

UFV 2020/21 Sustainability Report



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Land Acknowledgement

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) campuses are built on the sacred land of the Stó:lō Peoples. Stó:lō Tém:éxw (Stó:lō land), has been cared for deeply and responsibly by Stó:lō people for thousands of years. Over the last few hundred years, colonization and Eurocentric ideologies have had significant impacts on Stó:lō Peoples' land, culture, and way of life. We are grateful for the ways Indigenous Peoples continue to care for this land and all that live here, as they have since time immemorial. We acknowledge how their stewardship was upset by colonization, and we recognize the work of Indigenous peoples to rebuild these connections and reclaim their roles as stewards.

We strive, as an institution, to build reciprocal and respectful relationships with the land and Stó:lō Peoples, and to work in partnership and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples' goals for self-determination and well-being.

Sustainable change will only be achieved by following the wisdom of Indigenous knowledge holders, for their understanding that land means more than territory – that it encompasses ecosystems, social systems, culture, relationships, spirituality, and law – is vital to building a sustainable, resilient, and just society together.

It is the responsibility of current settlers to educate themselves on the history of colonization and to make space for the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples. Now is the time to listen and learn how to live on this land without doing harm and to dismantle the current systems imposed through colonialism.

To work with sustainability is to respect all living things and to understand the value of the environment, good quality of life, various forms of interdependence, and how they are all interconnected with one another. Indigenous Peoples are the leaders and experts of living on the land without harm, and as we work towards making UFV a more sustainable institution, we recognize our work is to learn from and reflect Indigenous ways of knowing.

Introduction

Historically, sustainability work at UFV, particularly environmental sustainability, was completed largely as ad hoc initiatives championed by select individuals or small, temporary groups often operating 'off-the-side-of-their-desks'. The Centre for Sustainability was eventually established to offer a coordinated, intentional, and strategic approach to allow UFV to actively work towards meeting its institutional commitments to sustainability. To ensure continuity in the work, the Centre for Sustainability became an official UFV department in 2021 and was renamed the Office of Sustainability (OoS). Now with permanent staff solely focused on the work, the OoS has propelled sustainability forward at UFV and aims to make sustainability a pan-institutional priority, empowering departments to champion efforts in their areas of expertise.

As institutional and community demand for sustainability has increased and awareness of the OoS and its initiatives have spread, the OoS has fast become a central resource and driver of economic, social, and environmental change at UFV and in the wider community. These increased needs and awareness are a testament to the successes of the department and its efforts in its first year since inception.

Recent climate events in the Fraser Valley and the increased visibility of racism and human rights issues across North America have increased awareness of sustainability issues locally. As such, more people than ever are seeking out opportunities to support UFV's social, economic, and environmental sustainability initiatives. Students in particular hope to benefit from the opportunity to get involved with sustainability as a way to contribute to their local and global communities and to combat the climate angst affecting the mental wellness of our younger population.

This passion and desire for change from the status quo from UFV students and community members guides the work of the OoS and motivates our mission statement: "Driving meaningful partnerships that support a sustainable transformation towards the well-being of our communities and ecosystem."

The report, prepared by the OoS, was designed to align with our mission and our aim to be pan-institutional by highlighting sustainability work being done across the university and recognizing the efforts of individuals and groups driving change at UFV and beyond. While thorough, this report is non-exhaustive and predominantly showcases work that was shared directly with us.

As we continue to examine the question of how UFV can best leverage its position as a higher learning institution to drive sustainable solutions, the OoS is committed to building relations and forging partnerships across all areas of the UFV community. After all, sustainability impacts us all and we all have the potential to make an impact on sustainability.

Jennifer Martel
Sustainability Coordinator

**“Driving
meaningful
partnerships
that support a
sustainable
transformation
towards the
well-being of our
communities
and ecosystem.”**



UN SDGs

In 2015, the United Nations developed an agenda that participating countries would adhere to, which focused on the advancement of people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership by focusing on environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This agenda is called the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and within these 17 Goals, there are 169 targets with 231 unique indicators to gauge progress. All goals are intended to be met and completed by 2030.

"They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests."

- United Nations

UFV has recently acknowledged their alignment to the 17 SDGs in a continued effort to be a more sustainable institution.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Office of Sustainability

The UFV Office of Sustainability (OoS) is a department focused on bringing a pan-institutional approach of holistic sustainability to UFV. Much of the work includes creating initiatives, increasing awareness and education about environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and coordinating and tracking UFV's institutional-wide sustainability efforts.

Established as its own department in the Spring of 2021, the team has been working incredibly hard to navigate sustainability at UFV, finding out what is being done, whom to collaborate with, and how to ensure everyone has the ability to learn more about sustainability

Follow us on social media!



Find us on the Abbotsford campus in B150d.

[Sign up for our monthly newsletter](#)

Navigating the Report

This report features some of the sustainability work being done at UFV, and the projects are categorized by the SDG it aligns with the most. Additional related SDGs are indicated by the symbols to the left of each initiative.

It is important to note that this representation is done to demonstrate how the SDGs are connected to one another; one aspect of sustainability is not separate from the others. Sustainability is a system and the three pillars (environmental, social, and economic) are interconnected and must be addressed as such, otherwise, the system collapses.

Any underlined text indicates a link where you can learn more about the featured work.

This report is the first iteration of capturing sustainability work happening at UFV, but it is not exhaustive. To share your work with us and include it in future reports, please reach out to sustainability@ufv.ca.

Our Goals



Office of Sustainability - UFV Flickr



"End poverty in all its forms everywhere"

— United Nations



Historic Flooding - Jennifer Martel



UFV Staff and Faculty Nominated for Community Pandemic Response Award

In response to the COVID-19 shut-down, staff and faculty rallied to support UFV students throughout the crisis. UFV employees redirected their monthly parking fees to the Student Emergency Fund. A total of 162 responded to the call, ultimately contributing \$54,000 so UFV students could continue their education during the pandemic. This resulted in support from our community, which donated a further \$276,000 to support the Student Emergency Fund and the UFV-SUS Food Bank.



UFV/United Way Employee Giving Campaign 2021

Over the past year, UFV Employees have rallied together to support our students throughout the pandemic. This event is one example, which raised funds to assist UFV's Student Emergency Fund and UFV-SUS Foodbank.



Student Financial Support

The UFV Giving Days are an opportunity for the community to come together and raise funds to support deserving UFV students as they work toward their academic goals. Additionally, there are bursaries, scholarships, leadership awards, entrance awards, and emergency funds that financially support students at UFV. Some are created to support specific groups, such as Indigenous students and female-identifying students.



Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund

Developed in response to the flooding in the Fall of 2021, UFV has partnered with the Abbotsford Community Foundation (ACF) and the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) to establish the Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund, which will support front-line agencies providing essential services to affected families and businesses.



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

– United Nations



UFV-SUS Food Bank

The UFV-SUS Food Bank addresses food insecurity amongst our UFV community by providing nutritious food and promoting healthy eating, in an accessible, inclusive, respectful and sustainable manner. This program is a partnership with UFV's Student Affairs department and the Student Union Society (SUS).

Abbotsford Food Asset Mapping

This project explored the use of maps as tools for improving food security and justice in Abbotsford. The Abbotsford Food Asset Map is a dataset created by mapping areas of high and low local food assets. By highlighting locations of local food assets, this community tool will contribute to an understanding of where there may be interactions among vulnerabilities within the community. The Abbotsford Food Asset Map can be updated with new data as changes in the availability, locations, and accessibility of food assets occur within the city.

