

UFV 2022-2023 Sustainability Report



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Territory 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 the Stó:lō for thousands of years. Over the last few hundred years, colonization and Western 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.

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.

In our pursuit of sustainability, climate action and climate justice, we understand that protecting human rights is indelibly woven into the fabric of environmental protection and sustainability. Meaningful climate action must take active steps to support and amplify Indigenous Peoples' human rights.

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.

As guests and settlers on Indigenous lands, we share an important responsibility for learning with and about our host Nations and strengthening these relationships. 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.

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. We respect and practice our shared responsibilities to engage in meaningful dialogue with our hosts and continue to build relationships grounded in mutual respect, trust, and reciprocity.

Introduction

UFV's Office of Sustainability is pleased to present the 2023 UFV Sustainability Report; a comprehensive overview of ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. This report reflects UFV's dedication to advancing sustainability within its operations and activities, toward the creation of a more just, harmonious, and prosperous future.

Through this report we celebrate the progress our UFV community has made in advancing sustainability across all aspects of our university's activities, including operations, infrastructure, policy, education, and community engagement. This report showcases students, faculty and staff who have embraced sustainability as a shared value and worked tirelessly to integrate it into UFV's ongoing activities.

While this report celebrates our achievements, we recognize the urgent need to address the pressing social and environmental challenges that we continue to face. Climate change, resource depletion, and social inequalities demand our attention and collective action. UFV is uniquely positioned to lead the way in modelling sustainable practices and educating the next generation of global citizens toward the creation of a more sustainable world.

UFV's Office of Sustainability will continue to work to advance sustainability in service to our students, staff, faculty and community. We remain committed to leading UFV's continuous improvement toward greater integration of sustainable practices by setting ambitious targets and pursuing innovative solutions.

Together, we can create a thriving, resilient, and prosperous future for all.

Doran Hoge
Director, Office of Sustainability
University of the Fraser Valley

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



Office of Sustainability

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

Established as a department in the Spring of 2021, UFV's OoS team has also been working to identify sustainability advancement opportunities across our campuses and beyond. This work has focused on identifying what is already being done well, whom to collaborate with, and how we may improve sustainability education and integration across all areas of the institution.

Since the release of the 2022 Sustainability Report, the OoS has grown to meet the needs of the UFV's students, staff, and faculty. In June 2022, the team welcomed Parisa Mohammadi as our new Energy Manager. In November 2022, Doran Hoge joined as the Director of the OoS. Finally, in May 2023, Jennifer Martel successfully transitioned to her new role as Manager of Sustainability. Chloe Berge, previously a student worker with the OoS, accepted our first Sustainability Intern position.

The OoS also supports the development of applied student skills through research opportunities, co-op placements, and work studies. With support from the Centre for Experiential & Career Education, the Research Office, the Faculty of Science, and external organizations, throughout this reporting cycle the OoS hosted 8 students:

Alara Cohen, Ansh Seth, Breanna Gueldner, Cameron James, Chloe Berge, Hayley Katan, Noah McGuire, and Olivia Jackson.

Follow us on social media!



Find us on the Abbotsford campus in B150d.

[Sign up for our monthly newsletter](#)



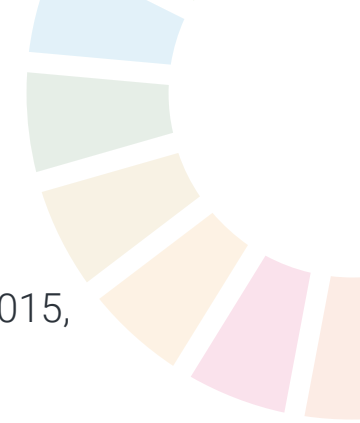
Office of Sustainability -Winter 2022



Office of Sustainability -Fall 2022



Office of Sustainability -Winter 2023



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are 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 and apply to all countries. The SDGs are a call to all nations – regardless of economic status – to foster their citizens' social, economic, and cultural prosperity while simultaneously caring for and protecting the earth.

UFV has recently committed to aligning with the 17 SDGs to continue to be a more sustainable institution by signing the UN SDG Accord.



The 5 P's of Sustainable Development

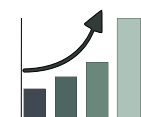
The UN SDGs are interconnected and balance the areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet, known as the 5 P's of Sustainable Development:



People – end poverty and hunger in all forms, ensuring dignity and equality in a healthy environment.



Planet – protect the planet from further degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change.



Prosperity – ensure that everyone can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social, and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.



Peace – foster peace, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.



