



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

sustainability

2019/20

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A Snapshot of UBC Operations





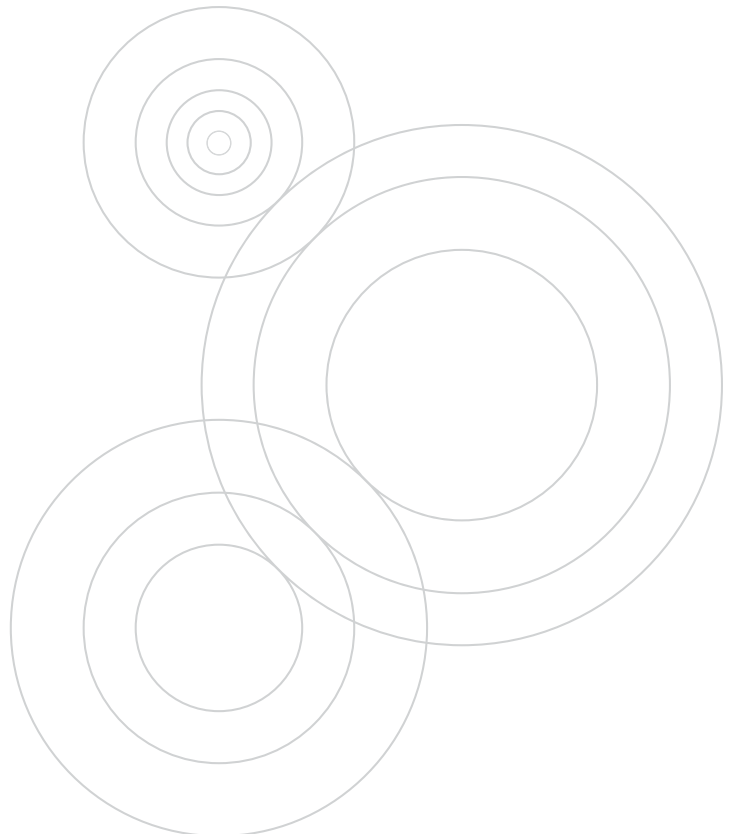
Students at UBC Okanagan (Paul H. Joseph / UBC Brand & Marketing)

ABOUT UBC

The University of British Columbia is a global centre for teaching, learning and research, consistently ranked among the top 20 public universities in the world and recently recognized as North America's most international university.

Since 1915, our motto, *Tuum Est* (It is Yours), has been a declaration of our commitment to attracting and supporting those who have the drive to shape a better world. As a result, UBC students, faculty and staff continue to embrace innovation and challenge the status quo, placing us at the forefront of discovery, learning and engagement.

UBC recognizes that the UBC Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) people and that the Okanagan campus is situated on the territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.





Climate Strike at UBC Vancouver (Maxwell Cameron)

FOREWORD

A simple bold promise lies at the heart of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): end poverty and leave no one behind. This year the SDGs are even more important as the world strains against the impact of the global pandemic and reels from wildfires and extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change. The 17 interconnected goals, unanimously adopted by the UN in 2015, are a pathway out of the current crisis.

UBC's research, learning and teaching, operations, and student engagement activities contribute to Canada's commitment to achieve the SDGs. UBC is proud to have ranked 7th in the world in the 2020 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, which also awarded UBC first place ranking for efforts in SDG 13 Climate Action (for the second year in a row), first for SDG 14 Life Below Water, and third place (tied) for SDG 15 Life on Land.

With more than 66,000 students, close to 18,000 faculty and staff, and over 80 student-led sustainability

groups it's hard to capture the depth and breadth and interconnection of UBC's myriad sustainability activities. This is the first time UBC has produced a report focused solely on the SDGs and as an initial snapshot it does not purport to be comprehensive. Instead, we highlight projects or programs relating to an operational aspect of each SDG at either or both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. The [Annual Sustainability Report](#) offers a more comprehensive view of sustainability at UBC.

At this unprecedented time, the SDGs continue to motivate change. We will continue to report on UBC's SDG work as we pursue our vision to inspire people, ideas and actions for a better world.