Food (In)Security: An Assessment of Communal Factors Impacting Food Security in Chilliwack

This report completed by CHASI in 2021 titled Food (In)Security: An Assessment of Communal Factors Impacting Food Security in Chilliwack describes the results of an analysis of factors related to household food security in Chilliwack. Through an environmental scan and an asset and gap analysis, the CHASI has identified how the economic, social, cultural, demographic, and environmental context of Chilliwack, as well as local food system and related food policies, contributes to community food security.



Agriculture Department - UFV Flickr



Food and Agriculture Institute (FAI)

FAI at UFV is an interdisciplinary research centre that focuses on issues, challenges, and sustainability solutions related to food and farm systems. FAI partners with various researchers, industry leaders, and governments to build knowledge and tools for moving toward sustainable, resilient food systems for communities and regions in British Columbia, Canada, and across the globe. To this end, FAI conducts research under two major themes: Agricultural Technology and Innovation & Food Systems Planning and Policy.



Feed BC

UFV brings its passion and commitment to local food to the student experience on campus, through research and partnerships, and by active community engagement. As a Feed BC partner, UFV is committed to strengthening food systems through working to foster B.C. agriculture innovation and build local food culture, while leveraging its location in some of the world's most fertile farmland to source local products from farms and food processors. UFV Food Services currently sources 30% of its products locally.



Food for All

In 2021, UFV partnered with Dana Hospitality LP to create "Food for All", a program to battle food security and ensure that no one on campus is left hungry. They are created with an intentional price point, making the affordable meal accessible to as many people as possible. Further, the options include vegetarian and vegan options for those with dietary restrictions. By freezing the meals, it maintains its freshness and prevents any contamination and possible food-borne illnesses. It started as a pilot at the Abbotsford campus and there are plans to expand based on the response from users.



"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"

— United Nations



Community Health and Social Innovation Hub (CHASI)

Launched in 2020, UFV's CHASI was created to support the social, mental, emotional, physical, and economic health of those living in our communities. Through collaborative, multi-sectoral research and community engagement, the Hub acts as a key strategic health partner in the region, working to identify challenges and opportunities to improve individual and community health.



Centre for Education & Research on Aging (CERA)

UFV CERA is an interdisciplinary research centre with a mission to promote collaboration within UFV and the Fraser Valley community around issues related to aging. CERA's goals include providing multidisciplinary educational opportunities in aging studies for both UFV students and the Fraser Valley community. CERA members seek to foster relationships and facilitate ongoing exchange of information on the aging process between UFV and Fraser Valley communities. Finally, CERA members are actively engaged in collaborative and multidisciplinary studies related to aging.



CCS and PRLC Student Mental Health Support

Coast Capital Savings (CCS) has been financially supporting the Peer Resource and Leadership Centre (PRLC) for several years. The PRLC provides mental health support for students and was able to shift online in response to COVID-19.



Priority Access to Student Supports (PASS)

PASS is an online service that enables instructors to identify and assist students who are struggling or at risk of falling behind. PASS provides early intervention so small problems don't turn into large problems and students connect to the resources they need.



Not Myself Today Program

The Not Myself Today program is a Canadian Mental Health Association program that UFV has opened up for use for employees. It focuses on three main objectives: building greater awareness and understanding of mental health, reducing stigma, and fostering a safe and supportive work culture. It provides learning opportunities remotely to deal with emotions and stress, encourages opening up, and has a page dedicated to further support those who need it. The code to sign up through UFV can be found through Human Resources Health and Well-being resources.



Enactus UFV - Wellness Connections

Wellness Connections is an online hub that will help students navigate the journey to wellness by promoting the wellness resources already offered at UFV, sharing advice related to self-care and wellness management, and hosting events on different areas of wellness.

Employee Fitness Challenge: Strive to Thrive

As a component of UFV's Organizational Health Strategy, the Employee Fitness Challenge: Strive to Thrive is a health promotion program intended to motivate, support, engage, and maintain employees' overall health and well-being. Within the program, employees are encouraged to participate and connect with one another through a variety of health and wellness opportunities such as physical activity, exercise and nutrition groups, and mindfulness activities.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



"Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities"

– United Nations



Enactus UFV - Big Brain Literacy Program (BBLP)

BBLP is an Enactus UFV initiative that bridges the financial education gap for high school, university and international students. BBLP has also partnered with an Indigenous Elder to develop a workshop geared towards Indigenous youth. Through interactive workshops and webinars, participants gain the skills to make informed financial decisions by learning about topics such as positive spending, budgeting, managing debt and avoiding scams. Currently, the BBLP team is working towards creating Open Educational Resources (OER) consisting of video recordings and worksheets that can be accessed at any time and from anywhere. Since 2019, BBLP has delivered workshops to a total of 1029 youth and targets to reach 1400 youth by 2023. To accomplish its goals, BBLP has partnered with local non-profit organizations including the Fraser River Indigenous Society, Chilliwack Healthier Community, Chilliwack Learning Society and Archway Community Services.



Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program (QES)

QES partners with professionals and experts in their field in East Africa, India and Abbotsford, BC. Through cross-cultural exchanges, the QES program sets students up for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn with other professionals in the field and be involved in significant impact-making and lasting change. Many of the opportunities past scholars have had have been pivotal in launching students into their next careers and allowing them to network with a wide range of experts in the field.

Older Adults Tuition Exemption

UFV waives tuition for up to two courses during the academic year for those 65 years of age or older.



Indigenous Student Centre

The purpose of the Indigenous Student Centre is to provide easy-access resources and a friendly, home-away-from-home environment to help our students in reaching their maximum potential. They provide cultural and academic support to help bridge the gap between the University and Indigenous peoples and to help facilitate the Indigenization of UFV. Services include advocating for Indigenous students with other UFV departments; providing academic support, tutoring, liaising with other UFV departments; liaising with post-secondary education authorities and First Nation organizations; providing information on courses with Indigenous content; assisting with applications and admissions process; providing information on scholarships and bursaries, and more.



Age-Friendly University

CERA is currently leading an initiative to achieve Age-Friendly University (AFU) status for UFV. In embracing the guiding principles of AFU, there is a recognition of the importance of making UFV accessible to students of all ages and abilities, supporting lifelong learning, encouraging intergenerational connections etc.

Student Experiences Fund (SEF)

SEF for UFV students is designed to provide funding up to \$500 for experiential learning initiatives outside of the classroom that support personal and professional growth.



Indigenous Student Centre - UFV Website



"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

– United Nations



Sexualized Violence Prevention (SVP)

SVP is a peer education program aimed at reducing the harm caused by sexualized violence. This is done by providing education about consent and the current social landscape which contributes to instances of sexualized violence, and by improving access to support for those who experience sexualized violence. This program aims to participate in a cultural shift from believing myths about how and why sexualized violence occurs to having social awareness of the beliefs behind these myths and then making changes on how they show up in our society. Additionally, they provide education to allow the UFV community to better support those who experience sexualized violence. It is believed this reduces harm by increasing individual comfort with support seeking.

UFV Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST)

UFV WEST is a student-led organization focused on the support and promotion of female-identifying and femme-aligning individuals in Science, Technology and Engineering. Events are held in order to create community and provide information to help those entering or currently in the field.



