Public Health Association of BC

FOOD BANKS BC

Community Food Systems Development

#CFSD-BC

Sustainable Food Systems Coordinator

University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George Campus, located on the ancestral territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

UNBC Sustainability

Urban Farmscape

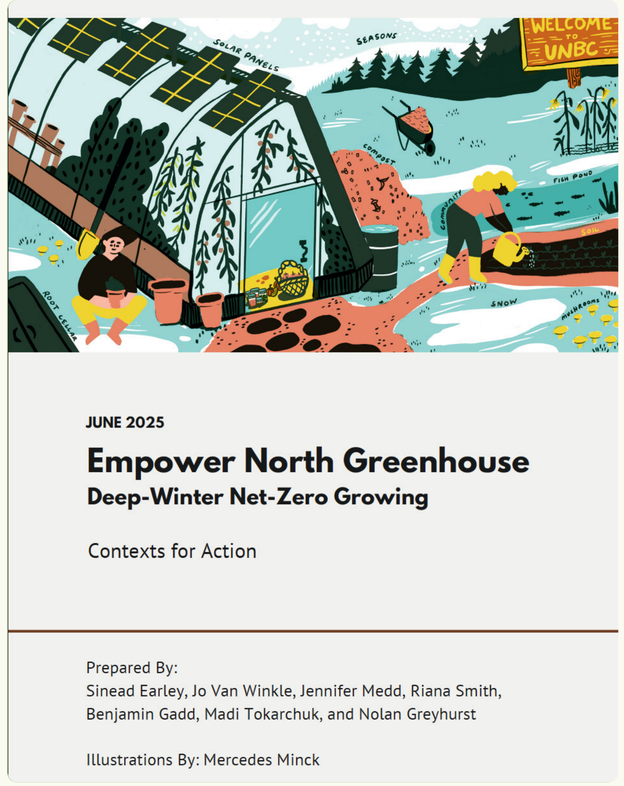


Who We Are

UNBC Sustainability works to minimize the university's environmental impact by supporting social, economic, and environmental sustainability and collaborating with community.

Urban Farmscape works with community to achieve the shared vision of preserving 5 acres of historic farmland within PG's urban core for future community use.

The Empower North Greenhouse Project is developing an energy-efficient, deep winter greenhouse at UNBC to address food insecurity, promote low-carbon food production, and foster academic and community collaboration.

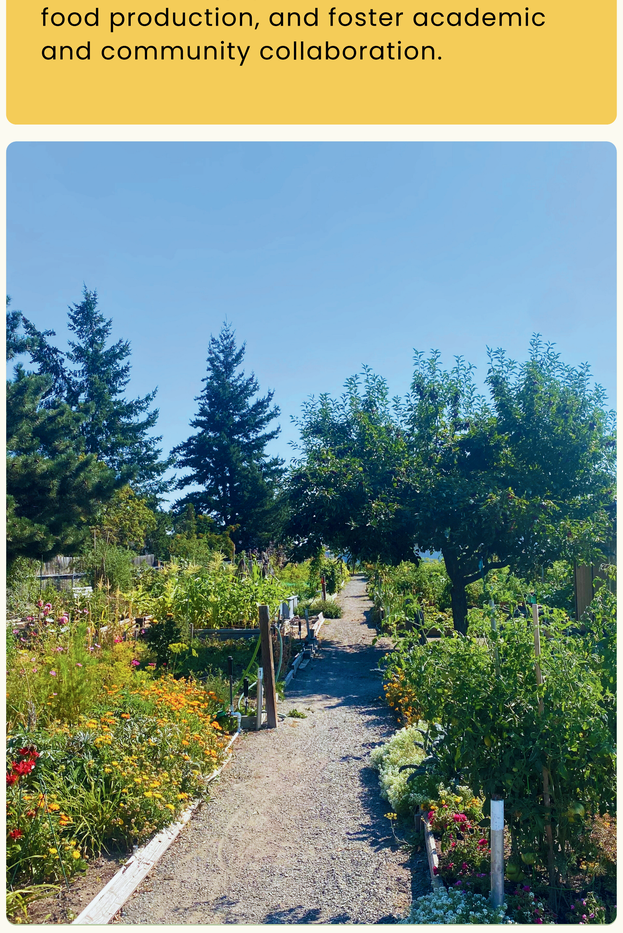


Project Overview

The Sustainable Food Systems Coordinator position was created to support the Empower North Greenhouse and PG Urban Farmscape. The focus of this position is to strengthen partnerships, develop robust governance structures, engage the community, and ensure the long-term sustainability of these projects, which aim to improve food security and promote sustainable food systems in northern BC.

Key Highlights

- Creating the Empower Northern Greenhouse Community Report and disseminating this to workshop participants and the President's office at UNBC.
- Touring Kamloops community gardens, The Stir food hub, and Mount Paul Community Food Centre to learn about prime examples of community food spaces that work.
- Participating in various community forums surrounding food sustainability in the north.



Stories of Impact

Having a Sustainable Food Systems Coordinator has allowed us (Urban Farmscape Society) to establish continuous relationships with key stakeholders in addition to finding funding opportunities when many volunteers within the society do not have the capacity to do so. They have also been able to provide a fresh perspective, which has helped to rejuvenate the project.

Next Steps

- Building the funding portfolios for both the Urban Farmscape and Empower North Greenhouse.
- Applying for grants for both projects.
- Acquiring funds for a Geotech survey of the greenhouse land.
- Acquiring funds to purchase the 5 acres of land for the Urban Farmscape.

Stages of Food Systems Transformation



Seeding

- Create spaces and opportunities for communities to gather
- Build skills, competencies and leadership
- Engage in critical reflection



Germinating

- Strengthen networks and coalition building
- Foster equitable relationships and collaboration
- Create processes for accountability and transparency



Rooting

- Facilitate mutual knowledge and resources sharing
- Stimulate co-creation of knowledge
- Leverage community leaders and assets



Growing

- Engage in transformative collective action projects
- Engage in transdisciplinary action research
- Strengthen social movements

Contact

Jo Van Winkle
Sustainable Food Systems Coordinator
winkle@unbc.ca

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Scott Monroe from PG Urban Farmscape Society and Sinead Early from the Empower North Greenhouse Project for their mentorship and willingness to share their knowledge.

This project was made possible with funding from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and facilitation from the Public Health Association of British Columbia and Food Banks BC. Learn more: **www.CFSD-PHABC.ca**