

# BCIT Centre for Ecocities and Ecocity Builders

## About Ecocity Builders

- An international not-for-profit organisation based in Oakland, California.
- Works with cities and communities around the world to help them become ecologically healthy.
- Runs the Ecocity World Summit, the longest-running, international conference on the design and operation of sustainable cities.
  - First started in 1990.
  - Summit is held in a different continent every two years.
  - Aims to enable large cities and small communities to build capacity through hosting an Ecocity World Summit.



## Ecocity World Summit 2019

- Intention of **building capacity locally** through a tiered registration fee.
- Various **strategic partners** to the Summit included UN Habitat, UN Environment Programme, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Habitat for Humanity, and more.
- Important focal point to **raise the profile of ecocity solutions.**
- Provides academics and emerging scholars a **place to share** cutting edge research about ecocities.
- Ten municipalities from the Province of British Columbia participated in a **customised training.**
- The participating municipalities also learned about the **International Ecocity Standards.**

## Facts and Figures

Since its launch in October 2019, the BCIT Ecocity Centre has

**\$300,000** attracted in confirmed funding.

Additional promised funding of **\$50,000**

**10** local governments engaged in British Columbia to pilot the ecoCity Footprint Tool and Lighter Footprint App.

Co-edited **1** book.

**1** Canadian research grant awarded.

Led and participated in **3** international working groups and round table discussions on advancing sustainable cities.

# BCIT Ecocity Centre and Ecocity Builders

## BCIT Ecocity Centre

- First Ecocity centre launched in collaboration with Ecocity Builders and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), as a **legacy of the Ecocity World Summit 2019**.
- Provided **coaching, diagnostic tools, and scientific evidence** to support efforts to close the sustainability gap.
- Funding for the Centre included **support**, such as travel and accommodation, for **participation by ten municipalities** from the Province of British Columbia.
- **Worked directly** with cities and assisted municipalities to **evaluate** their **sustainability efforts** and **mapped pathways** for reducing emissions by **developing** and testing the online **ecoCity Footprint Tool** and **Lighter Footprint App**, which made it easier for local governments to report on ecological impacts and engage with citizens to mobilise ecocity solutions.

## Impact of BCIT Ecocity Centre

- One of the BCIT Ecocity Centre participating municipal pilots, District of Saanich, won an award from the Planning Institute of British Columbia for “Excellence in Policy Planning”.
  - The District of Saanich Sustainability Manager, acknowledged the Centre’s role as “instrumental in building this plan”.
- The Centre’s engagement with local governments enabled the translation of knowledge to BCIT schools and operations.
- Collaboration with Colleges and Institutes Canada to assist the launch of their Impact Programme, that raised awareness about the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Plans were formulated with Colleges and Institutes Canada, and UN Habitat on a variety of educational offerings.
- Ramped up national and international reach through applied research.