International Women's Day

International Women's Day is typically a major event at UFV and, despite pandemic restrictions, 2021 was no exception. The virtual panel tied into the official theme for the day for 2021 - Choose to Challenge. The panellists discussed how they handle life's challenges, the connection and overlap between art and science in their careers, advice to younger women, and how they have responded to the specific challenges posed by the pandemic.



Access to Menstrual Products

Half of all people who menstruate say that they have struggled to purchase products for themselves at some time in their life, and more than a quarter have gone through a period without having any products to support them. To help address menstrual inequity, menstrual products are provided in washrooms campus-wide free of charge thanks to the efforts of the Faculty & Staff Association and the Student Union Society.



Gender Equality Projects led by Dr. Geetanjali Gill

- i. Leave No One Behind is a livelihood, advocacy, and empowerment project with 100 women and girls with albinism in Sierra Leone. Catherine Liao is part of this project, in partnership with Albinism Royal Foundation (funded by the Fund for Innovation and Transformation, Global Affairs Canada)
- ii. Social norms and gender equality in education amongst 108 adolescent girls and boys in schools, and their families and teachers, in Rwanda, Mozambique, and Ghana (funded by SSHRC).
- iii. Participatory approaches to ethically gather data on gender-based violence amongst adolescent girls and boys in refugee camps in Uganda and Lebanon (funded by Global Women's Institute, George Washington University, US).



International Women's Day Event - UFV Flickr

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"

— United Nations



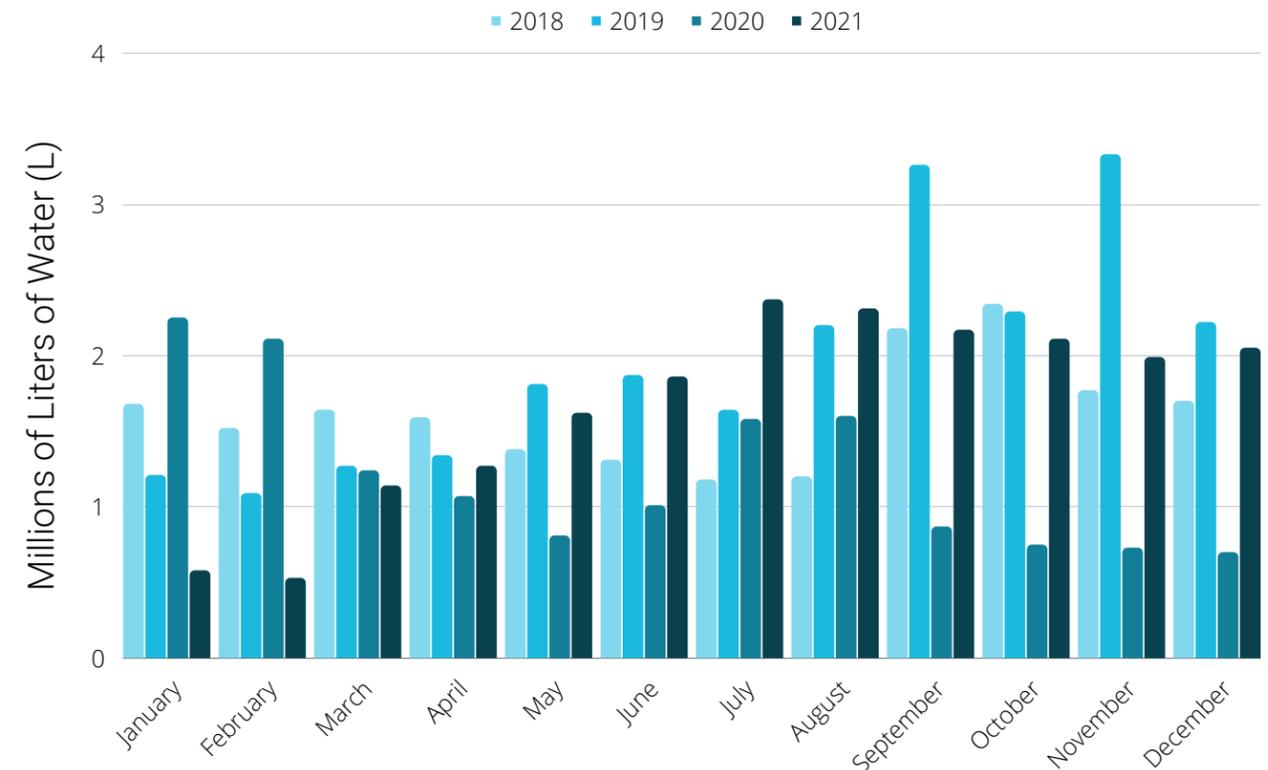
World Water Journey

This project is a multi-dimensional knowledge mobilization platform with a local, regional and global collaboration nexus. It connects academic, industrial, policymakers and innovators across water and climate change sectors. Together they simultaneously embed knowledge within communities, history and culture. Included within the platform are multi-media visual engagements that reveal diverse resources and perspectives to create a rich scientific, technical, social, cultural, and historical water learning journey. Building on its foundational principles, the World Water Journey is an empowering platform that calls upon youth, community members, Indigenous cultural educators, water practitioners, citizens, artists and scientists to share knowledge to curate this collaboration-igniting journey. Generated from Waterlution program harvesting, research projects, artist commissions, competitions, calls for collaboration and problem-solving, media creations, resource guest knowledge sharing and community-based voices and partners, the platform will re-imagine ways to learn, collaborate, and create water security solutions for the world.

Water Use Data Collection

Data collection of water usage for both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses is completed on an ongoing basis to identify any possible water efficiency opportunities. See chart below for monthly trends over the years.

Monthly Water Usage for all UFV Campuses



Water Refill Station - Jennifer Martel



Water Fill Stations

By replacing all the existing fountains and water stations with new and improved bottle refills in each building, UFV hopes to encourage more sustainable water use on campus. The two available models, a bottle refill station combined with a water fountain that replaces existing fountains or a simple refill station, now total up to 26 stations at the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



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

— United Nations



G Building Solar Panels - Jennifer Martel



Grounds Battery-Powered Equipment

The Grounds Teams has been adding battery-powered landscape maintenance equipment to their inventory - utility cart, chain saw, line trimmer, power blower, hedge trimmer, edger, and lawn mower. The goals behind this are to have less fossil fuel consumption, fewer maintenance costs, protection of worker health, and student and staff well-being (less noise).



Solar Walls - E Building

In Spring 2020, a solar thermal collector (solar wall) was installed on the south side of E Building on the Abbotsford campus (the Athletic Centre). This black metal exterior attracts and captures the sun's warmth and through a series of ducts sends that warm fresh air into the south gym. Through this process the need for natural gas systems to generate warm air is reduced, lowering our carbon footprint through the adoption of technology, investment in innovation, and deliberate design.

