

Eco-Initiatives Form: Above \$500

Name(s): Conner Wear, Chris Diplock, Caitlin Dorward, George Rahi, Sam Wright, Steven Phillips

Club or Group Affiliation (if applicable):

Name of Project (if applicable):

The Vancouver Tool Library Cooperative (VTL)

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

The Vancouver Tool Library (VTL) is a cooperative tool lending library being established in East Vancouver, at 3448 Commercial Street. As the name suggests, the VTL will be a community resource that provides citizens access to an extensive inventory of power and hand tools so that they can maintain their homes, tend their yards and gardens, fix their bicycles, build furniture, and start projects with their neighbours. Monthly workshops and knowledgeable volunteers will provide the opportunity for members to learn tool-related skills in an inclusive and affordable setting. By facilitating the sharing of resources, the tool library allows us to "do more with less." Less waste, less personal economic investment, and more community engagement around improving and greening the places in which we live, work, and play.

Although the VTL is the first of its kind in Vancouver, the concept is not new. Over two dozen tool libraries have been established throughout the United States, some of which have now been in operation for more than 30 years.

The VTL is incorporated as a Community Service Cooperative and governed by a Board of Directors excited to be the driving force behind what has been identified as a needed resource in Vancouver. We are dedicated to taking a proactive and responsive approach to managing our organization, and adhering to the values of inclusivity, empowerment, community building, member participation, and sustainability in all that we do.

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

The establishment of the VTL will support sustainability goals by reducing waste and consumption, increasing access to nature, local food, and green transportation, and promoting lighter footprint lifestyles. By offering a collectively owned resource, the VTL reduces redundancies in tool ownership, consumption of consumer goods, and the non-

renewable resources required to manufacture them. The VTL will foster a “repair and re-use” philosophy that reduces the tendency of our society to simply throw away and buy new consumer goods, furniture, etc. In doing so we hope to facilitate a critical view of the way our society currently interacts with the environment especially in an urban setting. . The VTL offers a resource which community members can use to re-create shared spaces into places that are functional, vibrant, and ecologically diverse. Our organization will encourage members to use our tools for projects that green our neighbourhoods and facilitate the production and consumption of local foods (such as implementing edible landscaping in city parks, right-of-ways, and bike routes, and building community, backyard, and school food gardens), and in the near future offering workshops on these topics.

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)?

We’ve been really diligent about keeping track of what it’s taken to get started so far. We’ve documented the time and resources we’ve dedicated to this project and will continue to do so. We’re also keeping track of a number of indicators of success and challenges that we will tabulate and present to the general membership on a quarterly basis. These indicators our outline below:

1. Positive and substantial community response to the project.
 - a. The main quantitative indicator associated with this outcome will be tracking progress against our projected membership goals (80 members within the first two months, 300 within the first six months, and 500 by the end of the first year). Means to qualitatively assess our progress against this outcome have been built into our website and communications strategy, where feedback forms are available for community members to share their thoughts, ideas and suggestions. This information will be tabulated on an ongoing basis in order to track community support and ensure that the tool library is tailored to the needs and values of its member base.
2. Active membership base; the VTL strives to see its’ members active not only as users of the tool library but also as participants in the development and growth of the project.
 - a. The VTL aims to have the average member using the tools library at least once a month, and strives to increase this with educational workshops that teach members how to use these tools. A key quantitative indicator of our active member base will thus be the number of monthly checkouts per member, as recorded in our inventory database. As each incidence of tool check can be linked to a repair or renovation, this indicator will demonstrate the positive community impact of the VTL.

Indicators of our members taking active roles in the development and growth of the project include numbers of members who also contribute volunteer hours to the project and number of members active in the project's strategic planning governance.

3. Volunteers educated and empowered through their involvement with the VTL.
 - a. The success of our program at building the capacity and skill set of our volunteers will be indicated by low volunteer turn-over rates and high incidence of our volunteers progressing through all phases of our tiered training program (outlined in the next section) to become supervisors. We will record all volunteer turn-over and review the volunteer program once a year to see who has gone through the entire program, and make adjustments to the program based on these measurements.
4. Waste reduction and resource conservation.
 - a. Waste reduction will be measured by tracking numbers of tools purchased by the VTL and donated by community members, in conjunction with rising member numbers.

5. **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.)**

We are applying for grants from other organizations that seek to encourage sustainability and community development. They include but are not limited to:

- The Home Depot Canada Foundation Community Grant Program (\$5000)
- Mountain Equipment Cooperative Urban Sustainability Grant (\$2000)
- The Vancouver Greenest City Award(\$7500)
- Vancity Community Foundation (\$400)
- We also expect to raise around \$2500 in our upcoming fundraiser

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

Seeing as we are starting up, we would like to ask SEC to assist us with our Setup & Maintenance costs. These include:

- \$1000 for shelving, storage and renovation materials

- \$500 for furniture and Point Of Sales equipment.

7. What is the dollar amount you are requesting from the SEC?

We are requesting and would greatly appreciate \$1500.

Signed (Your Name):

Chris Diplock
President
The Vancouver Tool Library

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. Alternatively, we welcome you to drop your form off at our office, Room 245B of UBC's Student Union Building. You may also mail us the form, though this may result in delays in processing. 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.

* The SEC's Treasurers are Nicole Lee and Jeff Sung. Email them atnicviclee@hotmail.com and jeffsung19@hotmail.com.