that reason, she decided to pursue a career in engineering, particularly renewable energy. Carolyne is a graduate from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Chemical Engineering. She currently works at Greenlane Renewables as a Project Coordinator. Greenlane Renewables is a global provider of biogas upgrading systems which create clean and low-carbon renewable natural gas, suitable for injection into the natural gas grid and for direct use as vehicle fuel. Her past jobs were at Convertus Group (formerly Renewi Canada) as a Junior Engineer, then a Project Coordinator. As a Junior Engineer, she has been involved in providing Operational and Maintenance support through process optimization, data analysis, and hazard and risk assessments. As a Project Coordinator, she ensures timely delivery of capital projects by participating in project tenders, designs reviews, budgets, and schedules. Due to her job, she often travels to sites across the world. During her free time, Carolyne enjoys exploring the world and seeing new places!