

BCIT

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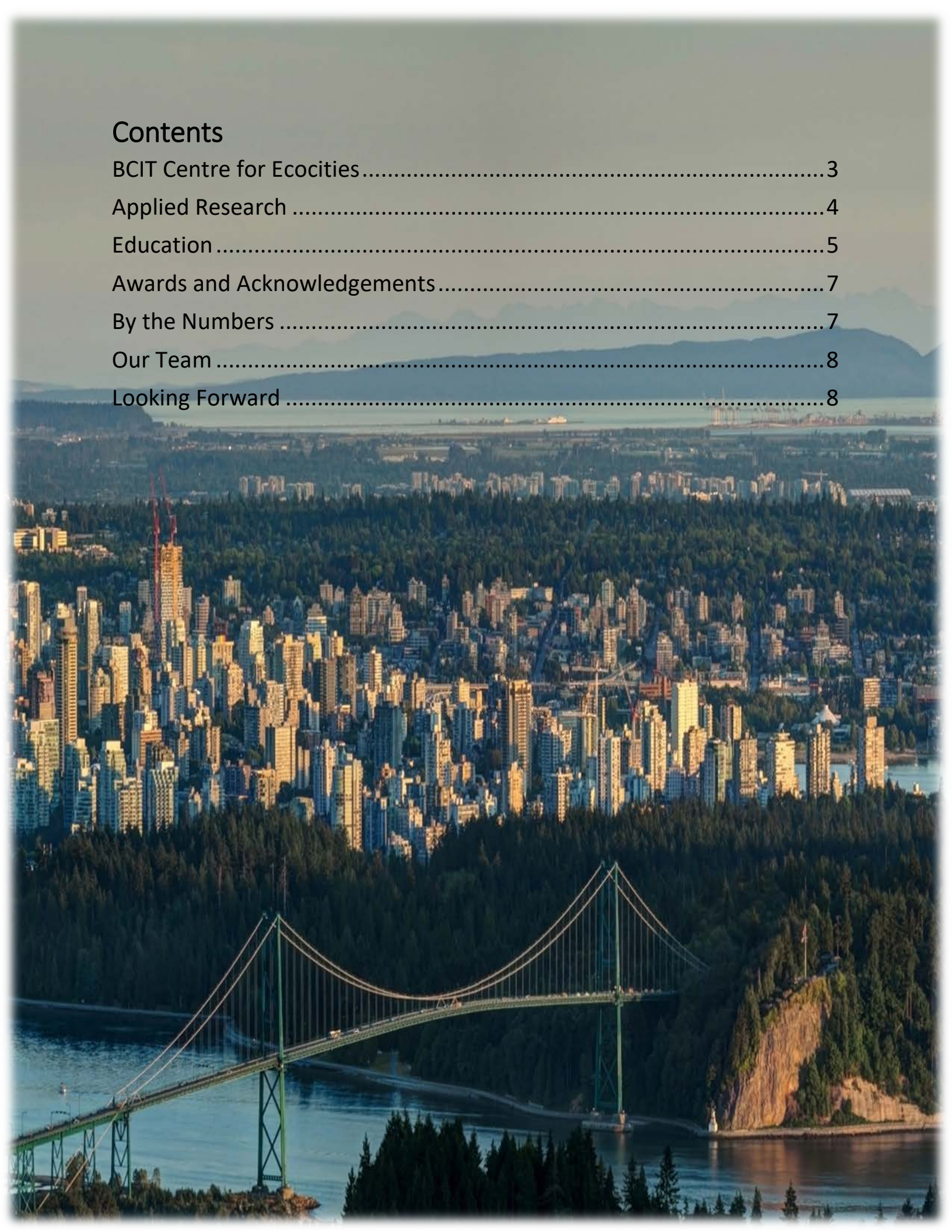
**CENTRE FOR
ECOCITIES**

**2020
Year In
Review**



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Welcome to the inaugural annual report for the world's first Centre for Ecocities, based at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

A legacy of the 2019 Ecocity World Summit in Vancouver the Centre follows the summit theme of building the bridge to socially just and ecologically sustainable cities and anchors BCIT's global leadership in restructuring cities to reduce their carbon and ecological footprints while simultaneously regenerating natural habitat. We deliver on our mission through applied research, education, and advisory services.

"THE NEW ECOCITY CENTRE IS BEING LAUNCHED AT A CRUCIAL TIME, JUST AS CITIES WORLDWIDE ARE RECOGNISING THEIR PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHARING THE FUTURE, AND ARE RAISING THEIR COLLECTIVE AMBITION TO MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE INITIATIVES AND IMPACTS THAT THE ECOCITY CENTRE WILL INSPIRE AND LEAD"

KATE RAWORTH, DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS



Launching the Centre (from left): Stephanie Butler, Communications Manager, Real Estate Foundation of BC; Pete Fry, City of Vancouver Deputy Mayor; Dr. Jennie Moore, BCIT Director of Institute Sustainability; Richard Register, Founder of Ecocity Builders; and Kathy Kinloch, BCIT President

Our Mission

To help cities and communities close their sustainability gap.