Partnership – mobilize the means required to implement Agenda 2030 through a global partnership, based on global solidarity with participation from all countries, all stakeholders, and all people



Office of Sustainability Initiatives



This section highlights the key initiatives that UFV's Office of Sustainability has led over the past year and a half.

Projects and initiatives are organized into 4 categories:

- Institutional Achievements
- Outreach, Engagement, Awareness, and Resources
- Toolkits and Frameworks
- Campus Built Environment

Please note that any underlined text indicates a link to learn more about the initiative.



"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."

- Office of Sustainability



Institutional Achievements



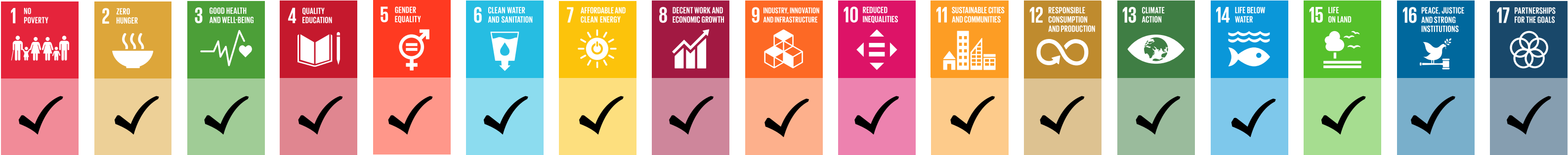
With leadership from the Office of Sustainability, UFV has taken two major steps to align with the UN SDGs within its operations and decision making practices and become a sustainability leader.

These two achievements (highlighted in the pages below) are the signing of the SDG Accord and completing the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS).

Through these achievements, UFV's Office of Sustainability has aligned with the following SDGs throughout this reporting cycle:



Indigenous Teaching Garden - Jennifer Martel



UFV has committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord (the SDG Accord).

Launched in 2017, the SDG Accord is a global initiative encouraging universities and other post-secondary institutions to pursue the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – 17 interconnected goals addressing a range of economic, social, and environmental challenges.

The SDG Accord provides a framework for universities to commit to and celebrate the integration of the SDGs into teaching, research, leadership, operations, administration, and outreach to the community.

“Signing the SDG Accord is a critical acknowledgement of the university’s commitment to the wellbeing of our students, staff, and community. By signing this accord, UFV is acknowledging our responsibility in taking action toward a more just, equitable, and harmonious world.”

- Dr. James Mandigo, UFV Acting President

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



This Accord calls upon us, the world’s universities and colleges to embed the Sustainable Development Goals into our education, research, leadership, operations, administration and engagement activities.

We Accord Signatories recognise:

- The indivisible and interconnected nature of the universal set of Goals – People, Prosperity, Planet, Partnership, Peace
- That, as educators, we have a responsibility to play a central and transformational role in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

The University of Fraser Valley thereby asserts that we will:

- Align all major efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, including through our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities;
- Aim to involve members from all key stakeholder groups in this endeavour, including students, academics, professional staff, local communities and other external stakeholders;
- Collaborate across cities, regions, countries and continents with other signatory institutions as part of a collective international response;
- Using our own unique ways, inform, share our learning and account to both local and global communities our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Annually report on 'how does my institution contribute to the Goals and what more can we do'.

James Mandigo
Acting President and Vice-Chancellor



Date: March 23, 2023



“Ours can be the first generation to end poverty – and the last generation to address climate change before it is too late.”

Ban-Ki Moon former UN Secretary-General



We are thrilled to announce that UFV has earned a STARS Silver rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire university community to create a more sustainable future.

STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) is a comprehensive tool that measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education across the globe. It evaluates institutions in various categories such as academics, engagement, operations, planning, and innovation. By achieving the Silver rating, UFV has demonstrated significant progress in each of these areas.

We recognize that sustainability is an ongoing journey. We will continue to work towards achieving even greater sustainability goals in the future. We are committed to creating a more sustainable world and are proud to be part of the global community of institutions that share this vision.

