

GREENEST CITY FUND



2014 Greenest City Community Grant Recipients

For immediate release

Vancouver, BC – Vancouver Foundation and the City of Vancouver are pleased to announce the recipients of our 2014 Greenest City Community Grants Program, which supports community-led projects that help make Vancouver’s greenest city goals a reality.

This year’s cohort includes a strong balance of projects ranging from grassroots community building initiatives to innovative shared economy and zero waste projects.

“The Greenest City Fund is now entering its fourth year with outstanding community response,” said Mayor Gregor Robertson. “With the number of green jobs in Vancouver increasing by 19 per cent in just three years, it’s fantastic to see more green economy grants and the wide variety of grassroots projects designed to support the city’s Greenest City and job creation goals.”

The Greenest City Community Grants program is one of three granting programs administered by Vancouver Foundation on behalf of the Greenest City Fund; a four-year, \$2 million fund created in partnership with the City of Vancouver to support community, resident and youth-led green projects that advance progress towards Vancouver’s Greenest City 2020 Action Plan goals.

“It’s exciting to see such growth and diversity in the proposals that have come forward in 2014,” said Kevin McCort, President and CEO of Vancouver Foundation. “We’re seeing more grants in the areas of green jobs and green economy and we’re pleased to see the program evolve in these areas.”

In 2015, grant recipients will undertake multiple pilot programs including those designed by and for youth to train, educate, and promote zero waste culture among their peers; policy and program development to support green economy job growth in multiple sectors; and the development of sustainable skills training and community sharing platforms; among many others.

The following is a full list of projects supported by Greenest City Community Grants through the Greenest City Fund in 2014:

For more information on the Greenest City Fund visit: <https://vancouverfoundation.ca/initiatives/greenest-city-fund>

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About Vancouver Foundation

With over 1,600 funds and assets totaling \$930 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada’s largest community foundation. Each year, Vancouver Foundation and its donors make more than 5,300 grants, totaling approximately \$50 million to registered charities across Canada. Since it was founded in 1943, Vancouver

Foundation, in partnership with its donors, has distributed more than \$1 billion to thousands of community projects and programs. Grant recipients range from social services to medical research groups, to organizations devoted to arts and culture, the environment, education, children and families, disability supports for employment, youth issues and animal welfare.

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2014 Greenest City Community Grants Recipients

ReUse ReEducate ReStore (\$50,000)

This grant to Vancouver Economic Commission, with Habitat for Humanity Society of Greater Vancouver will be used to address the reuse of materials from homes undergoing demolition by providing a deconstruction option.

Building Tools for a Greener Future (\$10,000)

This grant to Check Your Head: the Youth Global Education Network will be used to offer youth-only training events on vermicomposting, electronic repairs, alterations/sewing and local food.

Waste Watchers - Community Youth Leadership Initiative (\$25,000)

This grant to Be the Change Earth Alliance Society will be used to implement a youth-led diversion plan pilot in three Vancouver Community Centres.

Destination Conservation Zero Waste Pilot (\$25,000)

This grant to The Elements Society, with School District No. 39 (Vancouver), will be used to pilot a student-led, three year project to initiate a zero waste culture within Vancouver School Board district as part of VSB's goal to be the greenest school district in Canada.

Vancouver's Bird Strategy: Promoting Access to Nature and Sustainable Choices (\$21,250)

The goal of the grant to Bird Studies Canada/Etudes d'Oiseaux Canada is to implement Vancouver's Bird Strategy to improve habitat for native birds and increase conservation of birds by engaging Vancouver's residents.

CityStudio Outdoor Classroom Design/Build Project (\$25,000)

This grant to CityStudio Vancouver, with SFU - Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue, will be used to build a pilot outdoor classroom and learning space in a Vancouver park which can be used as a place where students, teachers and the public can have positive outdoor experiences in nature.

Growing Vancouver's Largest Urban Forest - Phase II(\$20,500)

This grant to Stanley Park Ecology Society will be used to build on previous work to restore compromised areas of Stanley Park through planting native species and engaging community volunteers to reduce the abundance of invasive species, particularly Himalayan blackberry.

