



Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

Job Title: GIS Analyst

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) is seeking applications for a one-year GIS Analyst Research Associate position focused on food system study.

About ISFS

ISFS is an applied research and extension unit at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). We investigate and support regional food systems as key elements of sustainable communities, focusing predominantly on British Columbia but also extending our programming to other regions. Our applied research focuses on the potential of regional food systems in terms of agriculture and food, economics, community health, policy, and environmental integrity. Our extension programming provides information and support for farmers, communities, business, policy makers, and others. Community collaboration is central to our approach.

ISFS employs a multidisciplinary team of researchers with expertise in food systems, agriculture, economics, farm business management, ecology, public health and other disciplines. Our office is on KPU's Richmond campus, located at 8771 Lansdowne Road, Richmond BC. The campus is served by rapid transit (Canada Line - Lansdowne Station), by which downtown Vancouver can be reached in about 30 minutes.

More about us and our work is at www.kpu.ca/isfs

Position Overview

- Contract: 35 hours/week for one year, with possibility of renewal
- Salary: \$22-25/hour dependent on qualifications and experience, inclusive of benefits
- Position start date: Jan 29th, 2018 (negotiable for the right candidate).
- Application deadline: Jan 12th, 2018

Responsibilities and Tasks

The GIS analyst will collaborate with other ISFS research associates working on various projects. The primary responsibilities include:

- Compile and analyze spatial and non-spatial data
- Prepare maps and other graphics
- Create online story maps for ISFS' research projects
- Develop and maintain GIS data resources
- Liaise with internal and external stakeholders to share information and procure data

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

The successful applicant for this position must:

- Hold a Bachelor or Master degree in geography, computer science, earth science, or other relevant discipline
- Be proficient with Esri Arc GIS 10x with extension such as spatial analyst and data reviewer

- Be proficient in programming languages such as Python, SQL, C++
- Have qualitative and quantitative research experience and training
- Have strong writing skills demonstrated by their lay and/or academic publication record
- Have strong interpersonal communication skills
- Have demonstrated their ability to work with a high degree of autonomy and with a multi-disciplinary team

The following will be considered assets:

- Knowledge of the food system landscape of BC
- Experience with project development and management
- Demonstrated ability to conceptualize a complex project and effectively plan and execute steps to complete it
- Grant writing experience and/or training

To Apply

Please submit your cover letter and resume to Kent Mullinix (Director, ISFS) at kent.mullinix@kpu.ca and copy Wallapak Polasub (Senior Research Associate, ISFS) at wallapak.polasub@kpu.ca. Please use the subject line: *Research Associate – GIS Analyst*.

Application deadline: Jan. 12th, 2018.

Project Overview: Building an accessible food system policy database for B.C. communities.

Project Proponent: Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (KPU)

Project Goal: To provide a practical tool for municipal staff and local food organizations to use in promotion, development and implementation of policy that enables local food systems.

We will develop an open access, searchable policy bank for use by municipal planners, policy makers and community organizations and members working to advance local food systems. The policy bank will be a compendium of up-to-date British Columbia municipal policy and zoning bylaws that directly and indirectly enable local food systems. Policies and bylaws will include, among others, those related to increasing local production; to developing capacity for processing and distribution of locally produced foods to local consumer markets; food waste management; protection of agricultural land and water; and support for new farmers.

The policy bank will support increased local food production in two ways: first it will benefit municipal planners who are charged with researching, proposing and preparing new policy for their communities. The policy bank will provide examples of policy language that has been successfully adopted in other municipalities. The bank will be accessible to community groups and individuals who want to promote and advocate for local food production policy with their local governments. Examples of existing policy can be used to demonstrate the feasibility and desirability of adopting a specific policy or bylaw. For policy topics where current, enacted examples are not available, the bank will include recommended policy and zoning bylaws and suggested wording. Recommendations will be vetted by local planning practitioners.

The Policy Bank will be housed in KPU's nascent *Regional Food System Resource Hub* which will be a comprehensive, open access, web-based clearing house of tools, resources and information (reports, grey literature and journal articles).

As part of this project we will interview municipal planners to learn 1) which enacted policies have been most useful to date and why; 2) what conditions lead to the adoption of food system related policy; and 3) what policies would they like to see/ need enacted to support local food systems (i.e. identification of policy gaps)? Findings from planner interviews will be incorporated in the policy bank so that users of the bank can benefit from planner insights.

Anticipated Outcome: The desired outcomes of developing the searchable policy bank are 1) that it helps to facilitate an increase in the number of local food production policies adopted in Lower Mainland municipalities; and 2) that it increases overall awareness at the local government and community levels of the policy options available for enabling local food production.