

UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Summer 2018

Research Project Title

Creating a Circular Economy in New West – Pilot Test of National Industrial Symbiosis Program

Context

The City of New Westminster, City of Surrey and Metro Vancouver Regional District are supporting a two-year, regional pilot program that will test local application of business engagement and support methodologies utilized by the National Industrial Symbiosis Program – a successful program that was developed in Europe. This will be the first, larger-scale application of industrial symbiosis methodologies in Metro Vancouver, with participating local governments like City of New Westminster seeking to engage small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME's), catalyze business-to-business synergies and develop economic relationships that mimic symbiotic relationships in nature, where 'waste equals food'.

A regional pilot program was launched in fall 2017 and is now underway, with the New Westminster component earmarked to occur in late spring and summer 2018.

Goal or Operations Plan objective

Develop a program to engage commercial and industrial enterprises to 'kick start' opportunities for local businesses to show leadership in carbon mitigation, energy and water efficiency, and waste reduction, thereby laying the groundwork for economic efficiency, environmental innovation and green job creation.

Related Objectives

1. Engage a sector of the local community (i.e., local SME's / commercial and industrial businesses) that may be challenging to mobilize on climate, energy and waste reduction.
2. Support the targets and objectives of New Westminster's Environmental Strategy, Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP), and Official Community Plan 2041.
3. Reinforce City of New Westminster's commitment to enhance and restore the natural environment, and create opportunities for economic, social and technological innovation.
4. That the Industrial Symbiosis pilot informs the planning and development of an emerging low-carbon zone in New Westminster's Sapperton neighbourhood and Brunette Industrial area.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.

- Receive training in the National Industrial Symbiosis Program and review the format, methodologies and objectives, and the intentions of the regional pilot.
- Work with City staff team to identify opportunities as well as potential constraints presented by local application of the regional industrial symbiosis program.
- Lead the development of a local awareness and engagement campaign that will drive SME participation in a half-day workshop on symbiosis opportunities and synergies in summer 2018.
- Work with Economic Development staff to build a comprehensive data file of small- and medium-sized enterprises in New Westminster that would be engaged with, and invited to the industrial symbiosis workshop in summer 2018.
- Be the key contact and coordinating element for the City staff team and technical practitioners working on behalf of the regional industrial symbiosis program.
- Lead the development of customized information materials, marketing and engagement collateral, as well as City website content to support this initiative. [Note: The Scholar will assist with creating a project budget for developing necessary digital / printed materials.]

Deliverables

- A final report, containing a summary of the New Westminster component of the regional industrial symbiosis initiative, as well as results from and opportunities identified in the half-day SME workshop. This report should include recommendations on how the City of New Westminster could support this initiative to its conclusion in 2019, and drive continued engagement of local SMEs.
- A presentation on the Key Findings report recommendations, as noted above.
- A draft Council Report summarizing the above initiative and including report recommendations. [Note: City staff will assist the Scholar in preparing this report.]

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

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- Final report or executive summary for the UBC Sustainability Scholars Program online project library.

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Time Commitment

- This project will take **320** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **30 April 2018** and **10 August 2018**
- Actual timeline to be determined with the UBC Scholar at project start up.
- Generally, the Scholar is expected to complete work hours between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, as needed. Some work can be completed at home or offsite, but City staff are encouraging the Scholar to work at City Hall as much as feasible. Work space with City e-mail account will be provided at City Hall for purposes of this project.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Demonstrated interest in advancing urban environmental sustainability.
- Familiarity with local economic development and community outreach / engagement
- Experience conducting and/or helping to facilitate stakeholder engagement events, is an asset.
- Strong writing skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Familiarity with qualitative and/or quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Interest in document design and layout

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