LINDA NOWLAN

Senior Director, UBC Sustainability Initiative

TARA IVANOCHKO

Academic Director, UBC Sustainability Initiative



Dietetics students (Martin Dee)

Support for Former Youth in Care

UBC is committed to supporting current and former youth in care in their endeavours at UBC. Students who were formerly in care face many barriers to success in post-secondary education, including precarious housing, financial assistance, health care and emotional support. The Okanagan and Vancouver campuses have a number of programs and services in place that help remove the barriers faced by current and prospective students, such as providing help navigating the admission process, tuition waiver programs, housing, government resources, support with living expenses and a space for communal connections and belonging.

Fighting Food Insecurity

University students are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, with approximately 40% experiencing some degree of food insecurity at Canadian higher education institutions. Across our campuses, students, faculty, and staff are working together through the UBC Food Security Initiative, a collaborative, multi-disciplinary group that takes a systems-based approach to addressing food insecurity at UBC. They have three goals: deepen our understanding of food security within the higher education context; alleviate immediate pressures of food insecurity while addressing longer-term food security and affordability solutions for the UBC campus community; and foster knowledge exchange and advocacy efforts to promote food security within UBC and beyond.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Working Together for Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Strategic Framework is our shared vision for UBC as a health and wellbeing promoting university where all people, places and communities can flourish. Guided by the calls to action in the Okanagan Charter, it connects our long-term, university-wide aspirations with actions that promote wellbeing in six priority areas: collaborative leadership, mental health and resilience, food and nutrition, social connection, built and natural environments and physical activity. A highlight of the Wellbeing initiative is Thrive, an annual event where the UBC Vancouver community comes together each November to learn about, talk about, and explore ways to support mental health. Thrive just celebrated its 10th anniversary, with 113 campus partners coordinating 240+ events and workshops.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

20 Years of Learning Engagement

Over the last 20 years the Learning Exchange has quietly worked to be a trusted part of one of the most complex neighbourhoods in North America, a non-traditional academic space of the university, and a model for university-community engagement. Everything the Learning Exchange does in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside—a community drop-in, digital and English literacy, arts-based learning, Indigenous cultural programming, student learning, and community-based research—is done in collaboration with community organizations and community members, many of whom lead the activities. The Learning Exchange is a space that bridges conventional boundaries by sharing knowledge created in both the university and the community.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning



“sʔi:ʔəy̓ qəqən (Double-Headed Serpent Post)” Brent Sparrow Jr., Musqueam (Hover Collective / UBC Brand & Marketing)

HIGHLIGHT

Indigenous Strategic Plan

The Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) envisions UBC as a global leader in implementation of Indigenous peoples' human rights. It serves as a guiding framework for Indigenous engagement across the university on both campuses, and will help faculties and units develop their own plans for implementation. The ISP contains eight goals and 43 actions for the university to realize Indigenous human rights. One action, for example, commits UBC to improving Indigenous students' access to higher education by strengthening relationships with educational providers and supporting a comprehensive, multi-pathway approach for Indigenous students transitioning from high school or college to undergraduate studies, or from undergraduate studies to graduate studies. The ISP also aims to position UBC as the world's most accessible large research university for Indigenous students, faculty and staff.

Improved Strategies to Prevent Sexual Violence

Over the last few years UBC has undertaken several coordinated strategies to improve policies and practices that address sexual assault and sexual harassment in our community. The collective aim of the strategies is to foster a safe and respectful environment at UBC and a supportive environment on campus for survivors. The Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office on either campus, and the AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre on the Vancouver campus provide support to those who have experienced, or been impacted by any form of sexual or gender-based violence, harassment, or harm.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Essential Water Systems

Both UBC campuses maintain extensive infrastructure systems to distribute safe and sustainable water to the inhabitants of the campus. Water is used for drinking, research, climate control, irrigation, sanitation, and fire suppression. Fundamental to campus operations are water management strategies that target conservation and water quality. UBC Vancouver's Integrated Stormwater Management Plan ensures run off from the campus is controlled and free from contaminants. UBC Okanagan's Integrated Rainwater Management Plan requires 100% diversion of rainwater from municipal systems. Targets for rainwater management on UBCO development sites incorporate future climate projections, mitigate flood risk, support the natural hydrological cycle, and achieve co-benefits for campus ecology and biodiversity.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure access to water and sanitation for all



President Ono and Sustainability Ambassadors (Kshamta Hunter)