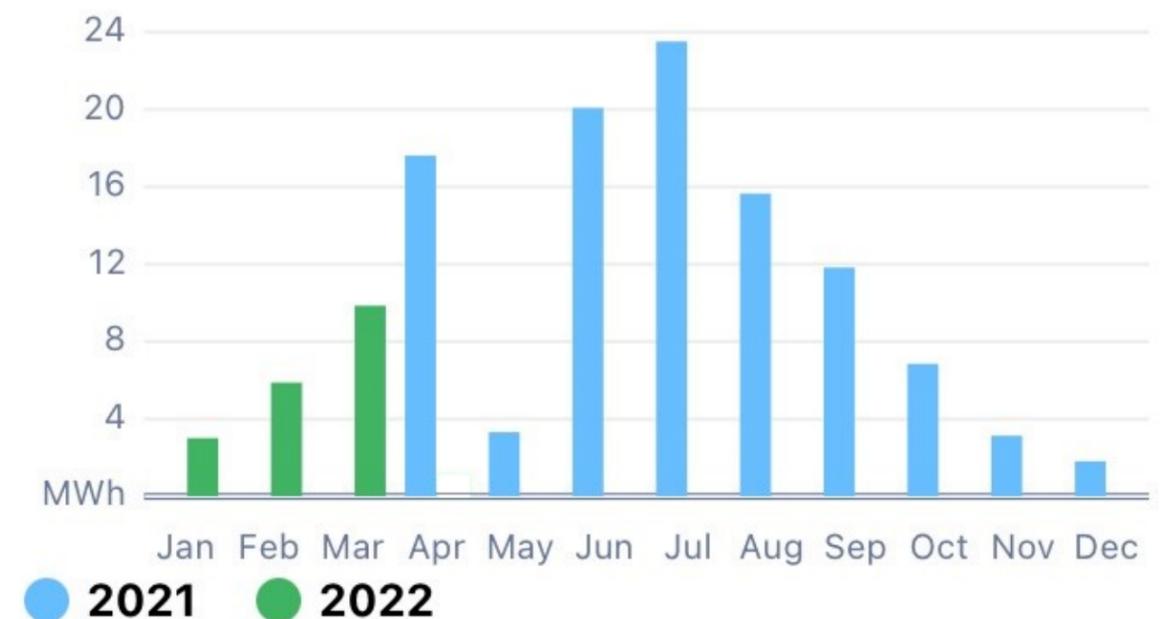


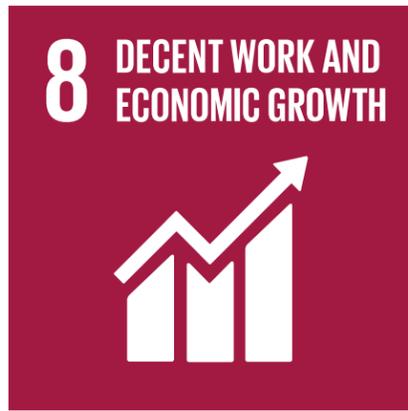
Photovoltaics (PV) System

In Spring 2021, 321 solar panels were installed on the roof of G Building at the Abbotsford campus. During peak sunny summer days, the PV system produces enough energy (700-800 kilowatts) to power the entire Building G throughout the day. That includes lighting, all computer stations, and HVAC systems.

According to a capstone project conducted by a UBC student on the post-implementation study of the Building G solar panel system, the building is working at a much higher efficiency than in previous years and the project's ROI has come down significantly from 18 years to an estimated 3-6 years. In its first year alone, the PV system produced 103MWh - the equivalent of the annual electricity use of 9 homes or 1,211 trees planted!

Monthly Electricity Production from G Building Solar Panels





"Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work"

— United Nations



Centre for Experiential and Career Education (CECE)

CECE helps students build their career readiness and connects them with employers. They assist in preparing résumés and cover letters and offer tips for job searching and interviews. They also facilitate student work opportunities allowing students to have flexible, part-time work at UFV.



Student Work Opportunities

- i. Co-operative Education Program (Co-op): The Co-op program works closely with students and allows them to combine academic studies with paid work experience in a career-related field.
- ii. Research Assistants and Work Study: Student Research Assistant positions and the Work Study Program allow students to build their skills while they study and gain 120 hours of professional employment experience over the course of a semester in conjunction with their studies.



Pathways Program

Pathways is an organization that assists adults with intellectual disabilities to develop through socialization and working programs within their community. A partnership between Pathways and UFV was established in 2014 with the help of David Shayler and has since fostered an environment with committed and contributing members of our community. Members of the Pathways program come to the campus twice a week and help facilitate the disposal of refundable recycling.



Hybrid Workplace Pilot Program

The Hybrid Workplace Pilot program is intended to explore the concept of hybrid work arrangements for the staff and faculty members selected for participation in the pilot, offering the ability to work both on campus and from a remote location. The program's goals are to provide employees with flexibility, discover opportunities and barriers to remote work, and reduce impacts on the environment by lowering emissions from driving.



BC Top Employer Award

UFV has been recognized as one of BC's top employers for the last eight years in a row. UFV has continued to focus on creating a positive work environment that will attract and retain excellent faculty and staff members.



Educational and Employment Equity Policy

UFV created an Educational and Employment Equity Policy to ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect by identifying and removing any discriminatory barriers, and improving the learning environment.



Service Recognition Dinner— UFV Flickr

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



"Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"

– United Nations



Campus Signage – Jennifer Martel



Abbotsford Campus Building Renewal Project

The Building Renewal Project brought substantial improvements and upgrades to Buildings A-East and D with new energy-efficient windows and a highly efficient envelope system with increased insulation.

In addition to significantly improving the appearance and lifespan of these key buildings, this renewal will provide more consistent heating and cooling management, improve energy efficiency, address ongoing moisture issues, and accommodate digital infrastructure upgrades for current and future technology requirements. Estimates predict that the upgrades will reduce energy consumption by about 10% in each building and will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 17-21% in each.

Understanding Agritech Incubator and Accelerator Best Practices

Supported by the Abbotsford Tech District, this project is a proposed research and commercialization innovation hub to be established in the Fraser Valley and will provide two outcomes: One is to prepare a report on the best practices and recommendations for building an Agritech incubator/accelerator hub in British Columbia. Two is to prepare academic journal articles detailing the successes and challenges associated with incubators/accelerators, and the potential societal impacts of widespread development of programs that specifically focus on spurring growth in agricultural technology and innovation.

B150 Renovations

The B150 office underwent construction to provide an open-concept office. Campus Planning and Facilities Management along with Thinkspace Architecture enlisted the expertise of DIRTT Environmental Solutions, a Calgary-based interior modular wall company that uses technology and sustainable construction to create dynamic spaces that are economical and functional. The DIRTT wall panels, insulated with denim and reinforced with aluminum, have also been used in K Building. Not using traditional drywall prevents 1,500 pounds of CO₂e from being re-released into the air, and the sensor lighting and LED lightbulbs reduce energy consumption.

Esposito Family Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (EFCIE)

EFCIE is a research hub at UFV, established through a generous endowment provided by the Esposito family. EFCIE works to foster an inclusive, vibrant, and resilient space for innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives for the UFV and Fraser Valley communities.



"Reduce inequality within and among countries"

– United Nations



Centre for Global Development (CGD)

CGD's vision is to work collaboratively and extend the practice of community development beyond the Fraser Valley region into the global context. To this end, the CGD promotes and encourages research and programs on sustainable human and community development in order to facilitate positive change. CDG works with Canada's development priorities, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and international human rights standards.

South Asian Studies Institute (SASI)

SASI at UFV brings together South Asia scholars and students from diverse backgrounds and fosters inter-disciplinary scholarly research, community and public engagement on issues related to South Asia and the Canadian South Asian Diaspora.