We achieved a great deal this year despite the onset of the global pandemic. We built partnerships, developed relationships, and worked with municipalities, students, faculty, and other collaborators to drive transformative change locally and globally. This report summarizes our work in 2020.



Launch of the Centre for Ecocities at the Ecocity World Summit in Vancouver

Applied Research

Throughout 2020, we led applied research to advance ecocities with urban practitioners and citizens at the local, national, and international levels.

Projects and Initiatives

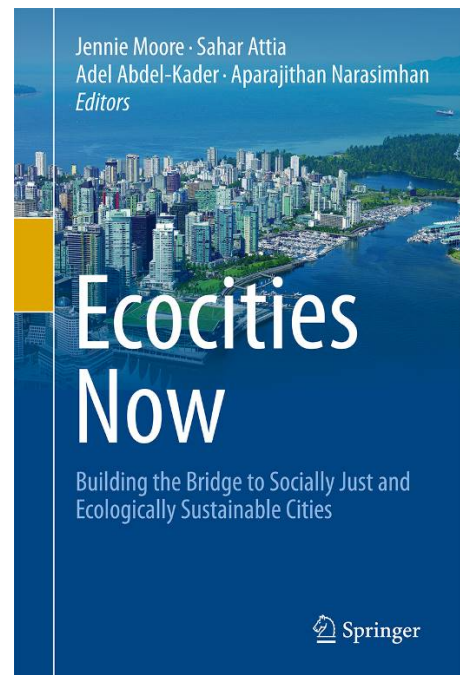
- ecoCity Footprint Tool online platform and Lighter Footprint App pilot project: reducing carbon and ecological footprints in ten BC municipalities
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Knowledge Synthesis Grant project: exploring how living within the Earth's carrying capacity is measured and managed at the city scale
- UN-Habitat Taskforce for a Global Urban Monitoring Framework: developing standards and methods for the compilation of urban data collection and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Urban Nature Index: leading a task-group in selecting measures for monitoring remote ecological impacts from cities

"THE TEAM BEHIND THE TOOL CONSISTED OF AN AUDACIOUS RESEARCHER, A VERY SKILLED ORGANIZER AND MASTER TECHNICAL WIZARD...THERE WAS NO QUESTION ASKED THAT ONE OF THESE GREAT RESEARCHERS COULD NOT ANSWER!"
KYLE ABEN, CARBON REVIEW COORDINATOR, CITY OF QUESNEL



Publications and Reports

- "Ecocities Now" book of best papers from the 2019 Ecocity World Summit
- "Ecocity Insights" monthly column in Ecocity Builders "Ecocities Emerging" newsletter
- Centre for Ecocities quarterly newsletter



WHAT IS AN ECOCITY?

As described by the international non-governmental organization Ecocity Builders, an ecocity is a human settlement modelled on the self-sustaining resilient structure and function of natural ecosystems. Ecocities enable human societies to operate within planetary boundaries, which are the limits to how much the Earth's biophysical processes can be disturbed without generating large-scale abrupt or irreversible environmental changes.

Education

The year was a busy one for outreach and facilitating dialogue. Whether it was in person early in the year or online during the pandemic, we engaged with a full range of ecocity stakeholders: youth, business leaders, students, academics, health practitioners, citizens, planners, policy makers, community groups, non-profit organizations and networks, federal and regional governments, and international agencies.



Pilot project workshop

Workshops and Webinars

- Workshop on the role of business in transforming cities at the GLOBE 2020 conference
- “One Planet Healthy Cities” for the Public Health Institute of BC’s Summer School
- “Ecological Footprinting and One Planet Living” for the South Island Climate Action Network
- Workshop on municipal pilot project results for zero waste programs for the City of North Vancouver
- ecoCity Footprint Tool Pilot Testing Results webinar
- Galiano Conservancy Association Public Information Session on ecological footprinting



Pilot project workshop

National and International Dialogues

- World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi: Youth Stakeholder Roundtable sessions and meetings to advance a Sustainable Lifestyles Protocol
- Costa Rica Green Building Council: International Sustainable Cities Congress
- UN Habitat: Covid-19, Youth and Informal Settlements: Engagement for Global Action Online Summit for International Youth Day
- Urban Economy Forum: Canadian Urban Economy Round Table with Canadian Federal Minister of Finance aligning pandemic recovery with sustainability
- Climate Caucus: Sustainability Frameworks and holistic approaches that align social justice and climate action



Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



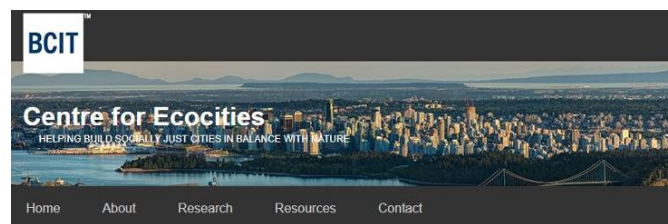
Dr. Jennie Moore at TEDx Abbotsford

Other Presentations and Media

- CBC radio interview with Jennie Moore on personal lifestyle shifts for a healthy planet
- Jennie Moore's presentation on Getting to One-Planet Living for TEDx Abbotsford

We also supported the collegial learning environment at BCIT through presentations on ecocity themes to students, staff, and faculty. Our reach was further extended through our website, Twitter, LinkedIn, and newsletters (links at end of this report).

