

Green Collar Futures

Career Conference 2025



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 Roundtable Sponsors: *BC Building Science, GeoPacific Engineering Ltd., Chesterman Properties, Green Core Consulting, 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?”

Youth4Action is hosting a free sustainability leadership boot camp March 17 – 19, during March Break. Join high school students from across Metro Vancouver who are passionate about taking action to protect the health of our region, local waterways, and oceans. Find out more at metrovancover.org (search “youth events”) or Instagram @youth4action

Morning Keynote

Dr. Meghan Winters



Meghan Winters is a Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU.

She leads the Cities, Health, and Active Transportation Research (CHATR) lab, with a research program focused on how community design impacts how people get around and connect with each other. In partnership with cities and stakeholders, she aims to address real-world challenges, and provide evidence on ways that cities and their infrastructure can play a role in promoting healthy and safe transportation, for people of all ages and abilities.

Funny though...

when she was 16 she was sure she was going to be a fisheries ecologist.

Afternoon Keynote

Cam Brewer

Cam is a lawyer, professor, entrepreneur, writer, and activist.

He practiced international arbitration in New York, aboriginal and environmental law in Vancouver, and clerked for the Chief Justice of British Columbia and at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Cam was Executive Director of Smart Growth BC, ran eco-certification programs at the Canada Green Building Council and the Silva Forest Foundation, and founded a co-op that manufactured and distributed sustainable wood products. He served as Controller for Greenpeace Canada, Co-Chair of the VanCity Community Foundation, and principal of an urban sustainability consulting firm.



Zoom Links & Conference Layout

Welcome & Morning Keynote

Time: Mar 1, 2025 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: Mar 1, 2025 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: Mar 1, 2025 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: Mar 1, 2025 10:00AM to 2:00PM</p> <p>Link in your email or by visiting https://greenbricks.ca/conference-details/</p>
10:00	Social / Environmental Anthropologist	Sustainability Advisor for Health Care	Chemical Engineer
10:30	Landscape Architect	Environmental Lawyer	Restoration Engineer
11:00	Interior Designer	Values-Based Wealth Planner	Robotics Engineer
11:30	Architect	Municipal Climate / Biodiversity Specialist	Physicist/Lighting Specialist
12:00	BREAK		
12:30	Building Life Cycle Assessor	Labour law Juris Doctor	Hydrologist/Renewable Energy/Lithium Mining
1:00	Passive / Architectural Designer	Climate Researcher and Artist	Sustainability/Climate Action Specialist
1:30	Ocean Acidification Outreach/Researcher	Sustainable/Urban Developer	Building Science Engineer

Afternoon Keynote

Time: Mar 1, 2025 2:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

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Career Mentors' Bios

10:00 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Social / Environmental Anthropologist – Aaron Lamaskin

When he was 16, Aaron wanted to be a videogame designer. He was interested in all the wonderful worlds that we could explore through technology. Since then, he has shifted paths, and is now studying to get a Master's degree in Anthropology at UBC, and working as a research assistant for the Gitxaala First Nation's Language and Culture Department. In the past Aaron has 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 him 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 he can work towards a sustainable future.

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

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. In November 2024, she packed up her bags and moved to the UK where she currently works at Bohr as a Project Manager. Her past jobs have all been at renewable energy companies based in British Columbia and focused on supporting a circular economy - Sysadvance, Greenlane Renewables and Convertus Group. 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!

10:30 AM Sessions

STREAM A

Landscape Architect – Angat Desai

Angat Desai holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Calgary. He continues to integrate art with landscape architecture as means of choreographing experiences in whimsical, vibrant, and ecological-responsible spaces. Both art and design share an inherent value to create meaningful places and experiences that prompts engagement and interaction between humans, space, and ecological beings. Desai's design thinking process stems from an interdisciplinary practice in landscape design, urban planning, cartography, digital photography and hand drawing. He frequently intertwines the boundaries of these fields to reconstruct preconceived narratives about people, space and nature in our changing landscape.

STREAM B

Environmental Lawyer - Andhra Azevedo

Andhra is a staff lawyer on the Climate and Nature teams 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

Restoration Engineer – Carmen Chun

Carmen has always enjoyed puzzles and logic problems, so it was a natural fit for her to pursue engineering after high school. Carmen completed both her undergraduate (B.A.Sc.) and graduate (M.Eng.) degrees at the University of British Columbia. During her co-op experience, she discovered the field of structural restoration. It allowed her to apply the fundamental theories of structural analysis to existing buildings. After graduation, Carmen joined a local structural engineering firm (RJC Engineers) and continued to work in the structural restoration field. Within RJC, she has further specialized in structural glass and building facades. She continues to enjoy the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects, each one another puzzle to be solved.

