

Climate Emergency Fund

2021-2023 Final Report



Background

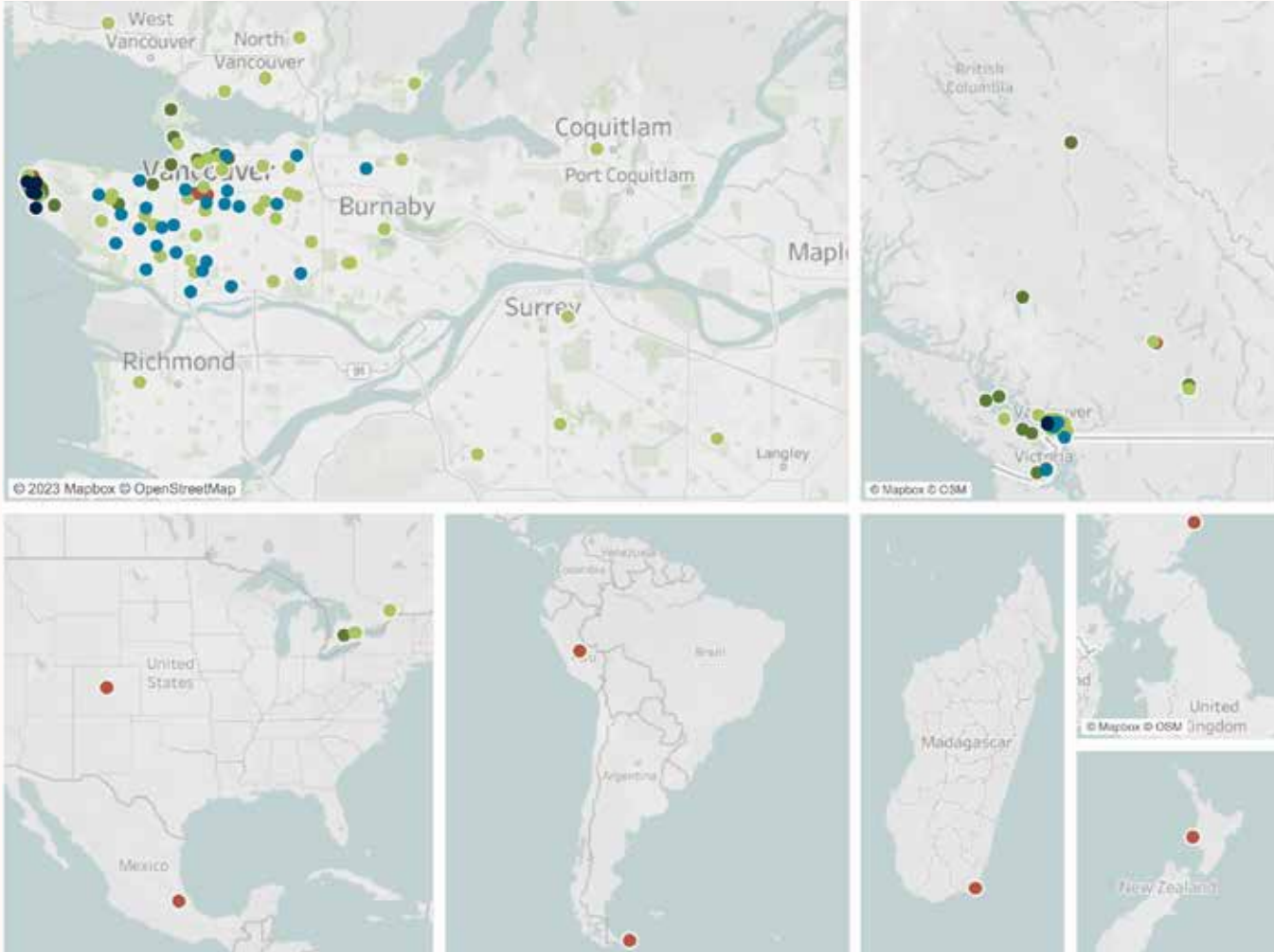
The one-time \$1.5 million Climate Emergency Fund, [see here](#), comprised of incremental tuition fees, emerged through advocacy from the student-led UBC Climate Hub and close collaboration with elected AMS and GSS student leaders. Proposals were accepted over winter 2020-21, and in late spring 2021, a twelve-member Committee met to analyze the seven proposals that were received. All seven proposals demonstrated excellent student leadership and were successfully awarded full or partial funding.

