

C15 - Higher Learning: Building a Sustainable Development Through Education

Presentation title: Building a Sustainable Development Through Education

Presenter:

Jonathan Tinney - SFU Community Trust

Abstract

Simon Fraser University (SFU), through the SFU Community Trust is currently in the implementation phase of a bold new community adjacent to its mountain-top campus approximately 15 km east of downtown Vancouver, BC. UniverCity, as it is known, is envisioned as a model sustainable community that is establishing itself as a testing ground for a number of innovative sustainable development strategies. One such strategy, stems from its relationship with SFU, and respects the central role education plays in fostering sustainable community. Taking this one step further, the SFU Community Trust is also looking ways to use education (and its associated facilities) to aid in the physical construction of a more sustainable community. This is being done through two linked initiatives: 1) The development of a new elementary school in the heart of the community. The development of this school is being undertaken through unique public-private partnership between the SFU Community Trust and the Burnaby Board of Education. Developed to a LEED Gold standard, the school will be a model of integration with the community and the university through a curriculum that emphasizes sustainability and uses the community as a classroom. 2) The development of a new childcare centre housed in a purpose-built facility that is being built to achieve a Living Building standard which would see it have little or no impact on the local environment.

Speaker Biography

Jonathan is the director of community development for the UniverCity Project at Simon Fraser University's Burnaby Mountain campus. The UniverCity community is being developed around "Four Cornerstones of Sustainability", including Environment, Equity, Education, and Economy. Jonathan and the Trust's team are making significant and innovative contributions toward the creation of independent and universal green building standards to ensure a high level of urban design and environmental performance. Tinney is charged with overseeing the Trust's initiatives to incorporate the development of leading edge planning policy, innovative green building and infrastructure standards, and pioneering community building programs to create a complete and truly sustainable urban community. As an urban planning professional, Jonathan has spent his career engaged in providing strategic planning support to a host of local municipalities, government agencies and private sector clients. Before joining the SFU Community Trust, Tinney was engaged in a management role with the Canada Line, a \$2-billion rapid transit project currently under construction. Prior to that he worked as a Senior Consultant for Vancouver-based urban planning firm Harris Consulting Inc., managing numerous projects for the firm both nationally and internationally. Over the past several years, Tinney has also had the opportunity to be a guest presenter at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and Tsing Hua University (Beijing) speaking on issues related to community development, land economics and urban governance.