

Green Collar Futures

Career Conference 2023



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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Mentor Sponsors: BC Building Science, GeoPacific Engineering Ltd., Chesterman Properties, South Street Development Group, NEXII, John Holland, & Green Bricks members.

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. Isabelle Côté



Isabelle is a Professor of Marine Ecology at Simon Fraser University. She and her students share a deep passion for marine conservation, and most of their work focuses on solving problems affecting coastal marine ecosystems – coral reefs in particular.

Isabelle had no idea what she wanted to be when she was 16, other than something that did not involve math! She eventually ‘fell’ into biology and did a BSc at McGill University, an MSc in Edmonton and a PhD in Toronto. Isabelle spent 15 years as a prof in England, before moving to BC in 2005.

Her research has taken her from the Arctic to the Tropics, from some of the most remote and beautifully wild places to some of the most degraded marine environments. She is passionate about communicating all aspects of science, from the wonder of new discoveries to the role of science in policy and society.

Afternoon Keynote

Marissa Bergeron

Marissa Bergeron, is the inventor, entrepreneur, and founder of Eat the Dishes, a zero waste, plant based street-food and catering company where food is served in freshly baked, edible, leak-proof bread cups baked right before the customers' eyes. When Marissa was in grade 12 she felt lost; she had no idea what to do with the rest of her life! In university she hoped to narrow it down but ended up graduating with a Bachelor of General Studies (aka, "a degree in 'I don't know what to do with the rest of my life'"). That's when life took her to Dubai, where she worked as a Cabin Crew Manager at Emirates Airline and was confronted with the amount of waste produced in the street food industry. Looking to align her actions with her values, she quit the airline industry and launched Eat the Dishes to showcase that street food can be high flavour, yet low waste."



Zoom Links & Conference Layout

Welcome & Morning Keynote

Time: Feb11, 2023 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 11, 2023 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 11, 2023 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 11, 2023 10:00AM to 2:00PM</p> <p>Link in your email or by visiting https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/</p>
10:00	Architect	Applied Science Technologist / Erosion & Sediment Control Lead	Hydrologist Renewable Energy / Lithium Mining
10:30	Landscape Architect	Environmental Lawyer	Engineer / Building Commissioner
11:00	Interior Designer	Values-Based Wealth Planner	Robotics Engineer
11:30	Affordable Housing Developer	Architecture / Design & Technology Specialist	Energy Management Engineer
12:00	BREAK		
12:30	Natural Resources Scientist	Sustainable Health Care Manager	Physicist / Lighting Specialist
1:00	Marketing / Social Media / Customer Relations	Climate Justice Advocate and Researcher	Mechanical Engineer / Passive Design Specialist
1:30	Social / Environmental Anthropologist	Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Planner	Chemical Engineer

Afternoon Keynote & Prizes

Time: Feb 11, 2023 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 airports and many innovative Mass Timber projects. Working on award-winning projects such as the Catalyst Building in Spokane, WA, Mingyuk led the architectural design team from concept to completion. The [Wood Innovation Design Centre](#), where Mingyuk worked on the construction documentation and construction administration phases, was the tallest mass timber building in the world at the time of completion in 2015. She recently joined Intelligent City, an industry leader in mixed use urban housing, green building strategies, digital design, manufacturing, and robotics in timber construction. 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 a nature-lover and an all-weather cycling enthusiast.

STREAM B

Applied Science Technologist / Erosion & Sediment Control Lead - Maria Luyten

A love of lakes, rivers, waterfalls and all things nature led Maria to train as a biologist, majoring in Biology with a minor in Microbiology at UBC Vancouver. Maria began her career at a geotechnical engineering firm as an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Lead, working on a variety of construction sites to keeping the environment clean while building new spaces for people to work and live. This work continued at another geotechnical engineering firm where she had a variety of roles including project manager, construction site inspector and plan designer on active construction sites, contaminated sites and environmentally sensitive areas. Last year, Maria began a new role with Storm Guard Water Treatment Ltd., a water treatment company that provides customized construction water treatment systems. These systems help to protect of our water quality by removing sediment and other harmful chemicals from construction site water before it enters our streams, creeks and other waterways. Maria is passionate about educating the public, and especially young people, about erosion and sediment control, and water treatment so that our cities can be built sustainably and continue to develop and thrive.