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. The co-op program provided Sheldon with many interesting work experiences, including positions at Parasol Advanced Systems (robotic engineering), Cellula Robotics (seafloor robotics), Tesla, Grin Technologies (electric bikes), Dometic (formerly SeaStar Solutions, a mobile outdoor living company where he specializes in marine actuators, developing firmware for motor controllers and integrating sensors), and Tensa Sports (tennis training AI robotics).

He is currently at Tensa Sports, creating autonomous sporting robots, and also consults for Santevia Water Systems (mineralized alkaline water). He engages in 3D printing, CNC, laser cutting, circuit board design, and microcontroller programming.

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 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

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 at LWPAC and Building Systems Manager 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

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

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.

STREAM B

Labour law Juris Doctor - Meinyk

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 Labour 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

Passive/Architectural Designer - Newton Wong

Newton started his architectural career as a Technologist, turning an architect's ideas into drawings to build homes. His role expanded, and he learned about various engineering disciplines, eventually becoming a Design Manager for Childcares, Schools, and Industrial buildings.

Newton earned a Diploma in Architectural Building Engineering and Technology from BCIT, followed by a Bachelor's in Architectural Science. Recognizing the environmental impact of buildings, he became a Certified Passive House Designer and earned a micro-credential in Zero Carbon Building Standard, both crucial for addressing the climate crisis.

He enjoys problem-solving and collaboration, bringing together diverse knowledge to create harmonious solutions. Outside of work, Newton loves outdoor activities like rock climbing, biking, camping, and paddle boarding. Evenings you can often find him playing video games with his kids and reading about science and technology.

STREAM B

Climate Researcher and Artist - Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky

Sabrina Guzman Skotnitsky is a climate justice advocate, artist, researcher and youth consultant. She has worked and volunteered with environmental organizations across Canada on a range of projects related to climate policy, green jobs, and youth leadership. Sabrina holds an undergraduate degree in International Development and Political Science from Dalhousie University, and will be graduating from the University of Victoria this summer with a Master's degree in Environmental Studies. Her project Creating Climate Resilience focuses on helping young people process the mental health impacts of climate change through artmaking and dialogue workshops, which she is expanding through the support of the Lawson Foundation's Youth Action & Environment Fellowship.

STREAM C

Sustainability/Climate Action Specialist - Lauren Wentzel

Having grown up in Whistler, BC, Lauren has always been deeply connected to the outdoors and passionate about protecting it. Throughout her studies, she developed a keen interest in advancing sustainable practices and promoting renewable energy adoption. After completing her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering at the University of Calgary last year, Lauren joined Prism Engineering as a Sustainability and Climate Action Specialist. In this role, she supports clients and organizations with fleet decarbonization planning, climate resilience assessments, energy management and building decarbonization, as well as sustainability research. Outside of work, Lauren enjoys spending time with friends and family in nature, whether biking, skiing, or hiking.

1:30 PM Sessions

STREAM A

Ocean Acidification Outreach/Researcher – 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. This year, she has transitioned into coastal marine ecology, currently focusing on ocean acidification outreach and research at the Harley Lab, UBC Zoology. Her studies have given her opportunities to contribute to a variety of conservation projects both locally and around the globe, from post-apartheid conservation in Kruger National Park (South Africa), to mangrove restoration in Singapore, and effects of cold-snaps on biofilms on Galiano island. For any questions related to post-secondary education in the green economy, Tara is here to help.

STREAM B

Sustainable / Urban Developer – Helen Lui

Helen Lui is a real estate professional passionate about developing sustainable and inclusive communities where everyone can thrive. With over a decade of market and non-market project experience, her expertise lies in navigating complex partnerships ranging from missing middle to mixed-use, master planned communities.

Helen is currently the Director of Development at KPU Communities Trust, where she works collaboratively to leverage KPU's portfolio to advance community well-being, sustainability, economic prosperity, and reconciliation.

Helen supports a variety of community organizations and is currently a board member with Kyndred Society, GreenBricks, and Movement. She hosts the "Urbanism Vancouver" podcast, where she engages with various industry experts to advocate for cities that are equitable, sustainable, and livable.

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!