[Read the full UFV Report here](#)



stars[®]
a program of aashe

STARS is designed to:

Provide a framework for understanding sustainability in all sectors of higher education

Enable meaningful comparisons over time and across institutions using a common set of measurements

Create incentives for continual improvement toward sustainability

Facilitate information sharing about higher education sustainability practices and performance

Build a stronger, more diverse campus sustainability community

Community Outreach, Engagement, and Resources



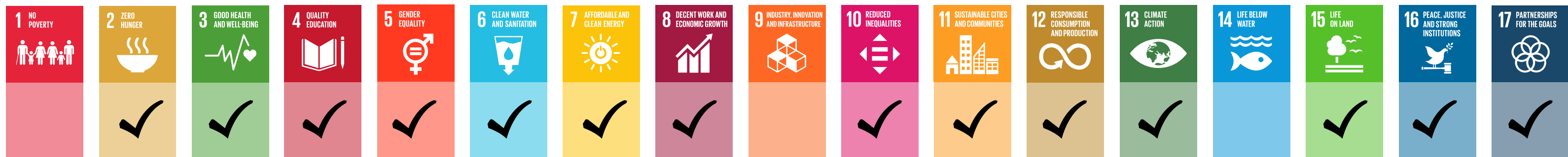
The UFV Office of Sustainability is a department focused on bringing a pan-institutional approach of holistic sustainability to UFV. Much of this work includes creating initiatives; increasing awareness and education about environmental, social, and economic sustainability; and engaging UFV members in sustainability practices.

The following four pages highlight some of this work over the past year and a half.



Creating a Buzz - Jennifer Martel

UFV's Office of Sustainability work's on community outreach, engagement, and resources has aligned with the following SDGs throughout this reporting cycle:



Community Outreach, Engagement, and Resources

March for Sustainability

March for Sustainability is a series of coordinated events, co-hosted by various UFV departments and groups throughout the month of March. Events address sustainability topics such as climate change, biodiversity, EDI, and gender equity. March for Sustainability began in 2022 as an initiative of UFV's Office of Sustainability and the School of Land Use and Environmental Change with 5 sustainability-themed events and has grown to be a university-wide experience.

The inaugural March for Sustainability series successfully ran in March 2022 with hundreds of participants (students, staff, and faculty), an increase in collaboration with external organizations, and a greater sense of on-campus community.

Now in its second year, over 20 departments and groups were involved the planning of 13 events at the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses.

[March for Sustainability 2022 events](#)

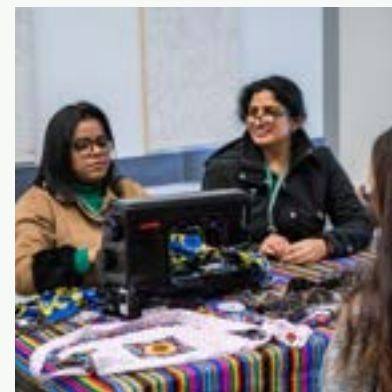
[March for Sustainability 2023 events](#)

Campus Ecochallenge

The Drawdown Campus Ecochallenge is a customizable, solutions-oriented engagement program focused on lessening our impact on the earth.

UFV's Office of Sustainability created a team to challenge UFV students & employees to create sustainable daily habits. With categories such as food, water, waste, nature, community, and more, the actions are designed to help build habits that are good for participants, their community, and the environment.

A summary of the impact our team members had can be [found here](#). Through the activities undertaken during the Ecochallenge CO2 emissions were reduced by 162 pounds, 4,000 gallons of water were saved, 163 plastic bottles and 72 disposable cups were kept out of landfills, 7,111 minutes were spent outdoors, and 1,625 minutes were spent learning about sustainability topics.



MARCH *for* 20
Sustainability 23

UFV Sweater Week

Community Outreach, Engagement, and Resources



UFV Sweater Week

To raise awareness about energy consumption and climate change, UFV reduced temperatures by 2°C campus-wide for one week. Instead of burning our usual amount of natural gas, we reduced temperatures and bundled up in sweaters for the week. We were able to conserve energy and have a little fun along the way with Sweater Week! The Office of Sustainability posted daily sweater themes along with educational energy-saving tips, and interactive surveys for how we can each make a difference individually. By reducing the temperature, heating equipment malfunctions were identified and corrected to reduce energy consumption and prolong the life of the equipment.

Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

Aimed at addressing and combating food insecurity for UFV students while also teaching valuable, life-long skills through gardening, the Planting Seeds for Tomorrow project provided free sustainable at-home garden kits and video tutorials to give participants the opportunity to learn how to grow food at home. Further, most of the supplies were upcycled items which reduced the amount of waste produced and thrown away.

Sustainable Wrapping Event

To encourage more environmentally-minded wrapping practices, the Office of Sustainability hosted a workshop for attendees to learn and practice more sustainable options. Participants were encouraged to bring in old t-shirts, tea towels, tote bags, and scarves and were shown how to wrap gifts using the Japanese wrapping technique called Furoshiki. Participants also learned how to sew gift bags that can be reused each season and were provided fresh greenery, pinecones, and dehydrated oranges to create nature-based gift wrap décor.

