

GREENEST CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM - 2014 PROJECT

Project title

Mapping green innovation and technology demonstration opportunities for the False Creek Flats

Greenest City goal(s) supported

Green Economy

Long Term Goal: Secure Vancouver's international reputation as a mecca for green enterprise

Project context, scope, and value to City

Within the Greenest City Action Plan, one of the priority actions for achieving a Green Economy is to establish a 'Green Enterprise Zone' in the False Creek Flats industrial area ('the Flats'). This area would showcase high standards of performance for businesses and evolve to become the 'greenest place to work in the world'. The Flats are inhabited almost exclusively by businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and public services. As the industrial core of the city, the activities in the flats are predominantly dedicated to serving the downtown and its surrounding neighbourhoods. There are roughly 500 businesses located here, the majority of which are in service, wholesale, and manufacturing industries.

The aim of this project is to investigate and canvas businesses in the Flats to aid with the development of a clean tech demonstration map for the area. This map will identify building ownership, tenancy and other relevant information, alongside a description of those buildings that present opportunities for retrofitting, building upgrades or deployment of innovative technologies or solutions. While a lot of preliminary research has been completed on the characteristics of the Flats, it is incomplete and so primary research and interviews of business owners will be required.

The map will be used by Vancouver Economic Commission to support Vancouver's green and innovative entrepreneurs and help to increase green jobs in the city. Using the map, VEC can more easily match buildings and other potential sites with those Vancouver companies that offer a relevant technology or solution. The vision is that the Flats will become a concentrated showcase for Vancouver's innovative green products and services.

Deliverables

- Data tables with information on:
 - Ownership and tenancy of buildings in the False Creek Flats
 - Building need for upgrades, retrofitting or other application of technology

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- Building owner's or tenant's willingness to work with VEC and local Vancouver companies to address building upgrade needs
- Summary report providing high level findings of the study
- Interactive map of False Creek Flats with identifying information from data tables

Mentor department

Vancouver Economic Commission

Candidate skill set/background

- Data collection and visualization skills
- Excellent data presentation and analysis skills
- Professional approach and experience interviewing and working with business leaders
- Knowledge of the building design and construction, clean technology and other related sectors preferred
- Demonstrated interest in economic development and supporting business growth
- Ability to work with GIS and produce interactive maps would be an asset (VEC will also investigate external software or expertise to augment the Scholar's work)