HIGHLIGHT SDG Week

Recognizing the need to increase awareness of the SDGs among the campus community, SDG Week (March 2020) was organized by student Sustainability Ambassadors at UBC Vancouver. During the event, participants explored the interdisciplinary nature of the SDG framework, focusing on collaboration across disciplines and sectors. Ten events covered science, technology, public health, food, nature, business, politics, and Indigenous perspectives. Each event attracted an eclectic mix of students, staff, faculty, and community members for rich, engaging and interdisciplinary conversations. The conference spurred students to start a new organization, the UBC SDG Alliance, to further engage the UBC population on the issues and encourage change at an institutional level.



UBC is a Fair Labor Association Affiliate (UBC Bookstore)

Bioenergy Research Development Facility (BRDF) Expansion

UBC Vancouver's BRDF is installing a new 12-megawatt biomass-fuelled hot water combustion boiler funded by UBC, the provincial government, and a \$7.6 million grant from the federal government. The expansion will halve UBC Vancouver's current dependency on natural gas by providing heat to campus buildings, creating operational efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing costs. The boiler diverts clean local wood waste that would otherwise end up as landfill and converts it to heat. With the increased heating capacity, the BRDF will provide 70% of annual thermal production for UBC's hot water energy system, leading to a projected reduction of 13,000 to 15,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Sustainable Purchasing Guide

Every day people at UBC purchase goods and services that have economic, social and environmental impacts. UBC Finance created a guide to help staff, faculty and students purchase sustainable goods and services. The guide reflects a triple-bottom-line approach that balances best value, social equity and environmental protection. Elements include a supplier code of conduct that sets ethical performance expectations; Fair Trade and Fair Labor purchasing policies; and reuse and recycling programs. UBC is a member of the Canadian Collaboration for Sustainable Procurement, a network of Canadian public-sector institutions working to align their spending with their values and commitments on sustainability.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

Mass Timber High-Rise Building Innovations

Brock Commons Tallwood House (LEED v4 Gold certified) is one of a growing number of mass-timber, high-rise buildings around the world. It uses new engineered wood products and construction techniques to showcase sustainable building practices. In addition to providing accommodation for 404 students, the building is one of our Campus as a Living Lab projects—part of a program established to pilot innovations and create opportunities for research and learning on campus. There are numerous environmental benefits of building with mass timber, in particular a smaller carbon footprint than steel and concrete. All mass timber elements in the building were locally fabricated from regional forestry products.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Inclusion Action Plan

At UBC, inclusion is a commitment to creating a welcoming community where those who are historically, persistently, or systemically marginalized are treated equitably, feel respected, and belong. The Inclusion Action Plan represents the ideas, suggestions, and expertise of faculty, staff, students, and alumni from across our campuses. It proposes a high-level framework for supporting collective action toward advancing inclusion at UBC over the next seven years. The actions included in the plan reflect practices and suggestions gathered through extensive consultations that are most relevant to UBC's current context.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries



Studying UBC student (Paul H. Joseph / UBC Brand & Marketing)

HIGHLIGHT

SDG Praxis Institute 2020: Shock, System Change and Agency

UBC Office of Regional and International Community Engagement (ORICE) in partnership with the BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCCCIC) hosted The Praxis Institute 2020 with a strong focus on the transformational potential of the Sustainable Development Goals. This year's theme was designed to develop critical student engagement with the SDGs focusing on system shock, transformational change and application of innovative solutions into policy. Participants interacted with academic, practitioner and advocate guest speakers and presented work to senior Canadian federal government officials on an SDG sensitive COVID-19 recovery and how best to accelerate the "decade of action" under the current circumstances toward a more resilient future.