West End Urban Farming Initiative (\$20,000)

This grant to Gordon Neighbourhood House, with the Association of Neighbourhood Houses, will be used to work with members of the West End community and local landowners to lead the creation of a committee that will work to support the transformation of identified potential farm sites in the community into food producing urban farms.

Growing Vancouver's Green Jobs and Green Economy (\$25,000)

This grant to The Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, with The Pembina Foundation for Environmental Research and Education, will contribute to the City of Vancouver's goal of growing the green economy by building support for green jobs and the policies and programs needed to grow them.

Our Community Bike Club (\$36,000)

This grant to Pedal Foundation aims to improve access to bicycles and cycling in elementary schools, high schools and community centres.

Sea to Fork Seafood Processing (\$25,000)

The intent of this grant to Living Oceans Society, with T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation, is to establish an independent fish processing plant and training facility in the Vancouver region.

The Leverage Lab(\$25,000)

This grant to Future Strategies, with Canadian Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC), will work with businesses to help them embed sustainability into their operations, leverage opportunities for growth, and create partnerships to develop uncommon solutions to common problems.

StreetWise Outreach - Educating More Vancouver Cyclists (\$22,350)

This grant to HUB: Your Cycling Connection will be used to help achieve HUB's ultimate goal to increase Vancouver's cycling numbers, rates, cycling network use and safety levels.

VSBC Car Free Schools Pilot Project (\$15,000)

This grant to HASTe BC, with School District No. 39 (Vancouver), will pilot a car-free school event at three Vancouver secondary schools. The initiative aims to help schools reclaim and use public space to highlight the safety, mobility, environmental and health benefits of restricting motor vehicle traffic around schools.

Expanding the Urban Farming Sharing Economy (\$25,000)

This grant to Vancouver Urban Farmers Society, with Shifting Growth Garden Society, will be used to implement two sharing economy based urban farming projects: an urban farming tool share program in collaboration with the Vancouver Tool Library and a volunteer sharing and training program.

The Choi Project Phase II (\$25,000)

This grant to Hua Foundation, with Global Youth Education Network Society, is to be used to continue to engage Vancouver's Hua (ethnic Chinese) community in the local, 'good food' movement by creating culturally relevant access points. The project will facilitate action in this significant cultural community by providing tools and resources for consumers and small businesses to make more sustainable food choices.

Pollinators and People (\$28,800)

This grant is for Hives for Humanity, with PHS Community Services Society, is to be used to build on their Therapeutic Beekeeping program to enhance participation in the local economy by creating a new source of revenue with which to create diverse opportunities for green employment, training and volunteerism; and build capacity for enhancing community connectivity.

The Self Reliance Project for Women (\$4750)

This grant to Chylan Emergency Gear Inc, with Atira Women's Resource Society, is to be used to teach sustainable skills to vulnerable women in the areas of food, cleaning products and production of goods.

Share Shed (\$16,650)

This grant to Share Shed, with City in Focus, is to be used towards the creation of a website and mobile app based on community item and skill sharing. The goal is to contribute to a more sustainable, affordable, and community minded existence in communities across Vancouver by creating a platform for individuals to connect and share with their neighbours.

The next grant cycle for Greenest City Fund's Community Grants will take place in the fall of 2015. A call for submissions will be announced in early summer. For more information on Greenest City Community Grants, go to the Vancouver Foundation website at <https://vancouverfoundation.ca/initiatives/greenest-city-fund>

The Greenest City Fund is a four-year, \$2 million fund that supports community-led green projects in Vancouver. 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; Neighbourhood Small Grants, which fund projects created by Vancouver residents that benefit their neighbourhood; and Community Grants, which fund Vancouver projects led by community-based charitable organizations. The goal of the Greenest City Fund is to help make Vancouver the greenest city in the world by 2020. Find out more at: <https://vancouverfoundation.ca/initiatives/greenest-city-fund>

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