



Malahat

BACKGROUNDER

Beverley Dondale, CEO of Alpha Select Production Services Inc., determined the future of film production must change. It's time to create a sustainable film industry on Vancouver Island.

The company was created based on three pillars to reach a net-zero and zero-waste goal:

Easy for Producers

- We are introducing a locations database to take each file through a detailed checklist that saves productions time and money on their technical survey.
- We are building a diverse crew database to include more women, Indigenous people, those with disabilities and visible minorities. This crew database allows producers to choose crew close to productions to reduce their carbon footprint and check availability.
- We will provide entry-level training, in partnership with unions and guilds, to increase the crew pool and offer specific training to advance within the industry.

Modern

- Our company is tracking and sourcing equipment for net-zero and zero waste.
- Through sustainable practices, we will co-ordinate logistics for material recovery (taking waste and turning it into something new), material donations and recycling.
- We have contracted with suppliers who believe in sustainability.

Data-driven

- Tracking the film's footprint in real time helps productions adjust their work plan immediately to take advantage of cost-saving changes and diverting waste from landfills.
- Green managers/Eco production assistants will be assigned to each production to act as designated crew members. They will oversee daily consumption, coordinate donations of unused food to shelters and separate recycling, compost, and waste. With these Green managers in place, productions can save five percent of the total waste-hauling budget by composting and recycling.

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New Service Supports Sustainable Film Production on Vancouver Island

Mill Bay, B. C. – Film producers bringing their productions to Vancouver Island will now have a new service and future studio available to them to help deliver their projects in a sustainable way.

“Our service will make it easy for producers to film on the island with the right combination of modern, sustainable actions to meet their specific goals,” said Alpha Select Production Services CEO, Beverley Dondale. “The work will be tracked to protect the environment and help producers save money as well as set net-zero and zero waste goals.”

“I am so excited by the prospect of a film studio on Malahat lands, and even more excited that it will be a carbon-neutral, zero-waste film studio. This is exactly the approach to economic development that we need for the Cowichan Valley, and for British Columbia,” said Sonia Furstenau, MLA Cowichan Valley.

Alpha Select now offers a wide variety of services such as: connecting local crew to productions, introducing a locations database with a detailed checklist to save producers time on their technical survey and training Green managers to oversee the collection of data and track the production’s footprint that allows for adjustments in real time.

“It’s similar to one-stop shopping,” said Dondale. “Producers can find local crew and Eco production assistants will organize material recovery as well as coordinate material donations and recycling.”

Alpha Select is working with innovative local companies to provide environmentally successful ways to divert waste from the landfill, recycle and reuse items no longer needed for the production.

The studio is a partnership between Alpha Select Production Services and Malahat Nation, who is providing the land and infrastructure for the project. Phase 1 will see two purpose-built production offices, one workshop, two double sound stages and a back lot built on the studio site. Discussions are now taking place to finalize funding with construction set to begin immediately following approval.

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