Queering Cancer

Queering Cancer is a new [website](#) that addresses systemic disparities in access to cancer support and information for people who identify as LGBTQ2S+. They share resources and provide education for everyone, specifically LGBTQ2S+ people and health care workers.

Educational and Employment Equity Policy

UFV created an Educational and Employment Equity Policy to ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect by identifying and removing any discriminatory barriers, and improving the learning environment.



Advocates for Change - Living Learning Community (LLC)

LLC is an intentional community program, designed to give undergrad students an opportunity to live together in housing and partake in extracurricular activities that incorporate common interests, passions and goals of the group. The Advocates for Change (AC) Living and Learning Community has been created for students who are passionate about anti-racism work, equity, diversity, inclusion and social advocacy. Through active engagement with the AC program, students will challenge and develop their perceptions on their current understanding of how race and privilege function in society today.



Refugee and Immigrant Experience in BC Projects

There are two projects focused on refugee and immigrant experiences in BC being done at UFV. The first is a research project to understand the 'landscape' of refugee and newcomer-focused organizations, activists, leaders, services, and activities in the Fraser Valley, BC, and to explore opportunities for community partnerships. The second is a community engagement project to capture and value the lived experiences of refugee/newcomer youth in the Fraser Valley through digital storytelling, together with community-based resettlement organizations and actors. Several divisions of Archway Community Services have been collaborators on these projects.



Institutional Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (IEDI) Department Officer

The IEDI Officer for the Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS) ensures the department is working towards UFV's EDI Goals. The IEDI Officer hosts monthly EDI Team Time discussions, proposes and investigates IEDI-related training for the department, and facilitates connections between the CAS and other departments.



Dr. Satwinder Kaur Bains of SASI - UFV Flickr

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"

— United Nations



Transportation Demand Management Report

Most students, staff, and faculty live too far away to walk or bike to campus. This report - prepared by OoS Student Worker Hayley Katan - outlines an analysis and recommendations of short and long-distance transportation options that can provide a more comprehensive and sustainable transportation system at UFV.



Vitacore Mask Disposal Project

11 UFV departments sponsored a total of 14 Vitacore Mask Recycling Boxes that can be found at both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. The boxes are for disposable masks (e.g. N95 and surgical masks), and with the initial boxes, over 22,000 masks can be prevented from entering our landfills and the environment around us and instead be recycled into construction materials



Campus Shuttle Bus

The Campus Shuttle Bus service is managed by the UFV Student Union Society (SUS), with some financial support from UFV. The buses transport students between the Chilliwack and Abbotsford campuses, with some buses being wheelchair accessible.



Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

In an effort to transition UFV to support electric vehicles now and in the future, many charging locations have been implemented. This has allowed for up to 20 vehicles to charge at any given time, with plans to grow charging availability in the near future. All but one charging location at both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses are free to use and have combined for over 50,000 kg of greenhouse gas savings.



Campus Bus Stop — Jennifer Martel

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"

– United Nations



UFV Procurement Policy

The Procurement Policy establishes a strategic framework that UFV observes to ensure the best value for its expenditures. This Policy was updated in 2021 and is inclusive of all acquisitions involving goods, services, vehicles, equipment, infrastructure, construction, and capital expenditures. UFV acknowledges the importance of decision-making on local, environmental, and social impact interests. Sustaining a healthy community requires that procurement best practices go beyond the lowest cost of goods and services and consider the total social and economic impacts. UFV will endeavour to leverage its spending to achieve greater value.



Comprehensive Review of Gaps and Opportunities in the Sustainable Fashion Sector in the Lower Mainland

This project centers on the sustainable fashion movement in Canada and, in particular, the Lower Mainland. There are many companies, initiatives, studies, and policies contributing to a more sustainable clothing sector. However, since there is no comprehensive scan of these activities and resources it is difficult to understand how this sector is progressing in the Lower Mainland. This project will undertake an environmental scan of companies, initiatives, studies, and policies, and a social network analysis of the actors involved in the sustainable clothing sector.



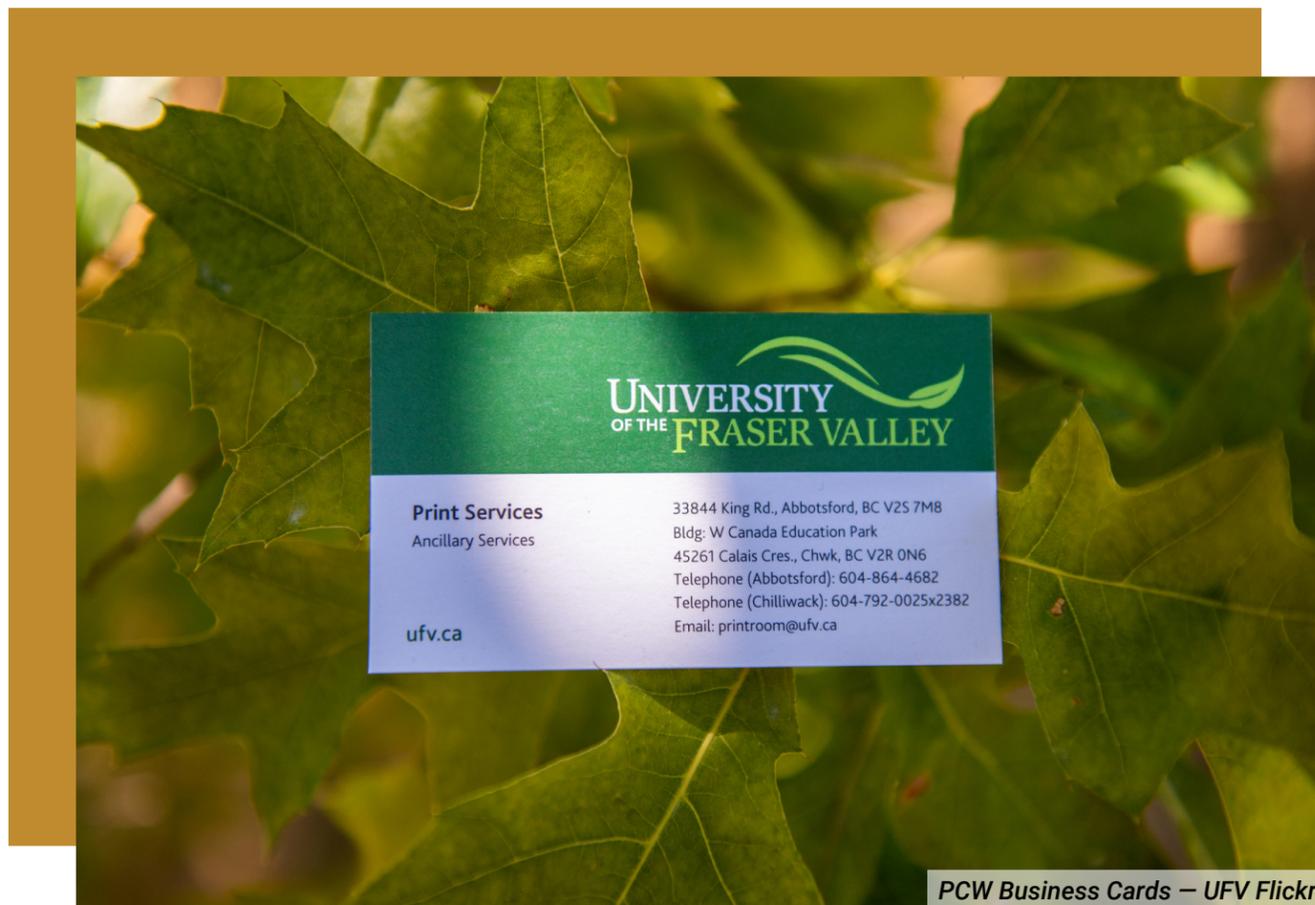
Post-Consumer Waste Paper and Sugar Sheet Initiative

The UFV printing team committed to using paper with a recycled content of 100% post-consumer waste (PCW) and is transitioning to using Sugar Sheet paper. Sugar sheet paper is made from 100% agricultural fibre waste called bagasse, which is the residue waste of sugarcane after it's been harvested. Compared to traditional wood fibre paper, every two boxes of Sugar Sheet paper saves one tree and 68 kg of greenhouse gas emissions!