We look forward to ongoing collaborating with strategic partners and cities and to provide fantastic learning opportunities for students and faculty through applied education, skills development, and tools to help create flourishing cities in a complex world.



Happy Earth Day!

April 22, 2020 by Christine Pinkham — [Leave a Comment](#)

This is the 50th anniversary of **Earth Day**, a day of action to empower people with the information and tools they need to make the world healthier, safer, more just and sustainable.

To celebrate, we are posting the [Keynote video recordings](#) from the [Ecocity World Summit](#), held recently in Vancouver. If you missed them in person, now is your chance to take them in for free.



Awards and Acknowledgements

We could not have achieved success without help from our wonderful collaborators within BCIT, across BC, and around the world, including:

- The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC), our funding partner to launch the Centre for Ecocities and ecoCity Footprint municipal pilot project.
- Ecocity Builders, owner of the International Ecocity Standards, and co-winner of the 2020 Incredible Impacts Award, presented by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) and the BestCities Global Alliance for best legacy project resulting from an international conference event.
- École de technologie supérieure at the Université du Québec faculty Claudiane Ouellet-Plamondon, co-researcher, and Marie Vigier, student researcher, for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Knowledge Synthesis Grant project, and our project collaborators:
 - UBC Professor Emeritus, W.E. Rees, originator of the ecological footprint concept and co-developer of ecological footprint analysis;
 - David Lin of the Global Footprint Network;
 - Alastair Moore, one-planet cities professional planner and Board member of One Earth.
- One Earth, a think-and-do tank in advancing one-planet living based on the scientific evidence produced through our applied research efforts with cities.
- ecoCity Footprint Tool online platform and Lighter Footprint App pilot municipalities.



Incredible Impacts Award to the Centre for Ecocities and Ecocity Builders

By the Numbers

How we measured the Centre's impact for 2020:

4 projects and initiatives delivered	\$310K grant funds received	1 award of recognition
15 students and faculty engaged	15 collaborators and industry partners	
14 publications generated	13 presentations delivered	10 municipalities served

Our Team

We are grateful for our dedicated and adaptable team and all of our BCIT colleagues who ensured the Centre for Ecocities succeeded throughout 2020.

*Dr. Jennie Moore, RPP, LEED AP
Director, Institute Sustainability, BCIT*

*Christine Pinkham
Administrative Assistant*

*Christina Olsen, M.A.
Manager, Centre for Ecocities*

*Raniela Bovey
Administrative Assistant*

*Cora Hallsworth
Manager, Municipal Programs*

*Maria Spiliotopoulou
Research Student*

*Ryan Mackie, B. Mech. Eng.
Technical Lead*

*Erin Kennedy
Research Student*

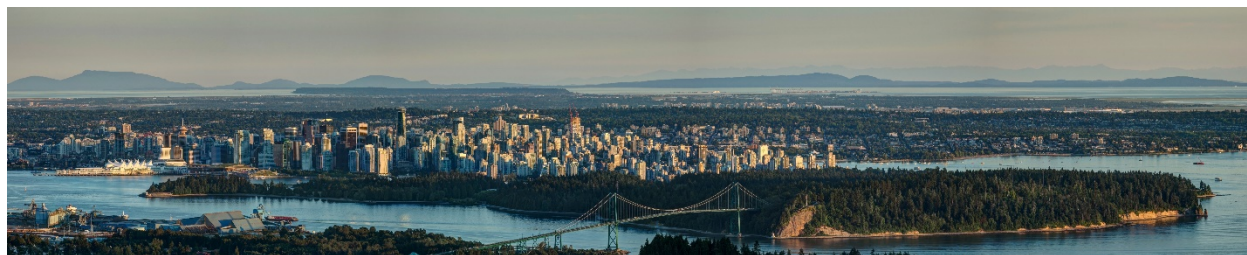
*Nataliia Golovachova
Financial Analyst*

*Alex Harte
Research Student*

Looking Forward

In the coming year, we will share and scale insights from the ecoCity Footprint municipal pilot and Knowledge Synthesis Grant project. We anticipate ramping up work with UN agencies to develop and deliver curriculum for a Global Climate Changemakers Youth Leadership Initiative. We aspire to build the bridge between the 2019 Ecocity World Summit and the next summit taking place in Rotterdam, Netherlands later in 2021.

We are excited to create new ways to serve cities, BCIT's students and faculty, and others around the world who can benefit from ecocity focused applied knowledge and training. Whether through micro-credential courses or other accessible real-world learning, we see a path ahead filled with opportunities to help cities and their citizens achieve sustainability in all its dimensions.



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