The Fund advances the following three Climate Emergency priorities:

- Foster a culture of engagement and advocacy on climate action
- Support community wellbeing in the face of the climate crisis
- Expand climate education opportunities and resources for the UBC community and broader public

Global Impact

The Climate Emergency Fund created valuable opportunities for the 7 student-led and -focused units and organizations with 144 projects to broaden and deepen climate action efforts across metro Vancouver, British Columbia, and beyond.

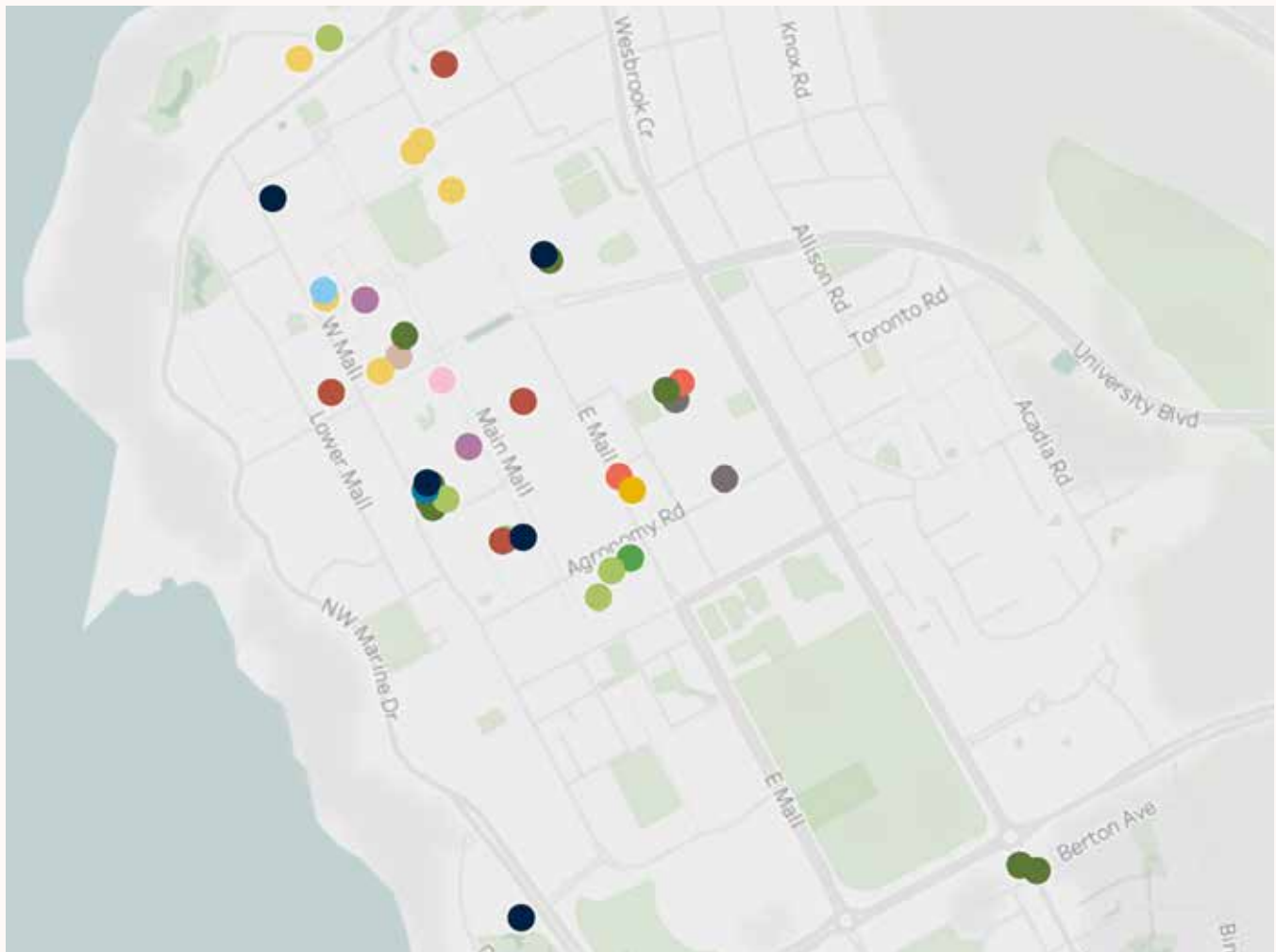


PROGRAMS

- Campus + Community Planning – SEEDS Sustainability & Engagement Programs, Interdisciplinary Research
- Centre for Community Engaged Learning – Climate Action Mobilizers
- Climate Hub Programs
- Climate Justice UBC Coordination
- Public Scholars Initiative – Climate Emergency Scholars
- Sustainability Hub Programs
- Transdisciplinary Collaborative PhD Pilot on the Climate Emergency

Local Impact

The Climate Emergency Fund also supported students, faculty, and staff at UBC to expand research and engagement on climate action across a broad range of disciplines. In total, 73% percent of the \$1.5 million in funding (or \$1,086,649) were used to hire or fund 245 UBC students.



