

## Eco-Initiatives Form: Above \$500

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Date Submitted:</b> February 22, 2018
<b>Contact Email or Phone:</b>
<b>Club or Group Affiliation(s):</b> UBC's Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice Undergraduate Association
<b>Amount Requested:</b> \$600
<b>TREASURER USE ONLY:</b>
<b>Approved</b> <b>Modified</b> <b>Denied</b>
<b>Submitted as of:</b>
<b>Notes:</b>

**1. Please fill in the fields below to give us an overview of your project:**

- Name of Project: 9th Annual F-Word Conference “A Hostile Environment: An Intersectional Approach to Environmental Justice”
- Objective or Purpose: This goal of this conference is to foster a collaborative and safe space for participants to share their work and have critical yet constructive conversations on social justice topics. This year, the conference is centered around the environment and the role eco-justice plays in the social justice movement. This is to allow students an opportunity to think, learn together and share how they see the effects of our degrading environment in their lives as well as the lives of others. We hope that with this conference we can foster productive and active discussion to further the plight against protecting our beautiful planet.
- Brief Description: This conference runs for the full day and includes many methods of activism. It will consist of a keynote speech by a respected and inspiring Indigenous and Environmental youth activist, various interactive workshops ranging in topics from climate justice to migrant refugees, and lastly panels consisting of students who have submitted their work. Throughout the whole day there will also be opportunities for attendees to socialize and meet more like-minded individuals, creating strong meaningful connections. These three forms of engagement and activism are what make this conference powerful.
- Project Date(s): The Conference will be held on Saturday April 28th, 2018
- Expected Attendance: The expected attendance rate is 200 people.

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

The majority of our conference attendees are students, faculty, or other members from the UBC community. This means that the majority of our impact is upon members who can change the dynamic at the university. Our theme directly relates to environmental justice and sustainability by bringing into question the current state of our environment, how we got here, and what we can do to help alleviate the stress and harm we cause to our planet. This year, our keynote speaker is Ta’Kaiya Blaney who is from the Tla’Amin First Nation. She is a young activist, speaker, artist, and advocate for environmental and Indigenous rights. Our goal is to have these two interconnected themes and forms of activism span out to the rest of the conference. As well, many of our workshops are centered around topics relating to climate justice, food justice, environmental refugees, etc. We have also put out a call for submissions for student work related to space, racism, gentrification, environmental degradation, heterosexism, or any other way that our theme of “A Hostile Environment” may be interpreted.

Lastly, we also strive to make sure the practices of our conference are as sustainable as possible through reducing waste and providing sustainable vegetarian food.

**3. How will you document the successes and challenges of your project? In what ways do you foresee this documentation aiding future environmental and sustainability initiatives (approximately 200 words)?**

The overarching effects of The F-Word are both significant and long lasting. Attendees will gain a deeper practical understanding of social justice that will be carried out in their everyday lives beyond the conference. Each year our association conducts an evaluation of what we felt went right and could go better for the following years. Our analysis is grounded in terms of financial and educational means alongside attendee feedback. We plan to send a follow-up survey after the conference to all who attending, tracking their awareness of social and environmental issues. From the collected data, we prioritize our conference in the following years to the issues our participants deemed most pressing or important.

We also hope to use the conference to bring awareness of social issues on UBC campus, and to motivate students to act on them. For example, we have UBCC350 conducting a workshop on their efforts to have UBC divest from fossil fuels. This is part of a platform to hold UBC accountable as a “green” campus, and give students a voice to create real change about where money invested into our education goes. We also are having presentations on sustainable food practices, and are emphasizing food security in relationship to social justice.

Post F-Word, the momentum orchestrated at the conference will expedite further discussion online and throughout various platforms at UBC. Our conference provides students and community members with the tools to raise issues about social and environmental justice and to provide a place for hands-on learning about local activism, as well as a network to make this change happen. F-Word also provides a space for immediate constructive criticism, and a dialogue of ideas related to environmental justice. We anticipate that our conference will act as a fundamental platform for future conferences and events to uphold sustainable practices and environmental activism.

**4. For most funding requests of this amount, SEC would like to see other sources contributing to the financing of your project. Are you pursuing any other sources of funding? If so, what are those sources, how much are you expecting to receive from them, and what will those funds be put toward? We can help you identify other sources of funding.**

Our conference is run completely on funds we receive from grants. Each year we receive funds from organizations within and outside of the university.

Funding	Amount
AUS Club Grant	\$600.00

AUS Conference Grant (unconfirmed)	\$500.00
Social Justice Institute	\$1,000.00
Equity Enhancement Fund (unconfirmed)	\$2,000.00
Sexual Assault Initiatives Fund (unconfirmed)	\$1,000.00
AMS Student Initiatives Fund (unconfirmed)	\$600.00
Student Environment Centre (unconfirmed)	\$500.00
Vancity Bank Grant (unconfirmed)	\$1,000.00
Total (estimated)	\$6200.00

**5. What aspect(s) of your project will SEC funding be used for? Be as specific as possible with the allocation of funds.**

As our conference is free for all, we rely on funding to supplement all costs of the conference. The SEC funding will be used towards the workshop fees for UBCC350 on divestment from fossil fuels, our keynote speaker Ta'Kaiya's fees and transportation costs, and the sustainable food and maintenance of the conference space in the nest. By receiving this grant, fees will be used to support environmental activists and ensure the most sustainable methods are used in preparation for the F-Word.