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

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

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 - which combines Mechanical, Electrical, Software, and Systems Engineering. This is a co-op program and Sheldon had many interesting work experiences. These include working at Parasol Advanced Systems (robotic engineering), Cellula Robotics (seafloor robotics), Tesla, Grin Technologies (electric bikes), and now Dometic (formerly SeaStar Solutions), a mobile outdoor living company where he specializes in marine actuators doing firmware for motor controllers and sensor integration. He also consults for Santevia Water Systems (mineralized alkaline water) doing 3D printing, designing circuit boards, and programming microcontrollers. In 2018 he earned his BAsC Degree at SFU; with a Major in Mechatronic Systems Engineering and set off traveling. Sheldon loves his career; it offers diversity since he is “specialized” in four disciplines and he can work anywhere in the world with a laptop, internet connection, power source, and work visa. 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

Architecture / Design & Technology Specialist - Kate Kirwan

Kate’s career path can best be described as “unexpected” - she studied architectural technology, got her first real architectural job and swiftly decided to work in construction instead! After a decade creating 3D models to improve construction efficiency, she moved to Unity Technologies (a gaming engine that powers the likes of Among Us and Pokemon Go) to work on software that improves design collaboration and reduces construction waste with AR and VR technology. Basically, she gets paid to work on computer games!

Kate is passionate about supporting women in construction, and is the current president of Canadian Construction Women, a non-profit organization established in 1981. When she’s not working, she likes to spend time with family and travel as much as possible.

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

Natural Resources Scientist - Tara Brudar

Born and raised in Vancouver, Tara has always had a passion for the outdoors. She grew up ski racing for Whistler Mountain, spending her weekends in the snow. When it was time to apply for post-secondary education, Tara was drawn to the field of conservation, seeking a career in which she could play an active role in climate change mitigation and adaptation to ensure that generations to come can enjoy the mountains as she has. Tara is currently completing a BSc in Natural Resources Conservation at the University of British Columbia, studying biodiversity conservation and sustainability from ecological, sociological, and economical perspectives. She plans to travel to South Africa this spring to study conservation in Kruger National Park, as well as attend an exchange program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for the 2023/24 academic year. For any questions related to post-secondary education in the green economy, Tara is here to help.

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

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.

1:00 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Marketing / Social Media / Customer Relations – Nikki Zawadzki

Nikki is a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Victoria. She loved her home in Victoria, spent a semester in Spain to study entrepreneurship and innovation at IE Business school, and worked towards her goal of sustainable entrepreneurship and education. After starting as a co-op student and she returned in the position of Institutional Partner Success at CyberPatient, a Vancouver-based virtual hospital where healthcare students can practice their skills for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. Nikki loves working for a business model that can be offered in every corner of the globe with very little footprint. Here she gets to practice her marketing and customer relations skills while learning a few medical terms along the way. Nikki recently earned her black belt in judo and also loves to love spin, hike, do yoga, and surf.

STREAM B

Climate Justice Advocate and Researcher - Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky

Sabrina is a climate justice advocate, artist, researcher and youth consultant. Over the past two years she has worked with Youth Climate Lab, the Canadian Council for Youth Prosperity, and the Emerging Youth Consultancy on a range of projects related to climate policy, green jobs, just transition, and youth leadership. Currently, she is a full-time graduate student in Political Ecology and a part-time Research Assistant at the University of Victoria. Sabrina's undergraduate degree was in International Development Studies and Political Science, with a focus on climate change. She 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

Social / Environmental Anthropologist

When I was 16, I wanted to be a videogame designer. I was interested in all the wonderful worlds that we could explore through technology. Since then, I have shifted paths, and I am now studying to get a Master's degree in Anthropology at UBC, and I am working as a research assistant for the Gitxaala First Nation's Language and Culture Department. In the past I have also worked as a science educator in Denver Colorado, USA, and as an emergency response teacher during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Port Angeles Washington, USA. These experiences have shown me that the world in which we live is a wonderful place, that it is full of beautiful stories waiting to be heard, and that exploring the many ways of knowing and living in our world is the most fulfilling way that I can work towards a sustainable future.

STREAM B

Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Planner - Luke Smeaton

Growing up in New Zealand, Luke developed an appreciation for the natural world and also loved designing and making things. When it came time to figure out a career, Luke was torn between architecture, engineering, and construction so decided to pursue a unique path that combined these interests by studying Building Science. After gaining experience as a building energy efficiency and sustainability specialist in New Zealand, Australia and the UK, he moved to Canada in search of adventure. In his current role at the North Vancouver School District, Luke works on projects and initiatives related to facility optimization, climate action, organizational sustainability and environmental stewardship. Specializing in inter-disciplinary collaboration, Luke enjoys breaking down the traditional silos that can slow progress towards a better future. Luke lives in North Vancouver with his family and in his spare time enjoys playing outside with bikes, boats, and bows.

STREAM C

Chemical Engineer - Carlyne Tran

When Carlyne was in high school, she really enjoyed science and mathematics. For that reason, she decided to pursue a career in engineering, particularly renewable energy. Carlyne 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 Manager. 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 as a Project Coordinator. She has been involved in providing Operational and Maintenance support through process optimization, data analysis, and hazard and risk assessments. As a Project Manager, 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, Carlyne enjoys exploring the world and seeing new places!