Community Outreach, Engagement, and Resources

Sustainability Survey

To help the Office of Sustainability better understand the current sustainability knowledge, engagement, and awareness levels of UFV members, a survey of students and employees was conducted that combined questions related to both sustainability literacy and culture. The responses will be used to inform programing and plans within the Office of Sustainability and beyond.

Highlights

75% of respondents think climate change impacts will be significant, and worry about how much they might affect their lives.

We learned that sustainable transportation options to and from campus are a major challenge that UFV members face.

Since starting at UFV ...

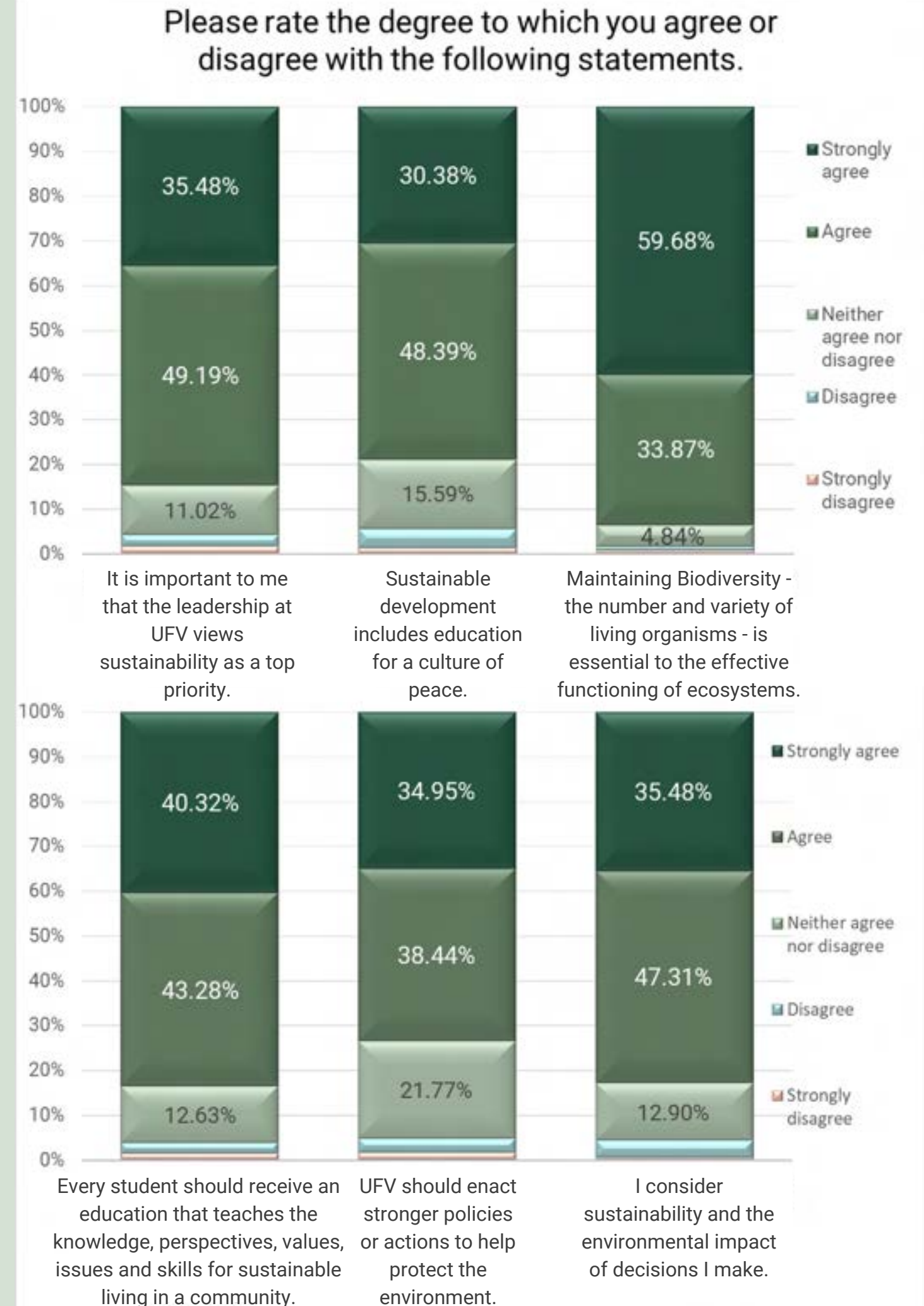
- 77% of respondents report increased knowledge of sustainability issues.
- 77% of respondents report increased sustainability-related behaviors.
- 90% of respondents report increased awareness of social justice issues.

