

# GREENEST CITY FUND



## 2015 Greenest City Community Grants Recipients

The Greenest City Fund is a four-year, \$2 million fund by the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Foundation that supports community-led green projects to help make Vancouver the greenest city in the world by 2020. The following grants were awarded in 2015.

### **Heather Street Healing Garden: posAbilities Association of BC (\$25,000)**

This grant will be used for a community engagement process that will result in the design of a new therapeutic garden space at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) to address multiple needs including access to green space and healthy food, social connection and belonging, and improving patient and community health outcomes. VGH staff will have the opportunity to use the space for programming with a variety of individuals, including those with physical and mental illness, addictions, and long-term care needs.

### **Wild Mind: Environmental Youth Alliance (\$50,000)**

This grant will be used to create a significant bird and bee habitat and natural gathering space in several inner-city neighborhoods. Large public spaces in two schools and one community garden will be co-designed and stewarded by local youth, with the goals of 1) increasing inner-city youth's access to nature, and 2) promoting low-impact lifestyle choices through creative, youth-focused, nature based restoration and citizen science programming.

### **Waste Watchers 2.0: Be the Change Earth Alliance Society (\$25,000)**

This grant will be used to build on the youth-led diversion plan pilot in three Vancouver Community Centres to offer WW 2.0 at another 6 high schools and 3 Community Centres, while continuing to support the pilot schools and community centres in this work.

### **Salmon in the City: Silva Forest Foundation (\$33,000)**

This grant will be used to identify the condition of the Still Creek watershed, and recommend restoration actions to enable the return of healthy salmon populations. Students from partner organizations will assist with research, developing maps and engaging the community.

**A Bright Blue Future: Georgia Strait Alliance (\$20,000)**

The goal of this grant is to contribute to the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (GCAP) by ensuring consideration of the water's edge in Vancouver's strategy to become the world's greenest city. Georgia Strait Alliance is leading a collaborative effort to develop a vision for Vancouver's waterfront and a comprehensive plan for waterfront management with measurable and obtainable objectives which support GCAP goals.

**Vancouver City Incentive challenge: SFU - Faculty of Business Administration (\$25,000)**

This grant will be used to launch a prize-based challenge to find new solutions to greenest city goals. The expected focus for the 2016 City Incentive Challenge is food waste, with further research being conducted to identify the exact point(s) of intervention most conducive to high impact, entrepreneurial outcomes.

**East Van Green - The Grape Vibe: Il Centro-Italian Cultural Centre (\$20,000)**

This grant will be used for an East Van Green series of projects that connects the community garden, urban farm partnership, farmer's market and food literacy and education activities at the Cultural Centre site. The East Van Green "Grape Vibe" project creates a unique opportunity to link local, artisan and organic values and will build upon existing community assets.

**Farming with Purpose: Gordon Neighbourhood House, with the Association of Neighbourhood Houses (\$15,000)**

This grant will be used to support the construction of raised planter boxes on publicly accessible West End boulevards. They will be filled with edible herbs for residents to harvest as they please. These 'Community Herb Gardens' will also be used as a strategy for educating the public on the plight of migrant agricultural workers.

**Getting it Right: The Pembina Institute, with The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research and Education (\$38,000)**

This grant will help support Vancouver's efforts to accelerate envelope improvement & market transformation in low-rise residential buildings by: Raising awareness of increased demand for passive house equipment (PHE); articulating an 'exemplary building' program to incentivize / promote PHE demonstration projects; and providing more clarity to industry & government on incremental costs for PHE and energy/emission reductions.

**Ocean Wise - Engaging the Chinese and Asian Seafood Sector: Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre (\$35,000)**

This grant will help to better serve Vancouver's Chinese restaurateurs, seafood suppliers and consumers in the local sustainable seafood movement. The project will build capacity to engage this community using collaborative approaches that demonstrate cultural relevance, inclusivity of ethno-specific ingredients and Chinese language content.

**False Creek Flats Business-Based Climate Action: Climate Smart, with Ecotrust Canada, (\$30,000)**

This grant aims to engage local businesses in Climate Smart programming over a multi-year period. Project components include: Fostering of eco-industrial network connections & identifying common challenges that can be tackled at the community scale; developing industry sector specific communications that are relevant to a culturally-diverse ethnic market segment and focused on the business case for reduced emissions; and collaboration with utilities, TravelSmart and local solutions

providers to drive collective action.

**Cycling Ambassadors: HUB Cycling (\$18,500)**

This grant will be used to increase the knowledge and resources of Vancouver immigrant settlement workers and English Language Learning (ELL) instructors about urban cycling so they may better explain its benefits and provide practical information about it to immigrant newcomers.

**Growing Opportunities: Fresh Roots Urban Farm Society, with School District No. 39 (Vancouver) (\$35,000)**

This grant will help build a universally accessible schoolyard market garden at Gladstone Secondary. This educational and working farm will provide training for green collar jobs for special needs youth, and produce saleable local food. The garden will be universally accessible and feature raised garden beds, wide pathways, and other design components to allow for job training and skills development to students with physical challenges fostering an inclusive school and community environment.

**The Choi Project Phase III: Hua Foundation, with Global Youth Education Network Society (\$25,000)**

This grant will continue to engage Vancouver's Hua (ethnic Chinese) community in the local, 'good food' movement by creating culturally relevant access points. The project focuses on enabling and growing the network of industry and community partners - including restaurant owners, suppliers, chefs and sustainability experts such as Ocean Wise - to better support the Chinese community's food sovereignty.

**Urban Pollinator Sanctuary: Hives for Humanity, with PHS Community Services Society (\$35,000)**

This grant will be used to create a vibrant pollinator meadow at the new Hastings Urban Farm site that will: Provide habitat and forage for native pollinators; integrate inclusive community workshops, that outreach, engage, educate and empower both participants & passersby; and create a beautiful perimeter to the site, which is to become the Downtown Eastside Economic Hub, a place of social enterprise and community empowerment.

***About the Greenest City Fund***

*The Greenest City Fund is a four-year, \$2 million fund that supports community-led green projects in Vancouver. The goal of the Greenest City Fund is to help make Vancouver the greenest city in the world by 2020.*

*Funded by the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Foundation, the Greenest City Fund comprises three granting programs: Generation Green Grants, which fund youth-led projects; Greenest City Neighbourhood Small Grants, which fund projects created by Vancouver residents that benefit their neighbourhood; and Greenest City Community Grants, which fund Vancouver projects led by community-based charitable organizations.*

Find out more at: <https://vancouverfoundation.ca/initiatives/greenest-city-fund>.