Wesbrook Village: Design for Community Sustainability

UBC Vancouver's largest neighbourhood to date is a complete community that offers a wide range of amenities and services guided by an integrated whole-system approach to planning and development. From a community centre and school to restaurants and shops, daily needs can easily be met on foot. Housing in Wesbrook Village supports the UBC community with 50% of all units designated as "work-study", meaning that at least one member of the household works or studies on campus. Neighbourhood designs encourage sustainable transportation by providing a network of connected greenways, dedicated cycle paths and shuttle buses; and by supporting land use and densities that provide amenities and services that are well served by these networks.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy

UBC Vancouver is leading the region in eliminating single use plastics through a new Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy developed in consultation with on-campus food providers. The strategy is a step toward a zero waste future for food and beverage on campus. The strategy focuses on three main elements: fees for single use items to encourage the transition to reusable food ware, more sustainable materials for single use items, and improved in-store recycling bins and signage. The food ware strategy and policy will help us reduce, recycle and compost waste more effectively.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



AMS Nest (Martin Dee / UBC Brand & Marketing)

HIGHLIGHT

AMS Sustainability Plan

UBC Vancouver's student-led Alma Mater Society has adopted a new AMS Sustainable Action Plan. The plan provides a comprehensive outline to enable the Society to be a leader in sustainability. All 17 UN SDGs have been incorporated into six target areas: facilities operations, business operations, advocacy and leadership, student services, campus coordination, and Indigenous coordination. Each organizational goal is mapped to relevant SDGs. Ongoing partnerships with the SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies) Sustainability Program and Sustainability Ambassadors were formalized this year to strengthen the joint execution of the plan's goals.

Climate Movement

When it comes to climate change action, UBC stands out. In 2010, UBC committed to bold greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets that were, and continue to be, among the most aggressive of the world's top 40 universities. Using 2007 as a baseline, the UBC Vancouver campus committed to 33% GHG reduction by 2015, 67% reduction by 2020, and 100% reduction by 2050. Both campuses have been carbon neutral through offsets since 2010.

In 2016, UBC Okanagan released their Whole Systems Infrastructure Plan. The Plan proposed actions to guide the next phase of the physical planning and design of campus across multiple performance areas, including energy, carbon, water, rainwater, ecology and biodiversity.

In 2018, the UBC Board of Governors (BoG) adopted a Green Building Action Plan designed to advance campus buildings on both campuses towards net positive contributions in human and ecological health.

In December 2019, the UBC BoG unanimously endorsed a Declaration on the Climate Emergency. The declaration includes a commitment to accelerate emissions reductions aligned with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It also

includes a commitment to widen the scope of UBC's climate action planning to include areas that extend beyond UBC operations, but over which UBC has control or influence, such as commuting, air travel and food services. In addition, the BoG recommended transfer of the entire \$381 million in the Trek Endowment Pool over to the Sustainable Futures Pool, which invests in low-carbon, fossil-fuel free funds.

In 2020, President Ono established a Climate Emergency Task Force comprised of students, faculty and staff to gather ideas from the UBC community and propose recommendations to address the climate emergency. A new Climate Action Plan (CAP 2030) is due for release in 2021 and will define new emissions reduction actions and identify accelerated targets along with implementation strategies for the next 10 years.

Student mobilization and advocacy by groups such as Climate Justice UBC, the UBC Climate Hub and others was instrumental in UBC's divestment action and the establishment of the Climate Emergency Declaration.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



UBC climate emergency Vancouver campus-wide forum (UBC Sustainability)



Fall at UBC Vancouver (Martin Dee / UBC Brand & Marketing)

100% Ocean Wise Seafood From Food Services

Since 2019 only 100% Ocean Wise recommended sustainable seafood (or equivalent) is offered at food service locations on both campuses, excluding franchises. The Ocean Wise Seafood Program defines sustainable seafood as “species that are caught or farmed in a way that ensures the long-term health and stability of that species, as well as the greater marine ecosystem”. UBC is one of the largest bulk seafood purchasers in BC and can positively influence the industry. Food Services is also committed to working with local, small-scale and family-owned seafood suppliers who follow sustainable practices as well as businesses that do not have the resources to get certified.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

In the Middle of an Urban Forest

Trees are an important part of the look and feel of the Vancouver campus, and we have been actively managing this large and diverse urban forest for close to 100 years. The campus is home to hundreds of species of trees, shrubs and other plant forms. In order to enhance and protect the urban forest on campus, UBC staff are partnering with faculty and technical experts to develop a new campus-wide biodiversity and tree strategy. Beyond simply planting new trees when mature trees are lost, the strategy aims to achieve no net loss of biomass within 10 years.