AASHE GCSHE

UFV was a host institution for the 2022 Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education (GCSHE). GCSHE brings together sustainability leaders from around the world in a virtual format to share effective models, policies, research, collaborations and transformative actions that advance sustainability in higher education and surrounding communities.

Organized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), GCSHE covers a range of topics relevant to everyone and is delivered by leaders from around the world! UFV boasted four presenters including Anna Griffith, Candy Ho, Stefania Pizzirani, and Jennifer Martel.

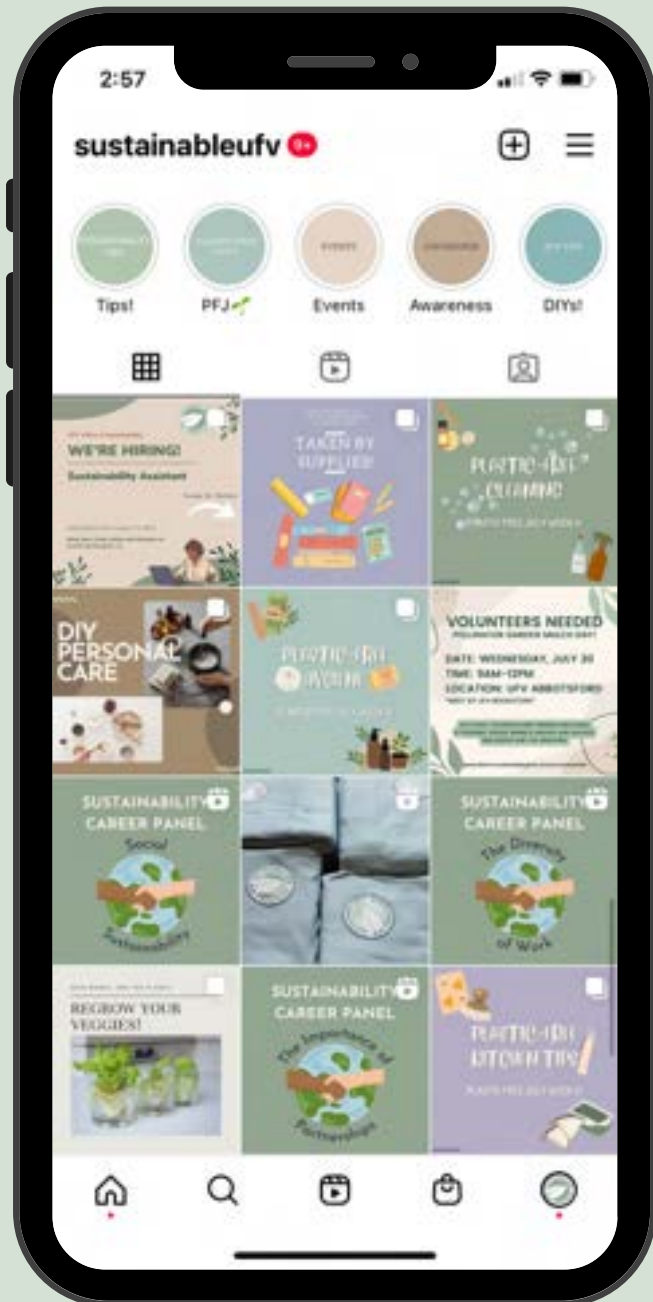
As a host, UFV was able to offer registration for any UFV member interested in attending for free.



Sustainable UFV Newsletter



Community Outreach, Engagement, and Resources



Social Media

Social media platforms are recognized as a “third place” for many people. The Office of Sustainability ensures its communication through these outlets are strong to engage with the internal and external UFV community. Within the last year, several different campaign strategies were implemented to increase the engagement and retention of engaged followers. This is especially useful with the Office of Sustainability having an office only on the Abbotsford Campus which makes in-person engagement with staff, students, and faculty on the other campuses more challenging.

Social media users can engage with us on Facebook (FB), Instagram (IG), and Tik Tok by searching Sustainable UFV on their preferred platforms.

From September 1, 2021 to May 1, 2023, there was a 148% increase in followers on FB & IG, a 536K% increase of reach on the FB page reaching over 2,437 unique accounts, and 3.5K% increase of reach on IG reaching nearly 11,000 unique accounts.

Follow us on Social Media!