Enactus UFV - Oak and Earth

Oak & Earth is a social enterprise dedicated to helping improve the lives of Indigenous peoples in the Fraser Valley. We market, produce, and sell handcrafted soy candles, then invest a portion of the profits in our partner organization, the Fraser River Indigenous Society (FRIS). This partnership allows us to work closely with the organization to support the Indigenous community. Oak & Earth aims to provide the FRIS with funding and promote the programs and services they offer to members of their community.



PCW Business Cards – UFV Flickr



"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"

— United Nations



The Climate-Biodiversity-Health (CBH) Nexus

This community-based participatory research approach will engage stakeholders and local governments in B.C. to build an understanding of how communities can better engage in integrated food systems and sustainable community development planning. This research aims to advance integrated community planning by developing an experimental framework consisting of three strategic areas critical to sustainable development: 1) climate action, 2) biodiversity conservation, and 3) community health, the climate-biodiversity-health (CBH) nexus. Applying the CBH nexus framework to different community planning areas could elucidate how strategies, policies, and actions align or conflict with imperatives for the sustainable development of local food systems.



Climate Change Theater Action 2021

Climate Change Theatre Action 2021 is a globally distributed theatre festival by world-renowned playwrights and creators from every continent on earth, to encourage conversation, community, and action around the climate crisis. This festival is presented in conjunction with the biannual United Nations Climate Change Talks, held this year in Glasgow (COP 26).

UFV Theatre created theatrical videos of ten of these short and engaging plays, launching a restart to creating, rehearsing, and designing theatre live and in person. The plays range from an exploration of the personal costs of turning Canada into an ecological preserve 150 years in the future to the comic perspective of a baby salmon in our waterways in B.C., to an in-depth look at what "consultation" between government and First Nations truly means.



Ecochallenge

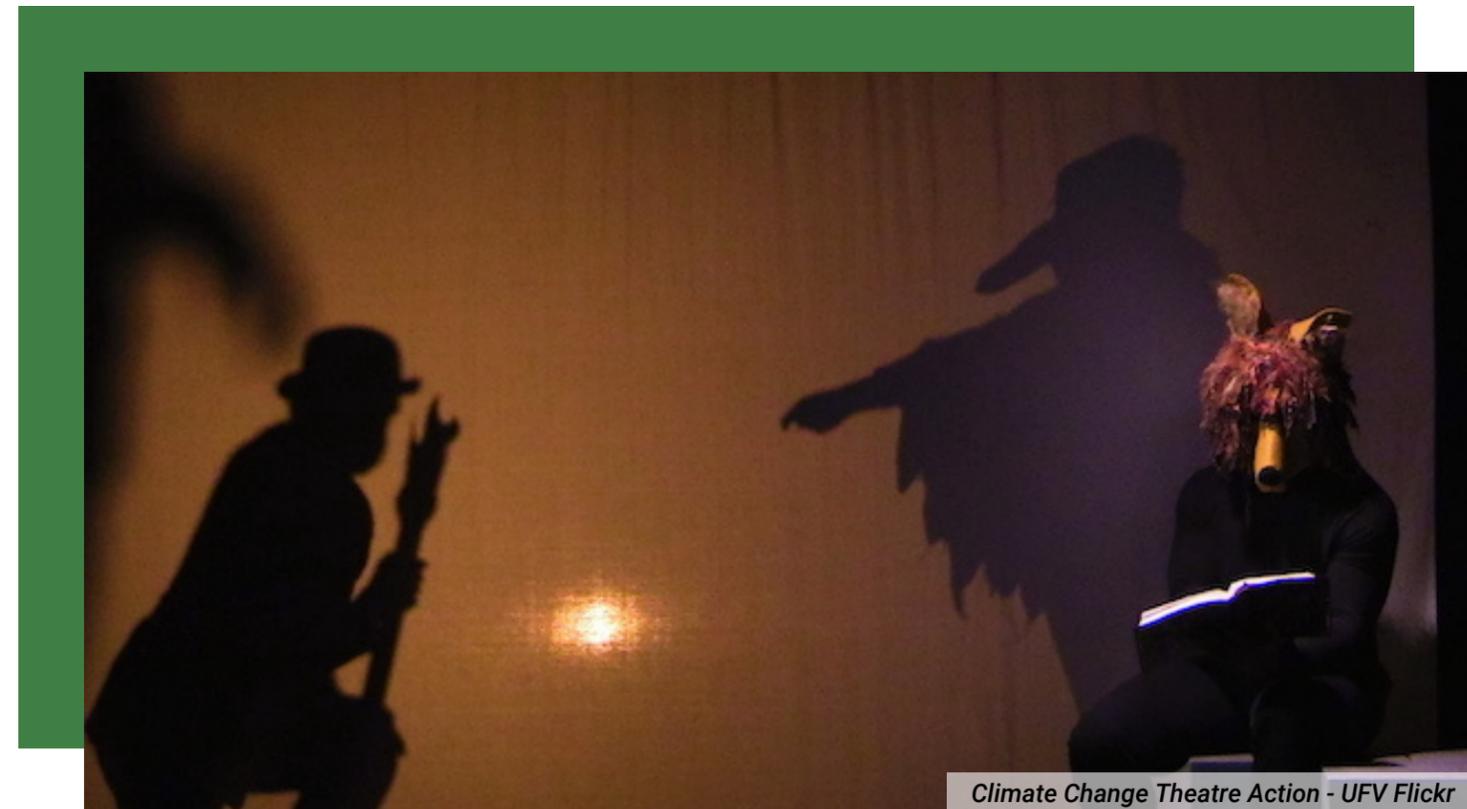
Drawdown Ecochallenge is a customizable and solutions-oriented engagement program focused on bettering our impact on the earth. The UFV Office of Sustainability created a team to challenge students & employees to create sustainable daily habits. Participants choose actions, tracked & shared their progress through the [online platform](#) and earned points for taking action.



CityStudio Hubbub

Twice a year, UFV students involved in the CityStudio Abbotsford partnership bring their projects to City Hall for Hubbub, a combination show-and-tell and a community-building event.

Groups from participating classes show off a semester's worth of work on a project designed to address a real, practical challenge presented to them by the City of Abbotsford. A signature event for both UFV and the CityStudio Abbotsford, the HUBBUB is a project showcase that brings together UFV students to share their CityStudio projects, findings and recommendations with City of Abbotsford staff, peers, faculty, and community members.