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss



UBC Farm (Jamil Rhajak / UBC Brand & Marketing)

SPOTLIGHT ON BIODIVERSITY

Life on Land & Below Water

UBC is committed to protecting the natural world and its spectacular natural settings. The 400-hectare Vancouver campus is perched on a point of land bordered by the Fraser River, Canada's most important wild salmon river, and ringed by second-growth forest in Pacific Spirit Park. The Okanagan campus (~209 ha) sits near the centre of one of the province's prime agricultural regions in one of Canada's hotspots of biodiversity. It includes the northern shores of Robert Lake, the single most important wetland for migratory bird species in the central Okanagan. In addition, UBC stewards research forests near Maple Ridge and Williams Lake (total ~15,000 ha) that support research, education and recreation.

Recognition that the university and all of its activities take place on the traditional territories of many different Indigenous peoples informs planning and practice at UBC. The Botanical Garden and the UBC Farm actively practice biocultural diversity preservation, linking biodiversity with traditional Indigenous culture, practices, knowledge and languages. The UBC Farm is home to the X^wcičəsəm Garden and other community-led land-based pedagogy initiatives. Collaboration between the Musqueam



First Nation and the UBC Botanical Garden explores interconnections between *hən̓q̓əmi̓ḥəm̓* (Musqueam ancestral language) and native plants with a particular focus on the iconic Western Red Cedar.

UBC Okanagan's Whole Systems Infrastructure Plan, outlines a vision for providing an ecologically rich and diverse campus environment. Approximately 52 species at risk may occur on the UBCO campus including 11 plants, 14 birds, and 12 invertebrates. Noteworthy species include the Great Basin spadefoot toad, western painted turtle, American avocet, and California gull.

Popular UBC places that celebrate biodiversity research, education, and outreach and double as visitor attractions include the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, which provides access to two million specimens including the flagship 26-metre-long blue whale skeleton suspended in the atrium; the UBC Farm, a living lab of biodiversity monitoring systems integrated with a 24-hectare operating farm that grows over 200 varieties of fruits, vegetables, and herbs; and the UBC Botanical Garden, Canada's oldest university-based botanical garden, which grows more than 5000 different kinds of plants

from almost 200 plant families, includes an outdoor classroom, and aligns its educational programs with the SDGs. The Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services (BRAES) at UBCO hosts a popular online virtual museum of campus biodiversity.

As part of the SEEDS Sustainability Program, the Campus Biodiversity Initiative: Research and Demonstration (CBIRD) connects academics, practitioners and the wider community in collaborative applied research to advance scalable urban biodiversity ideas, policies and actions on the UBC Vancouver campus. The Climate Crisis in Urban Biodiversity (CCUB) initiative supports student-led research on urban solutions that tackle both the climate and biodiversity crises, spanning eco-anxiety, climate justice, and carbon sequestration.

The enormous challenge of protecting the diversity of life on earth requires an interdisciplinary, multifaceted approach that interweaves Indigenous knowledge and inspires students and the community beyond the campus gates. UBC strives to meet that challenge.



UBC Okanagan field trip (Martin Dee / UBC Brand & Marketing)



Community roundtable on migration and integration (Paul H. Joseph)

Community Roundtables: Collaboration on Complex Issues

UBC endeavours to align its teaching, research and civic engagement priorities with the needs of local communities. Hosted by President Santa J. Ono, the UBC President's Community Roundtables convene experts, practitioners, and policy-makers from municipal, provincial and Indigenous governments for candid conversations with UBC leadership about the Vancouver region's most complex issues. Designed to surface new ideas and open pathways for community-university collaboration, to date four Roundtables have been held on topics including migration, housing, climate action and the opioid overdose crisis. More are planned for the future.

UBC Adopts Leadership of University Climate Change Coalition (UC3)

UC3 is a network of 22 North American research universities committed to mobilizing their resources and expertise to accelerate local and regional climate action in partnership with businesses, cities, states, foundations, and other organizations. In 2020, UBC President Santa J. Ono assumed leadership of UC3. The coalition has gathered thousands of university leaders, elected officials, policymakers, and advocates in forums across the USA, Mexico and Canada to discuss climate solutions. President Ono's role will be to coordinate the coalition, guide strategic projects and continue to build the network of partnerships.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS
Promote just, peaceful
and inclusive societies



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS
Revitalize the global partnership
for sustainable development



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