



# The Student Environment Centre

Student Resource Group  
University of British Columbia

6138 Student Union Blvd. Box 39, or Room 245  
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1  
enviro@ams.ubc.ca

## Eco-Initiatives Form: Above \$500

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Date:</b> October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2015
<b>Contact Email or Phone:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Club or Group Affiliation:</b> UBC Students for Climate Action
<b>Amount Requested:</b> \$512.73
<b>TREASURER USE ONLY:</b>
<b>Approved</b> <b>Modified</b> <b>Denied</b>
<b>Submitted as of:</b>
<b>Notes:</b>

### 1. Describe your project and its purpose (approximately 200 words)?

UBC Students for Climate Action is hosting activist, radio host, and investigative journalist David Barsamian in two events in two separate seminars, on November 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> at UBC. David Barsamian has altered the independent media landscape, both with his weekly radio show Alternative Radio and his books with Noam Chomsky, Eqbal Ahmad, Howard Zinn, Arundhati Roy and Edward Said. The title of the events are the War on Nature (Nov 4th) and the Future of the Planet (Nov 5th) where Barsamian will be featured as the distinguished keynote speaker addressing the challenges that community organizations and independent media face in light of the environmental and humanitarian crises that dangerously threaten the foundations of civilization. More specifically, in the War on Nature on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Barsamian will share his many years of experience in investigative journalism and his expertise on social inequity, foreign policy, resistance, environmentalism, corporate media in the context of today's environmental activist movement. The goal of the event is to provide indispensable resources for today's organizers in addressing tactics to engage the community to act upon the

environmental crisis. In the Future of the Planet event on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, Barsamian will be looking at the corporatization of media and the emphasis on commercial interest over addressing issues like the environmental disaster that require immediate united action. Basamian will discuss independent press and local media and how they can organize community movements. We will have a panel of local media representatives along with the attending public at the event to discuss the own challenges and successes in the vein of this struggle.

**2. Outline how your project pertains to the environment and sustainability at UBC (approximately 200 words)?**

The vision for our project and how we want it to reflect upon UBC sustainability strategies goes beyond the commitments that we make in our day to day life. The main goal of the UBC initiatives is for UBC as a whole to reach certain milestones in terms of our emissions, or simply put a vision that mainly relies on improvements from an environmental sustainability perspective. We support and would like to contribute to UBC's multiyear Climate Action Plan of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. UBC promotes engagement all the way down the diarchy from the student population to the faculty and the administration. We are hoping to contribute to this approach through creating a student movement to bring about cultural change within the UBC student body to make the whole campus community more committed to combating climate change to the level we could. The two events featuring David Barsamian who has been involved in community engagement for over 30 years and has worked with many of the most well-known intellectuals of the current times can provide an amazing opportunity for the UBC community to take a more active role in conversations on climate change. The topics of discussion will revolve around environmental issues that other UBC organization and student groups are addressing. Barsamian's extensive experience and expertise in running independent media will provide our local UBC media outlets with great insight into how to engage and raise the interest of the public on pressing issues of climate change and the tactics we need to employ to address them in conjunction with UBC's UBC's multiyear Climate Action Plan.

**3. How will you document the successes and difficulties of your project? In what ways do you foresee this documentation aiding other SEC Eco-Initiatives (approximately 200 words)?**

For all of our events, we have laid out specific goals that allows for an objective evaluation of each event. One of such is how much the UBC community as a whole reflects upon our work. Since our previous event was sold out days before the event, we are planning to implement the same marketing ideas for these events. The event itself will be free of charge and with the experience we have gained over the past few months; we are expecting to have both events sold out as well. Due to the high level of quality we have set for our work, our audience from the previous workshops and events has is in much anticipation for a great event. Their appreciation and support will be of utter importance in allowing us to judge the success of our work. This audience includes many UBC organizations and groups, faculty members, and community activists. From the organizational side, the mere number of the attendees to our events would be an

indicator of how much we have been able to reach out to involve every student on the UBC campus.

Since there is great overlap between the events we are hosting and the work that SEC does, we really hope to collaborate with SEC on any future events. In fact we have contacted SEC on multiple occasions to contribute to other SEC Eco-Initiatives and we are still willing to join in on the work. The way that our projects will contribute to SEC’s initiatives is through advocating for the cultural change within the UBC student body that would in turn benefit all sustainability groups on campus, including SEC, with more student participation and urgency to act. One of the important underlying cultural practice changes we are advocating for also includes the employment of sustainable practices to serve as models for other students. We have been keeping up with this responsibility and will continue to do so at these events.

**4. For most requests of funding of this amount, the SEC would like to see other funding sources contributing to the financing of your project. Are you pursuing any other sources of funding? If so, what sources, and for what amount? (SEC Treasurers can help you identify other sources of funding.)**

Yes, we are pursuing funding from the Social Justice Club resource center and Color Connected Against Racism resource groups. Their funds will mostly used for a portion of the cost of the venue, a portion of the speaker costs, for the Facebook ad, and for posters.

**5. What aspects of your project (purchases, bookings) will SEC funding be used for?**

Item	Cost
Honorarium for David Barsamian	\$250 (half the cost)
Venues (UBC Robson Square HSBC Hall, Abdul Ladha Science Student Centre)	\$100 (part the cost)
Coffee:	
-100% compostable cups (X300)	\$64.74
-Wood stir sticks	\$10.12
-Hot water urn rental	\$22.56
-Coffee and cream	\$18.87
-Small treats (cookies) from local stores with limited packaging	\$45.44
	Total: \$512.73

**Signed (Your Name):** Sam Seyedin

**SEC Treasurer**

Name:

Signature:

**SEC Chair**

Name:

Signature:

**A note about Eco-Initiatives Grants**

If your project is approved, the SEC will reimburse you for the purchases made. You must provide the SEC with proof-of-purchase. If you have any questions regarding the Eco-Initiatives Funding, please contact SEC Treasurers. Arrangements can be made to provide students with funding before purchasing if they cannot afford to make the purchase for their project and then receive compensation. Reimbursement usually takes about 5 business days. Eco-Initiatives Grants can fund a wide variety of projects; any projects related to the environment or sustainability, and involving members of the UBC student body, will be considered. However, requests for funding for projects undertaken as part of coursework at UBC, or individual volunteer projects, must illustrate a connection to the wider student body at UBC.

Completed forms should be emailed to [enviro@ams.ubc.ca](mailto:enviro@ams.ubc.ca). Alternatively, we welcome you to drop your form off at our office, Room 245B of UBC's Student Union Building. The Treasurers and other active members of the SEC would love to help you formulate your project, and will be glad to assist with the project's development and applications for funding.

---