Monthly Newsletter & Tip of the Month

Understanding that not everyone uses social media and that some content is best shared on other platforms, we offer the Sustainable UFV Newsletter. Sent out to subscribers via email on a monthly basis, the newsletter shares information about upcoming sustainability events and initiatives and highlights sustainability work happening at UFV by a variety of departments.

A new section called "The Energizer" provides energy-specific news and tips for reducing consumption.

The Tip of the Month shares ways for readers to make sustainable changes in their lives, and all previous tips can be found at [this link](#). [Click here](#) to subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

New Employee and Student Sustainability Orientation Guide

The Office of Sustainability created a digital orientation guide for new employees and students to bring awareness to sustainability initiatives on campus, share the work our department is doing, and provide resources on how to engage with sustainability at home and at UFV.

Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is a global initiative of the Plastic Free Foundation that began in 2011. Every July, citizens, businesses and governments come together in their efforts to create a social change movement in taking action to reduce plastic waste worldwide.

The solutions that come from this annual initiative inspire change for people and businesses not only for the month of July, but every day. It's important to remember that these changes can start small, and work towards something bigger!

To help UFV members get started, each week of July the Office of Sustainability shared tips and ideas for how people can easily incorporate some plastic-free habits into their everyday life. Those were then compiled into a [digital guide](#) on some easy plastic-free sustainable swaps that help make in different areas of life including laundry, kitchen, hygiene, and cleaning.

Toolkits & Frameworks



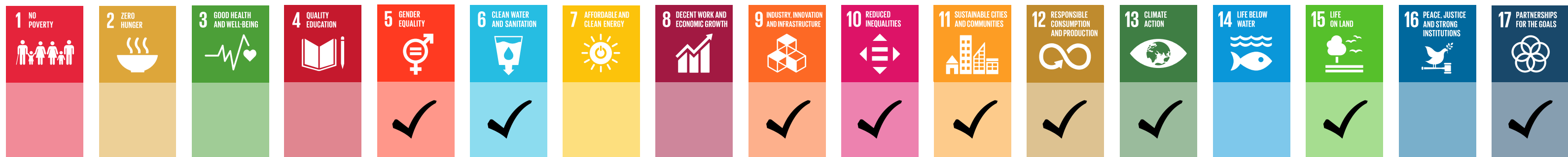
Over the past year, the Office of Sustainability has worked with departments across campus to develop toolkits and frameworks to make it easier for them to incorporate sustainability into their work at UFV.

Below are examples of frameworks the Office of Sustainability has initiated and undertaken to make UFV's campuses more sustainable.



Framing - Jennifer Martel

The UFV Office of Sustainability work on the built environment has aligned with the following SDGs throughout this reporting cycle:



Toolkits & Frameworks

Sustainable Events Certification

To bring sustainability to the forefront of event planning at UFV, the OoS created the Sustainable Event Certification. The associated checklist provides direction to event holders, guiding them towards sustainable actions pre-, during, and post-event. The checklist includes resources and ideas to make changes for the materials, gifts, catering, and marketing used for events.

Those taking the time to make meaningful changes to their event planning and implementation are acknowledged with their certification ranking. Making sustainability more visible encourages influential conversations and can normalize it, becoming a natural habit rather than a conscious decision.

This initiative is open to anyone hosting an event through, or at, UFV.

Construction and Demolition Waste Management Tool

The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Tool was created to help streamline planning, preparation, documentation, tracking, and reporting of waste and recyclable materials generated through building construction and renovations on campus. This encourages sorting into the proper waste and recycling streams to prevent unnecessary waste from ending up in landfills. The tool is already in use by UFV's Capital Projects department and has been successful in conceptualizing and diverting waste.

Material Diversion and Divestment Management Tool

The Material Diversion and Divestment Management Tool was created to help with asset and material management for any type of project with the goal of itemizing and tracking different materials being put out of use by the University. Once categorized, users can see full amounts of various materials in each item being decommissioned which makes diversion planning more fluid for selling, reusing, and recycling purposes. This tool is applicable to decommissioning, renovation, structural reorganizing, and low scale inventory projects.

