

## **Project Title: Zero Waste Assets Inventory**

### **Research supports the following policies -**

- Greenest City Action Plan - Specific goal area (s): Zero Waste, Lighter Footprint
- Healthy City Strategy - Specific goal area (s): Lifelong Learning, Cultivating Connections, Making Ends Meet and Working Well
- Renewable City Action Plan
- Other: Vancouver Economic Action Strategy

### **Background**

The Zero Waste 2040 strategy (under development through 2018) emphasizes the need to avoid and reduce the generation of solid waste. A Zero Waste Assets Inventory will identify organizations in Vancouver that enable residents and businesses to avoid and reduce the amount of solid waste they generate, such as by facilitating product/material donation, exchange, resell, reuse, repair, sharing, and learning repair and maintenance skills. Note that in order to make the research manageable within the allotted time frame, the scope of work excludes food rescue/redistribution assets. The purpose of an Inventory is to: inform actions the City (and other stakeholders) may take to grow and support a robust and effective network of zero waste assets (e.g. by tracking informative metrics about assets and their availability); enable measurement of progress towards objectives identified in the developing Zero Waste 2040 strategy; and populate a public database of zero waste assets.

### **Scope of Work**

This project is a first step towards developing a Zero Waste Assets Inventory. The first objective is for the scholar to identify challenges/barriers that impede the establishment and operation of zero waste assets, as well as exemplary success stories and opportunities for enabling widespread success of zero waste assets (through a background literature review and no more than ten semi-structured interviews). Next, based on the research, the scholar will propose suitable metrics about zero waste assets to track. Third, the scholar will develop a draft methodology for completing and maintaining the Inventory; propose a database structure (using Excel), and calculate key metrics from a sample inventory. The project will conclude with recommendations for next steps, 'quick start' priority actions and further research for the City's consideration.

The findings of this research will help to inform City actions for helping achieve the City's goal of achieving zero waste. Conducting this research will also guide the City in identifying and prioritizing areas of zero waste activity requiring further research. Finally, the project will inform next steps for conducting a complete inventory. Subject to a successful project outcome, the framework can continue to be populated with data about zero waste assets in Vancouver.

### **Deliverables**

- Summary report of background literature review and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders and subject matter experts
- Documented data collection methodology and database structure populated with initial dataset
- Documented data analysis methodology and initial data analysis results, including data visualization examples
- Recommendations for next steps and further research
- A presentation delivered to City staff summarizing the project, findings and recommendations
- A public facing final report for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library

**Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>**

**GREENEST CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
**UBC Sustainability Scholars Program, Summer 2018**

**Time Commitment**

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **April 27 to August 10, 2018**
- The scholar is to complete hours between **8am-5pm, Monday to Friday**, approximately **20** hours per week.

Work location: Engineering - Marine Gateway (450 SW Marine Drive)

**Skill set/background required/preferred**

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and survey techniques
- Familiarity with interview techniques, including developing questions and conducting semi-structured interviews
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct in-person interviews and phone surveys
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Deadline oriented
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel
- Familiarity with quantitative data analysis, including reporting and visualizing results
- Knowledgeable about zero waste and circular economy concepts (preferred but not a requirement)
- Demonstrated interest in second-hand economy (e.g. reuse, repair and share) is an asset

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