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FACULTIES SUPPORTED

- Faculty of Applied Science
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Forestry
- Faculty of Land and Food Systems
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Science
- Sauder School of Business

Recipient Summaries



2023 Climate Slamposium, image courtesy of Sustainability Hub

1. UBC CLIMATE HUB (\$362,100)

The Climate Hub is a student-led university-wide initiative that aims to connect and empower university and community stakeholders to take bold climate action for a just future. The CEF provided funds for two core staff and 90 student positions. In collaboration with 56 partners at UBC and beyond, they achieved the following:

- Nine Climate Justice Research Collaborative projects conducted by 35 undergraduate students mentored by seven GAAs;
- 22 graduate students and postdocs paid to deliver 58 guest lectures to 3,225 students through [Climate Teaching Connector](#) [↗](#);
- Trained 16 undergraduate students to host over 40 [Youth Climate Ambassadors Project](#) [↗](#) workshops engaging 900 primary and high school students and teachers;
- Hosted 22 climate mental health & wellbeing workshops reaching over 970 participants, and producing 26 related resources ([Impact Story](#) [↗](#));
- Conducted a climate justice survey of over 400 undergraduate students;
- Hosted four Climate Cafes;
- Co-led the first two annual [Climate Emergency Weeks](#) [↗](#);
- And co-hosted the undergraduate student cohort of the [Climate and Nature Emergency Wall Catalyst](#) [↗](#) program.

For more: [2021-22 Annual Report](#) [↗](#) [2022-23 Annual Report](#) [↗](#)

Recipient Summaries

2. TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE PHD PILOT FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY (\$323,500)

A new and innovative [graduate transdisciplinary research program](#) that tackles the climate emergency with a collaborative and diverse PhD student cohort was designed and piloted. 21 students were involved, and many have since found employment with UBC and other employers. Two climate-related substantive projects conducted with Metro Vancouver addressed regional decarbonization through Non-Road Equipment and Clean Air Centre design. The team has given multiple international talks and conference presentations based on this study and publicly showcased their work at UBC and with Metro Vancouver. This pilot has advanced learning on how to form and conduct collaborative research through graduate education focused on the complexity of the climate emergency. As a result of the pilot, a new cohort is being recruited under [ACET funding](#). ([Impact Story](#))

3. SUSTAINABILITY HUB (\$281,143)

The Sustainability Hub is a university and regional hub for sustainability, catalyzing connections and serving communities on and off campus. The CEF has accelerated and expanded core programs of the Sustainability Hub and paid students for climate work. Outcomes included:

- 12 [Climate Education Grants](#) totaling \$60,000 for student hires to assist faculty in integrating climate into curricula, reaching 2,425 students;
- 18 [Sustainability Scholars](#) graduate students working on applied climate-related research projects with a wide range of partners;
- Two UBC UC3 Fellows developed a [Climate Justice Toolkit](#) and Climate Justice in Transportation Planning at UBC report that informed UBC planning and policy;
- Four students received travel funds to join COP27 as delegates;

- A student-developed [Mindful Consumption Guide](#) and a [Climate Action at UBC-V student orientation course](#) co-developed with Campus + Community Planning;
- Expansion of the [Sustainability Ambassadors](#) with two additional student leads ([Impact Story](#));
- And four students hired for Scholars program admin and climate communications support.

For more: [Climate Emergency Progress Reports](#)

4. CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CCEL) (\$201,762)

CCEL connects communities with UBC faculty and students to work on issues that impact society today. Building on their Social Impact Lab, they developed the [Climate Action Mobilizer Project \(CAM\)](#), a youth-led and community-engaged approach to collective action on the climate emergency. The project enabled UBC students to co-create innovative climate solutions in collaboration with communities to make on-the-ground change. The CEF invested \$160,007 in 38 student staff positions to lead dialogues and workshops. Over two years, 43 events took place, engaging over 1200 participants across 16 neighbourhoods. 90% of community workshop participants reported feeling better equipped to take climate action after the workshops. ([Impact Story](#))

5. CAMPUS + COMMUNITY PLANNING (C+CP) (\$162,435)

C+CP works collaboratively to create a vibrant and resilient campus for an engaged community on the traditional territory of the Musqueam people, taking a leading-edge approach to sustainability, engagement, community building, planning, design, and development. C+CP is responsible for leading UBC's operational sustainability plans that set UBC's targets and actions for climate, green buildings, transportation, green infrastructure, waste, and water, using UBC as a living lab for a

Recipient Summaries

sustainable future, and plays a key role in developing partnerships that enhance integration of operational and academic efforts in sustainability.