Climate Change Theatre Action - UFV Flickr



"Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"

— United Nations



Bertrand Creek Watershed Group Environmental Farm Plan

To address ongoing water quality issues in the Bertrand Creek Watershed, the Food and Agriculture Institute in collaboration with the Agriculture Research and Development Corporation delivered a report to serve as a basis for the development of a Group Environmental Farm Plan.



Fraser River Watershed Research

For the past 12 years, Associate Professor Steve Marsh has been conducting collaborative research on the Fraser River Watershed to develop a better understanding of what's happening in our watercourses including the health of the environment, seasonal patterns, variance and changes, water quality and chemistry, pathogen presence, and movement of carbon from the terrestrial surface to the ocean. Over 60 student research posters have been presented on this research at conferences across North America, and the work is accomplished with collaborations through the Global Rivers Observatory Project, with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole Research Centre, and many more.



Hope for the Planet: In Preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference

The purpose of this event was to gather to hear songs of renewal, resilience, and unity for the land, the rivers, the wild salmon, and the People, learn about the ecology of the river, and strategize for the future. The Good Medicine Songs brought Indigenous stories of their territory for awareness and unity for everyone on the UFV lands and the larger community of the Valley. The [Heart of the Fraser](#) documentary showed all participants the river and the tremendous ecological significance of the climate crisis for local watersheds and waterways.



Invasive Bullfrogs Study

Christine Dalton and Alida Janmaat and their research students are collaborating with Fraser Valley Conservancy to study the gut contents of invasive American Bullfrogs. They are also investigating the infection of the bullfrogs by parasitic lung flukes. These projects are part of an effort to protect native amphibians and other wildlife in the Valley.



Northwestern Salamander Study

Christine Dalton is conducting research on the Northwestern Salamander found on the Abbotsford campus to understand more about the species. To study the movement and habitats of the salamanders, microchips are surgically implanted and then removed after six weeks. This research is being done to understand the status of the species and examine how climate change impacts different organisms.



Northwestern Salamander Study— UFV Flickr



"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"

— United Nations



UFV Strategic Tree Management Plan

The UFV Strategic Tree Management Plan provides specific visioning, goals, recommendations and action items for planning, design, and maintenance activities as they relate to campus trees. The goals of the plan include preservation of the tree canopy in a sustainable manner; better understanding and appreciation of the cultural values of the Sto:lo people and incorporation of Sto:lo traditions into the management of campus trees; planning for the impacts of climate change on campus trees; protection of trees during campus construction and renovation.



UFV Landscape Pest Management Plan

The UFV Landscape Pest Management Plan provides a framework for landscape pest management planning and pest control operations. UFV Grounds Maintenance no longer uses chemical pesticides for cosmetic purposes. UFV strives to use a combination of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies that are both effective and economical to suppress pest populations to an acceptable level, while protecting the environment and human health. Prevention of pest problems is the most important component of the UFV Landscape Pest Management plan.



Bumblebee Research in the Lower Mainland

Bumblebees are greatly important pollinators to temperate ecosystems. Unfortunately, wild bumblebee populations have been declining worldwide likely due to factors such as pesticide use, habitat fragmentation and climate change. UFV Biology students, guided by Dr. Sandra Gillespie, have conducted multiple research investigations on bumblebee species in the Lower Mainland. Some of these research projects have included the exploration of evidence on pathogen spillover from commercial bumblebees to wild bumblebees, as well as the impact of the 2021 heat dome on bumblebees species in BC.



Forest Systems and Wellbeing

UFV's School of Land Use and Environmental Change is working with the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Center regarding forest-based research in Sxótsaqel / Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park. The project began in summer 2021 and will continue until summer 2023. The project uses a two-eyed seeing approach to better understand forest health, soil connectedness, and water quality in old growth forests vs regrowth forests (on harvested sites). It is hoped that we learn more about forest remediation and conservation through this work.

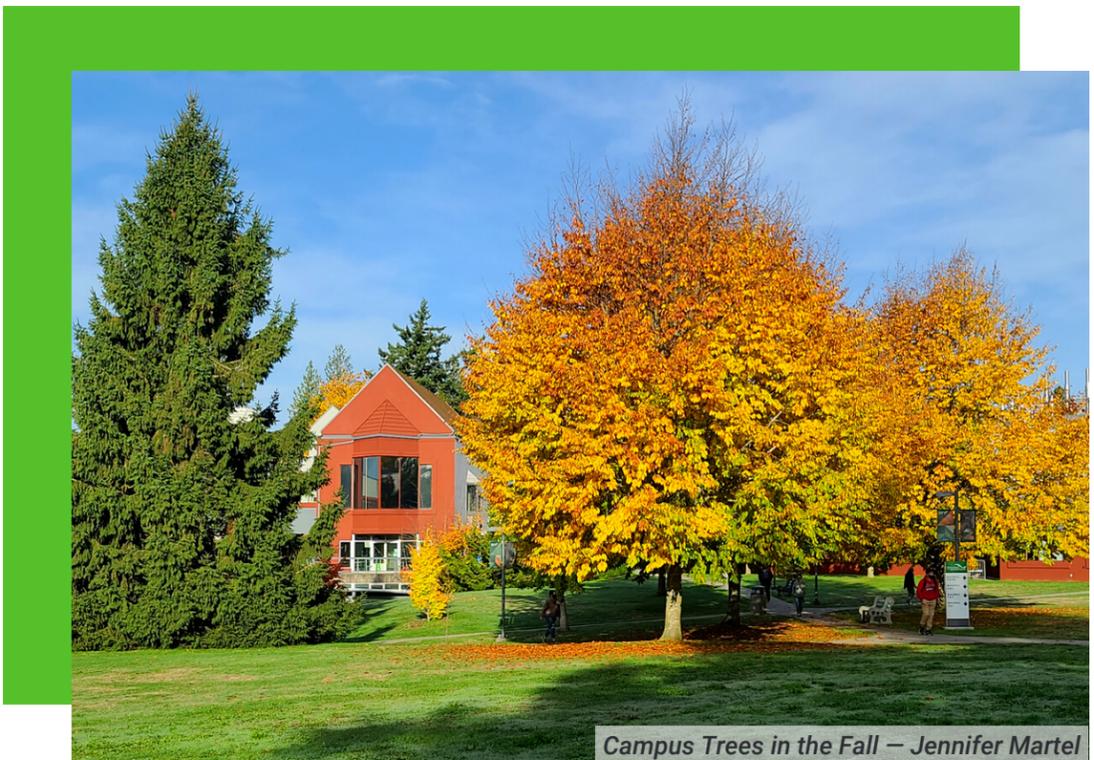


Fungi for Use in Remediation

The biogeography lab started with the "Identification, isolation, characterization and testing of fungi for use in remediation". Included in this project is the use of fungal mycelia in product and process development to reduce and treat waste from agricultural production and food processing, including plastic.

Biodiversity Across UFV Campuses

UFV Biology Faculty members Alan Reid and Sandra Gillespie have been conducting research on the biodiversity at the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. They have been collecting data and mapping the species of lichen, moss, trees, shrubs, bees and other organisms to better understand the ecosystems that exist on campus and the health of the area.



