

Green Collar Futures

Career Conference 2024



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. Nicholas Coops

Dr. Nicholas Coops – UBC Professor and Canada Research Chair in Remote Sensing



Nicholas is a UBC Professor and Canada Research Chair in Remote Sensing for forest productivity and conservation so he is an example of how the green economy has shaped his career. At 16, Nicholas had no idea what he wanted to be; he just knew he liked to have time to pose questions, and then read and research to figure out the answer on topics that he was passionate about: space and geography.

Even in University he didn't know what he wanted to do. It was only when he was at the end of his degree, he took a course that sparked an interest to want to know more and that set him down the road of remote sensing. Now he spends his days researching the use of remote sensing and geospatial information to assess leaf chemistry characteristics, forest structure and dynamics, biodiversity, carbon accumulation, disturbance, and change. Being a researcher in the environmental field is a very interesting, and always a consuming job; he loves every minute of it!

Afternoon Keynote

Geneviève Noel

Geneviève Noel is a visionary inventor with an entrepreneurial spirit. Her mission is to restore a symbiotic relationship between our built environment and our planet and to be an active participant in the revitalization of Indigenous Culture.

As Founder and Director of Mindful Innovations, she applies her creativity to finding unexpected nature-based solutions to meaningfully address the Climate Crisis. MINDFUL INNOVATIONS creates opportunities for the re-integration of biodiversity in our built environment and orchestrates unexpected circular economies by up-cycling waste streams into useful, life-affirming products. Geneviève has a Bachelor of Design from Emily Carr University. She has designed a patented living wall system that is Cradle to Cradle Certified and that has been commercialized worldwide under licence by Sempergreen BV. She is now completing Permaculture Design and Regenerative Soil Certifications to further her knowledge of how to live symbiotically with our Earth.



Zoom Links & Conference Layout

Welcome & Morning Keynote

Time: Feb10, 2024 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 10, 2024 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 10, 2024 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 10, 2024 10:00AM to 2:00PM</p> <p>Link in your email or by visiting https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/</p>
10:00	Architect	Sustainability Advisor for Health Care	Building Life Cycle Assessor
10:30	Landscape Architect	Environmental Lawyer	Chemical Engineer
11:00	Interior Designer	Values-Based Wealth Planner	Robotics Engineer
11:30	Real Estate Developer	Municipal Climate / Biodiversity Specialist	Physicist/Lighting Specialist
12:00	BREAK		
12:30	Marketing / social media / Customer Relations	Labour law Juris Doctor	Hydrologist/Renewable Energy/Lithium Mining
1:00	Social / Environmental Anthropologist	Climate Justice Advocate and Researcher	Energy / Modelling Engineer
1:30	Food Equity and Community Resilience Manager	Sustainability, Energy & Environmental Planner	Building Science Engineer

Afternoon Keynote

Time: Feb 10, 2024 2:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

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Career Mentors' Bios

10:00 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Architect – Tania Pilon

Wanting to design people's home since she was 9 years old, Tania graduated with her master's in architecture from McGill University. During that time, she competed in the Solar Decathlon China 2018 where they built a net-zero prefabricated row house. Her thesis investigated the role of an architect as a translator and the influence of Indigenous cultures on architecture. She worked in Montreal and Mexico City before moving to Vancouver. She is now a licensed architect and façade system specialist at Intelligent City. This startup leads the industry in urban housing, green building strategies, and robotics in prefabricated timber construction. They can build up to 18 storeys in wood! Outside of work, Tania loves Latin social dancing, traveling, hiking, and trying out delicious vegan restaurants.

STREAM B

Sustainability Advisor for Health Care - Marianne Dawson

Marianne has always been a science nerd and loved biology best. Learning about the world we live in and how ecosystems function has always been a passion, so Marianne knew she wanted a career involving nature and the planet. Marianne completed an undergraduate degree in evolutionary biology from SFU in 2011 but didn't have a strong direction after graduating so in 2014, she started a graduate degree in environmental practice at Royal Roads University. A school practicum project led her to work with Arc'teryx on a retail sustainability strategy. Once she had a bit of practical experience, she joined the Energy and Environmental Sustainability team in health care. After 5 years with that team, she started a new position working in sustainable health care procurement as of January 2024. Her career entails pushing forward incremental change in large, complex organizations. It's like a massive puzzle with thousands of moving pieces and she needs to find a way to connect the pieces. That challenge keeps the work interesting and extremely satisfying. Marianne keeps her passion for nature and animals alive by getting outside and experiencing the world through scuba diving, skiing, cycling, hiking, camping, and playing with her dog Cricket.

