

## **From Vancouver to Scotland: A Green Odyssey**

By Eric Velestuk

In the heart of UBC, my journey's begun,  
Heading to Edinburgh, where knowledge is spun.  
To study the laws of the earth and the sea,  
While training with 6 SCOTS, just a part-time decree.

I ponder on travel, its impact so vast,  
Our planet in peril, changes so fast.  
From carbon emissions that darken our skies,  
To plastic-filled oceans where marine life dies.

Sustainable travel, it calls out to me,  
To journey with care, for land, air, and sea.  
Aligned with the goals set by the UN,  
To make our world better, to heal and to mend.

Goal twelve, it whispers, "consume with a mind,"  
Reduce and reuse, be conscious, be kind.  
I'll pack light and wise, just the essentials,  
Minimising waste, avoiding potentials.

No need for my kit from the Canadian land,  
I'll borrow from Britain, a sustainable hand.  
Sharing resources, reducing the strain,  
A small but sure way to lessen the pain.

Travel by train, a method so green,  
Across the UK, through fields so serene.  
Electric and smooth, it's carbon-light,  
A choice for the future, a step to the right.

In Edinburgh's streets, on foot I'll tread,  
Or pedal a bike, from dawn till bed.  
Public transport, the buses, the trams,  
Reducing my footprint, as small as I am.

Renewable energy, a future so bright,  
Wind, solar, and hydro, sources of light.  
Scotland, a leader in this noble quest,  
Inspiring my journey, my sustainable zest.

Goal thirteen, calls for climate action,  
Urgent steps needed, a global reaction.  
From policy studies to practical deeds,  
Addressing the climate, fulfilling its needs.

In lectures and books, I'll delve and I'll learn,  
With passion and fervour, for change I'll yearn.

Environmental law, my chosen field,  
To protect our earth, with justice as shield.

Engaging with peers, sharing my tale,  
Of sustainable travel, and why it prevails.  
From workshops to talks, spreading the word,  
To inspire a movement, to make voices heard.

Originality blooms in each step I take,  
For a cleaner world, every action I stake.  
Resources aplenty, apps and sites,  
To guide and support sustainable flights.

“Ecosia” for searches, planting each tree,  
“Too Good To Go,” saving food with glee.  
“Komoot” for routes, on bike or on feet,  
“Good On You,” for ethical treat.

My study abroad, a chapter so green,  
Learning and growing, in ways unforeseen.  
With every decision, thoughtful and wise,  
I’ll strive for a future where our planet thrives.

So here’s to the journey, to paths yet untold,  
To a world more sustainable, a future bold.  
With Edinburgh’s charm, and the UN’s call,  
I’ll study, I’ll train, for the good of us all.