Campus Trees in the Fall — Jennifer Martel

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"

— United Nations



Equity, Diversion and Inclusion (EDI) Task Force

President MacLean formed a President's Task Force on EDI to provide leadership in creating and fostering an environment that supports and creates best practices, policies, and pedagogy for EDI. The task force focuses on the identification and elimination of barriers to equity access and opportunity blocking career advancement, recruitment, and retention of underrepresented groups in our organization. They developed an [EDI Action Plan](#) to provide a framework to embed EDI in UFV's institutional practices.



UFV Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC)

PARC at UFV was launched in 2020 with a focus on local, national, and global issues of peace and reconciliation, and will serve as a place for collaboration for UFV faculty, students, and community partners. PARC's mission is to envision and facilitate constructive and innovative processes that promote healthy relationships, transform conflict, and build just communities. PARC is the only centre of its kind in Canada and has a distinctively collaborative and interdisciplinary focus.



Trans People Welcome

Led by the School of Social Work and Human Services, signage has been added on campus to support and welcome transgender people. The goal is to provide a safe space for those undergoing or already having experienced identity confirmation and transitions.

Friends Without Borders (FWB)

FWB is a 10-week intercultural peer support program that builds social and cultural connections for students. The program is designed to provide a supportive community for UFV students to connect globally, pursue intercultural learning, and build meaningful connections.



Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

In May 2021, CHASI Faculty Associate Dr. Beaulieu conducted a ground penetrating radar investigation at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School to search for and find what Indigenous Knowledge Keepers already recognized, hundreds of unmarked graves for the missing children. Those findings led to many other former residential schools being searched and hundreds more unmarked graves being discovered.

Indigenous Teaching Garden

Installed on the Abbotsford campus in Fall 2021, the Indigenous Teaching Garden is a peaceful and reflective spot to expand your education and features carvings, benches, walkways, and Indigenous plants.

Shakespeare Reconciliation Garden

The revamped Shakespeare Reconciliation Garden was designed through collaboration of UFV Indigenous Affairs and Campus Planning and Facilities Management with two interdisciplinary studies courses. The vegetation includes significant plants to Stó:lō Peoples, plants mentioned in Shakespeare's plays, and others that include 215 orange perennial flowers to honour the 215 children found in unmarked graves at a residential school.



Indigenous Teaching Garden — Jennifer Martel

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development"

— United Nations



CityStudio

CityStudio is a partnership program between the City of Abbotsford and the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) and challenges university students to tackle civic issues and provide prototype solutions. CityStudio supports the launch of experimental projects as part of an immersive and innovative educational experience where students and faculty connect with City staff to research, design, and implement projects through which they develop job skills, experience group processes, and network with sector experts.

Enactus UFV - Fraser Valley AgroConnect

Fraser Valley AgroConnect supports local farmers in three areas: resource gathering, business management, and recruitment. Fraser Valley AgroConnect will develop a free web-based interactive platform that alleviates the burden of research by aggregating existing resources offered by governments, public institutions, and non-profit organizations such as grants and upcoming events. Fraser Valley AgroConnect will also provide additional tools, advice, training and expertise in business management as needs, trends, and current events emerge. Finally, labour volatility will be addressed by connecting farmers with eager student workers looking to support and learn more about the agriculture industry.



European Starling Management in Abbotsford Blueberry Farms

This project was funded by the BC Blueberry Council to find solutions for starling predation on blueberries. It was a multi-course (GEOG 452 and GEOG/CMNS 257 classes), and multi-term (Fall 2019 - Summer 2020) project in conjunction with CityStudio that won multiple awards: CityStudio's Team Award, People's Choice Award, and UFV Community Engagement Research Awards. Students addressed the challenge "How can we reduce the crop loss and related crop damage caused by European Starlings (*Sturnus Vulgaris*) without creating conflicts between farmers and adjacent landowners with livestock or local residents?"



Agriculture/Culinary Partnership

Two UFV departments, Agriculture Technology and Culinary Arts, formed a partnership to showcase both programs' specialties. Produce grown by students in the Agriculture diploma program was provided to students in the Culinary Arts program to use in the dishes they prepare in a field-to-table style initiative.



Culinary Students Carving Pumpkins from Agriculture – UFV Flickr

Conclusion

While there is a lot of great work being done at UFV to drive change towards a sustainable society, there is still plenty that needs to be done. Fortunately, we don't have to do it alone.

The fact that there is work being done under each of the 17 SDGs shows the diversity and dedication of the changemakers at our institution. We hope this report can influence communication and collaboration between those working on similar projects. By working together, we can develop a coordinated and strategic approach and exponentially accelerate our impact. The Sustainability Pathway will utilize the work already being done, and fill in the gaps where needed to establish a well-rounded and powerful institution.

We look forward to collaborating with more of you in the coming year and building a sustainable world where no one is left behind.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank those that helped make this report a reality by providing information and feedback.

Individuals

Amy Huesken	Dr. Geetanjali Gill	Rebecca Wassef
Bryanna Anderson	Evan Taylor	Shelley Canning
Cameron Roy	Jas Braich	Shirley Hardman
Chris Joakim	Lorna Andrews	Stefania Pizzirani
Christine Jones	Mark Goudsblom	Steve Marsh

Departments

Enactus UFV	Living Learning Community
Grounds Team	School of Land Use and Environmental Change
Student Affairs	Campus Planning and Facilities Management
UFV Theatre	Centre for Accessibility Services
UFV International	Centre for Education and Research on Aging
Print Services	Community Health and Social Innovation
School of Business	Food and Agriculture Institute

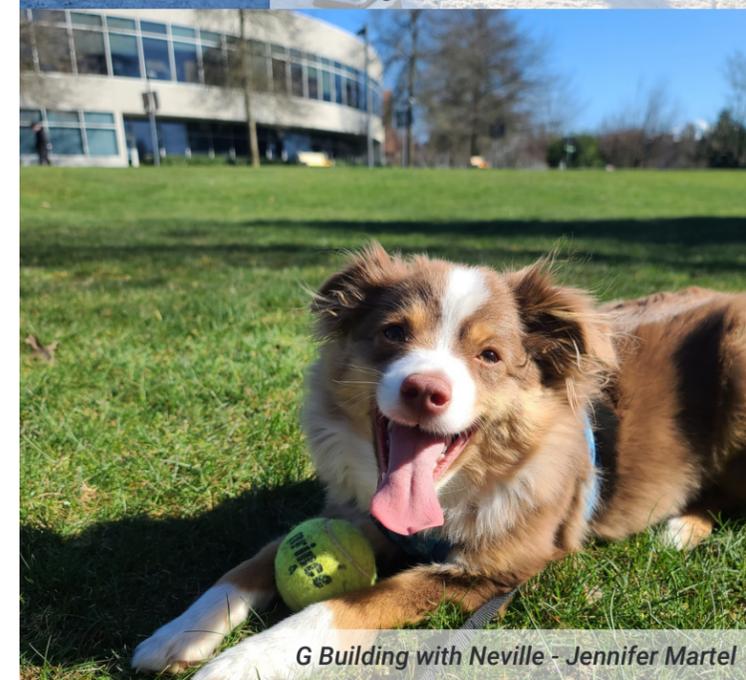
Thank you to the Office of Sustainability for creating this report. Notably, thank you to Jennifer Martel, Noah McGuire, Olivia Jackson, Hayley Katan, and Cameron James.



G Building in the Fall - Jennifer Martel



G Building in the Winter - Jennifer Martel



G Building with Neville - Jennifer Martel