CEF enabled their SEEDS and Sustainability Engagement units to work with partners to establish new and support existing student-led applied research, peer-to-peer engagement, and community-based action partnerships, to advance UBC's climate emergency. Outcomes included:

SEEDS Sustainability (\$119,000)

- Directly engaged 777 students in over 86 applied research projects with 30 faculty and 46 staff practitioners. Seven students hired to work in paid research projects. One 0.6FTE Staff Coordinator hired to facilitate curricular and co-curricular student applied research projects.
- Research included 86 research projects created that spanned student-led inventories on campus trees, a [bat box installation](#) to support local endangered bat populations, and a [climate-ready food plant list and management guide](#) integrated into UBC's Community Gardens application.
- Co-leading eight SEEDS Interdisciplinary Knowledge Exchange Workshops engaging 225 participants, co-creating the [UBC Campus Biodiversity Data Hub](#) and expanded four [research mobilization toolkits](#) that increase awareness, knowledge and action around biodiversity enhancement and climate resilience.

Sustainability Engagement (\$43,435)

- Sustainability Engagement hiring two students and recruiting 12 AMS clubs to participate in a 'Sustainable Clubs Program' pilot with 100 students working to integrate sustainability frameworks into their mandates.
- Creating an online Resource Hub on Canvas to centralize climate action resources and track student groups' progress on action items.

- Hosting two orientations for over 30 Sustainability Representatives and club executives.

6. PUBLIC SCHOLARS INITIATIVE (PSI) (\$143,500)

PSI supports UBC doctoral students in having tangible impacts for the public good through collaborative, action-oriented, and/or creative forms of scholarship. The CEF heightened the program's impact by supporting six existing Scholars through a CEF Competition and 11 incoming scholars in a new Climate Emergency Cohort (including two UBC-O students). The scholars showcased their work at a large public event called Climate Stories from UBC at Van Dusen Garden in October 2022 ([Moving with Storms](#), pg. 57). ([Impact Story](#))

7. CLIMATE JUSTICE UBC (CJUBC) (\$24,460)

CJUBC is a group of students who organize to tackle climate change and its root causes. The CEF supported their activities and campaigns on the climate emergency including AMS RBC divestment, community reinvestment, and student voting access. They engaged over 5,000 students through workshops, petitions, rallies, and community events. Additionally, CJUBC created an Access Fund to support 26 poor, working class, low-income, disabled, and/or racialized organizers in their capacity to organize with them; grew their social media following by over 2,000 people and launched a [new website](#); and partnered with the Climate Hub to research and release a report on UBC's ongoing ties to the fossil fuel industry. ([Impact Story](#))

Total Breakdown of Funds Spent

SEP 2021 - AUG 2023

For a breakdown by recipient and total figures for funds spent and students hired and funded, see the table below:

RECIPIENT	NO. PROGRAM STAFF	\$ SPENT	NO. STUDENTS	\$ SPENT	OTHER SPENDING	TOTAL SPENT
UBC Climate Hub	2	\$187,000	90*	\$165,000	\$9,900	\$361,900
Transdisciplinary Collaborative PhD Pilot for Climate Emergency	1	\$3,319	21	\$293,324	\$26,271	\$322,914
Sustainability Hub	0	\$0	45	\$262,080	\$19,063	\$281,143
Centre for Community Engaged Learning	0	\$0	38	\$160,007	\$41,755	\$201,842
Campus + Community Planning	1	\$87,432	8	\$59,765	\$6,625	\$153,822
Public Scholars Initiative	0	\$0	17	\$138,860	\$3,083	\$141,943
Climate Justice UBC	0	\$0	26	\$7,613.40 for Access Fund	\$24,460	\$24,460
TOTAL	4	\$277,751	245	\$1,086,649	\$123,544	\$1,487,944

*student *positions*, not individuals, as some students were hired for more than one term