CERTIFIED BY:
UFV Office of Sustainability



The organizers of this event achieved +90% of the applicable actions to be a UFV Office of Sustainability Gold Certified Event

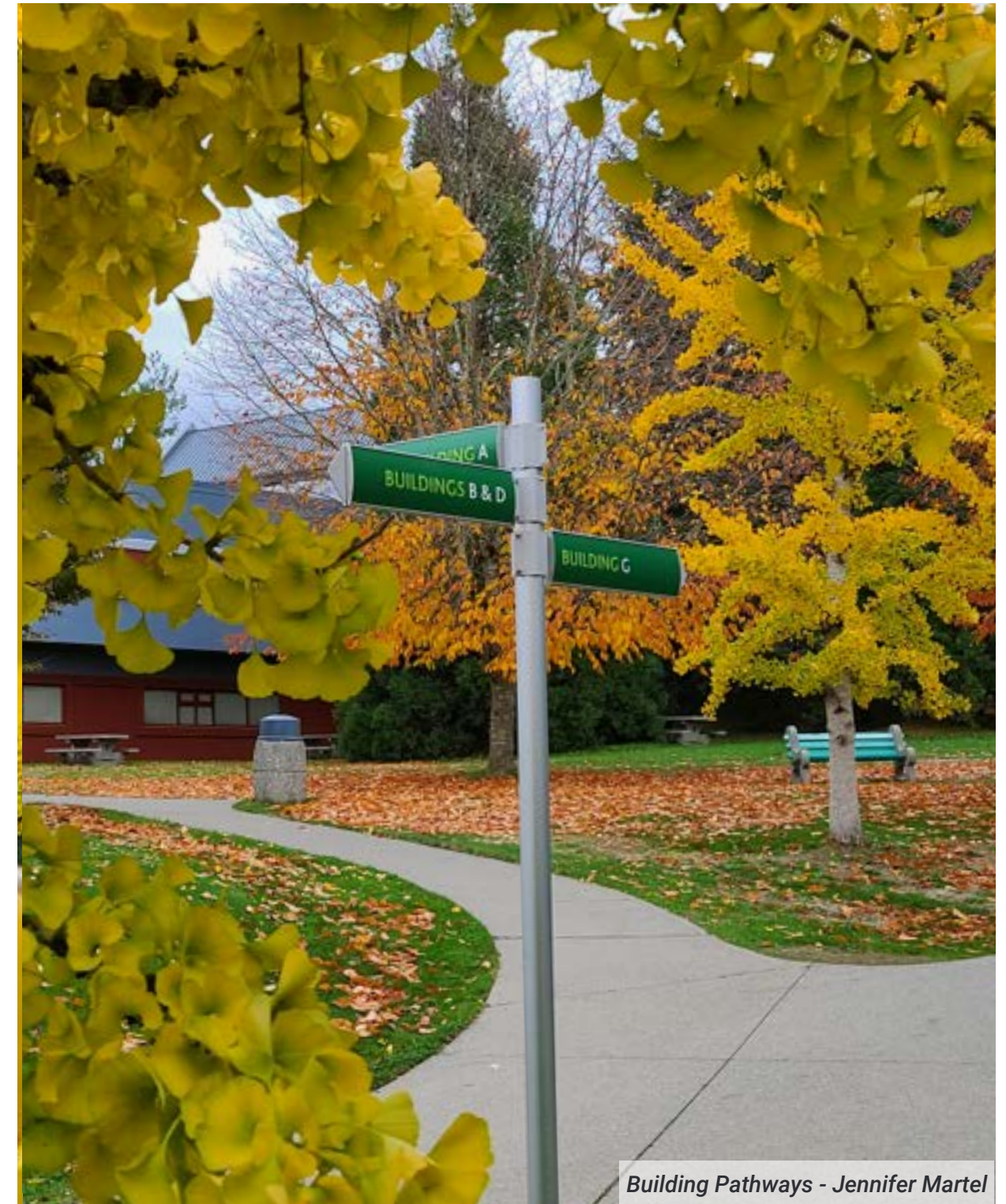
Have your event certified
sustainability@ufv.ca
@sustainableufv

Campus Built Environment



Building a more sustainable society requires addressing the sustainability buildings and land we occupy. When working on the built environment, energy, land use, the lifecycle impacts of materials, and occupant health are some of the considerations that must be taken into account .

Below are some of the renovations and new projects the Office of Sustainability has initiated and undertaken to make UFV's campuses more sustainable.



Building Pathways - Jennifer Martel

The UFV Office of Sustainability work on the built environment has aligned with the following SDGs throughout this reporting cycle:



Campus Built Environment

Pollinator Garden

Solar Thermal Domestic Hot Water

Continuing UFV's efforts to harness the power of the sun, a solar thermal water preheat system was installed on the roof of Lá:lem te Baker (student housing). The system captures solar energy and preheats the building's potable water, reducing the use of natural gas and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions, lowering our energy bills, and improving heat recovery times.