STREAM C

Building Life Cycle Assessor - Jeremy Field

While in secondary school, Jeremy thought about becoming a backcountry guide or an environmental lawyer. When asked to describe his career path, this is a hard one as his current role didn't exist 10 years ago and learned that it pays off to be the one in the office to volunteer to solve puzzles, take on new challenges and discover a new path. To describe his career title, he is a carbon-focused accountant, problem solver, and constant educator, all roles he enjoys. Jeremy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from University of Victoria, but he learned more about ecosystems there, not buildings. He found a role where the company trained him, and as a life long learner he has since completed a series of micro-credentials from UBC and BCIT. Jeremy believes that to cut the carbon emissions of a building in half takes a supportive team, a model, conversations during early design and conversations during construction. Jeremy's hobbies involve getting out of the city and into nature and loves snowboarding, kayaking, and hiking.

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

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 Sysadvance North America as a Project Manager. Sysadvance 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 Greenlane Renewables and Convertus Group, both renewable energy companies focused on supporting a circular economy. 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, Carolyne enjoys exploring the world and seeing new places!

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 create 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

Real Estate 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, Stage Manager to Engineering Proposal Writer, Construction and Development Coordinator to Project Manager and now Development Manager. All of these different jobs and experiences have led to her current role as a Development Manager at Adera Development, a local real estate developer who builds primarily with CLT. Nadia is passionate about providing housing for all while considering functional design, livability, sustainability and promoting positive urban development. In her free time, you can find her hanging out with her teenage son, spending weeks in the backcountry hiking in remote corners of the world and travelling.

STREAM B

Municipal Climate / Biodiversity Specialist - Bo Ocampo

Bo Ocampo is an Environmental Sustainability Specialist with the District of North Vancouver’s Climate and Biodiversity Team where she works to advance the municipality’s zero waste, circular economy, and environmental initiatives. She has over ten years experience in planning, policy, and education and outreach in both the private and public sector. She is motivated by finding ways to encourage sustainable behaviour and has a photo album filled with streetscape waste containers on her phone that she considers art.

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.

12:00 PM Lunch Break

12:30 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

Labour law Juris Doctor - Leanne Melnyk

Leanne Melnyk is Head of Impact & Partnerships at Quizrr, a Swedish-based company that empowers workers in global supply chains through digital training on their rights. She has a Juris Doctor with a specialization in Labour Law and spent close to a decade at the International Labor Organization's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour and the ILO/IFC Better Work Programme. Leanne was also Vice-President of Sustainability at the Li & Fung and the Fung Group. She is the author of several publications including the OECD Business Handbook on Due Diligence in the Cocoa Sector: Addressing Child Labour and Forced Labour.

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.

1:00 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Social / Environmental Anthropologist – Aaron Lamaskin

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

Climate Justice Advocate and Researcher - Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky

Sabrina is a climate justice advocate, artist, researcher and youth consultant. She has been employed with environmental organizations across Canada on a range of projects related to climate policy, green jobs, just transition, and youth leadership. Currently, she is a Master's student in Environmental Studies and a Teaching Assistant in Transformative Climate Action 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

Energy / Modelling Engineer - Felipe Patarroyo Singh

Felipe was born and raised in Medellin, Colombia and came to Canada in 2016 to pursue post-secondary education and build a new life. Throughout his studies, Felipe discovered a passion for sustainability rooted in his love for the outdoors, nature, and Indigenous values that resonate with his culture and upbringing. As a student, Felipe enjoyed internships as a mechanical engineering designer, an energy modeler, and as an energy specialist. Upon finishing his studies in 2023, Felipe found an entry position as an energy engineer at Prism Engineering. At work, Felipe develops energy studies to help large residential, commercial and industrial clients reach sustainability goals by retrofitting their HVAC systems. On his free time, Felipe enjoys sports such as running, swimming and hiking and hobbies such as meditation and listening to music.”

1:30 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Food Equity and Community Resilience Manager - Ashlee Cooper

Ashlee Cooper cares deeply about the people and the planet. Her career has been dedicated to projects and programs that support food system transformation where everyone can access the food they need to thrive. Ashlee most recently joined the City of Guelph and County of Wellington’s circular economy initiative, [Our Food Future](#). She managed an array of programs focused on increasing food access, promoting sustainable food products and producers, reducing household food waste and helping community members understand what they can do to contribute to a more sustainable food system. Prior to this role Ashlee worked in the non profit sector where she developed and delivered a broad spectrum of food and urban agriculture programs. She believes that circularity in the food system is a powerful tool for social justice, an antidote to climate catastrophe and an opportunity to bring diverse groups of people together.

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 an 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

Building Science Engineer - Daniel Haaland

By 16, Daniel knew he wanted to be an engineer, but at the time really had no perspective at just how broad the title/term "engineer" is. His career began with a guest lecture introducing him to building science. Daniel then spent the next two years completing a Master's degree in building science before moving to Vancouver for a job at RDH Building Science. Now as a Principal and Senior Building Science Engineer, Daniel supports RDH's core practice areas including New Buildings, Building Science Labs, and Energy & Sustainability, while also contributing to our Training and Publications services. Analytical and resourceful, Daniel leads the Advanced Analytics team dedicated to the thermal performance of building enclosure systems and to assisting clients in achieving their low energy/high-performance targets. What does he love most about his career? It is the variety of tasks as he learns something new every day!