Before co-op, I was excited to focus my career on luxurious, show-stopping green buildings. After learning more about the industry, I have shifted my focus towards using urban planning as a tool in promoting social justice and creating equitable communities. The highlighted projects, two of which I’ve enjoyed the most, both sustainably serve communities in need.

While being environmentally-friendly and socially-responsible are not always the easiest or feasible options, I have learned the long processes are impactful at the end of the project.

Key Take-aways
Before co-op, I was excited to focus my career on luxurious, show-stopping green buildings. After learning more about the industry, I have shifted my focus towards using urban planning as a tool in promoting social justice and creating equitable communities. The highlighted projects, two of which I’ve enjoyed the most, both sustainably serve communities in need. While being environmentally-friendly and socially-responsible are not always the easiest or feasible options, I have learned the long processes are impactful at the end of the project.

Next Steps
As I enter my last year of the MUPP program, I have a better idea of my focus area and I am ready to make the most of my classes. I am confident my co-op experience has prepared me and will help me excel in my academic career.

I am hopeful for my next job opportunity and know the knowledge I gained at SCI and Civico have motivated me to pursue socially equitable urban planning and sustainable development.

My Roles
My positions with both companies have been an evolution and learning experience for all involved. Neither teams had a co-op before me, so I was able to shape my time into a personal role. When establishing the co-op, the agreement was a 50/50 split of time between the partnering companies. I ended up with more of an 80/20 split with most of my time at Civico. SCI tasks mainly consist of gathering documentation for building certifications. Civico tasks vary more and include funding applications, research, site visits, and large interdisciplinary team meetings.

264 Stafford St
is a tiny house village for the chronically homeless of Worcester, MA. 21 Passive House tiny homes and a central community space with rehabilitating services will be built on a currently empty lot along the outer ring of Worcester. The project is currently in the permitting/funding stages of development and expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

About Sustainable Comfort, Inc.
Sustainable Comfort, Inc. (SCI) is a multi-functional green building company with services in consulting, construction, development, and property management. Each team works to create equitable and sustainable buildings that are responsibly maintained. SCI’s mission is to create thoughtful, sustainable, and impactful buildings. As buildings change over the course of their life, SCI strives to understand their evolution and make an impact at every step through design, construction, renovation, and everyday operations.

About Civico Development
Civico is a community-focused real estate investment and development group founded on a commitment to quality design, historic preservation, and neighborhood-oriented infill development. Civico’s mission is to design and construct high quality buildings, streetscapes, and neighborhoods that enhance the social livability and environmental sustainability of the communities. The scope of work includes projects of all scales, focused on authenticity, walkability, and human scale development, incorporating innovative designs and civic spirit.

21 Lagrange St
is a proposed pop-up community space for indoor/outdoor dining, events, and gathering. It is currently an unoccupied space in the Main South district of Worcester, MA. The project is in preliminary stages, awaiting funding and is expected to be completed in 10-12 months.

Class Application
As a PlusOne student, I have only taken four MUPP classes so far. The most relevant class that has helped me the most during co-op is SUEN 6340: Planning & the Built Environment with Professor Tim Love. We learned the history of planning along with current challenges and injustices, which I now better understand and witness first-hand.