Pollinator Garden

Just behind the Lá:lem te Baker student housing on UFV's Abbotsford campus lies a new, neatly manicured garden. Lush green shrubs blend in with an assortment of flowers, herbs and plants. Although it is serene, the garden serves a greater purpose. The pollinator garden is made up entirely of native plants that vary in size, shape, and colour to make it a suitable space for different pollinators to feed. The garden will not only benefit the pollinators, but will also provide a teaching space for courses on plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate biology, as well as biodiversity and conservation. This effort is a collaboration between a variety of UFV departments such as the Office of Sustainability, the School of Land Use and Environmental Change (SLUEC), Biology, and Grounds as well as the City of Abbotsford.

Herb Garden

In the planter box below the Pollinator Garden lies an herb garden with a wide range of edible plant species available for the UFV community to enjoy.

Fruit Trees on Campus

Fruit trees were planted on the Abbotsford campus behind Lá:lem te Baker in an effort to increase biodiversity on campus, increase enjoyment opportunities, and provide free food options. Specially-designed trees - espalier trees - were purchased in apple, cherry, and pear. Also, each tree has grafts of three different types of each fruit, increasing the variety of different fruits to up to nine.

Furniture Rehoming

In an effort to eliminate landfill waste and align with UFV's sustainability commitments, an initiative between the Projects Team and the Office of Sustainability breathed new life into old furniture. After reaching out to several local secondary schools, nearly 200 chairs, 80 tables, and 15 whiteboards found new homes and were saved from the landfill.



Navigating the SDG Initiatives

The remainder of the report is broken down into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each page features some of the programs, projects, and initiatives at UFV contributing to sustainability. They are categorized by the SDG they align with the most, and additional related SDGs are indicated by the symbols to the left of each initiative.

This representation intentionally demonstrates 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 second 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.

These icons indicate the focal SDG of each page. For example, this page highlights initiatives at UFV relating to the Zero Hunger SDG.



These icons indicate the additional related SDGs associated with each initiative.

The underlined text indicates a link which you can click to learn more about the featured work.



"End poverty in all its forms everywhere"

— United Nations



Fire & Flood - Jennifer Martel



Emergency International Student Support Fund

UFV has created a program to support students affected by international conflict. Led by UFV International, the International Emergency Fund (IEF) will support at least two international students affected by crisis or catastrophe for up to two years. The IEF initiative will cover costs ranging from tuition to accommodation, with hopes of replenishing funding past an initial two-year pilot period. UFV International's previous humanitarian efforts include supporting UFV students to establish a local committee of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee Program at UFV.

UFV Giving Days

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. Donors support one or more of their preferred causes: Student Awards; Student Emergency Funds; or the UFV-SUS Food Bank. 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 partnered with the Abbotsford Community Foundation and the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce to establish the Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund. The fund provides grants to local agencies involved in the disaster relief effort, as well as businesses and farmers that have been affected by the flooding.





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

— United Nations

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

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. UFV brings its passion and commitment to local food to the student experience on campus through research and partnerships and by active community engagement.



The Climate-Biodiversity-Health (CBH) Nexus

This community-based participatory research approach will engage stakeholders and local governments in B.C., in order 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.



UFV-SUS Food Bank

A partnership with UFV's Student Affairs department and the Student Union Society (SUS), 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.

Rails, Jails, and Trolleys

Rails, Jails and Trolleys, a South Asian Studies Institute produced documentary, presents the history and present-day events on the decline of agriculture in India. The film analyzes responses to three agricultural bills passed by the Bharatiya Janata Party in September 2020. The film documents the response to these bills - which became the 'largest farmer's protest in human history' - and the Canadian diaspora's response to it.

This ground-breaking documentary captures the electric ethos of a protest that received international attention and the resounding response by Canadians to the movement. A full year in the making, the film tells the story of why and how the farmers' movement ignited a nation and youth, women, and men from all over the world. The film had its first Chilliwack screening as part of March for Sustainability 2023 and was followed by a discussion on farmers' issues all over the globe.

March for Sustainability 2023 - Food-Focused Events

In addition to the Rails, Jails, and Trolleys screening, two other March for Sustainability events focused on food systems: The UFV Library in Chilliwack hosted a Science Café, focused on food sustainability in the Fraser Valley; students from AGRI 371, with support from Professor Renee Prasad, hosted the Field-to-Porch event where participants learned about growing their own food and planted veggie and herb containers to take home.



Agriculture Department - UFV Flickr

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



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

— United Nations

Student Wellness Centre

The Student Wellness department is undergoing significant changes with their policies, procedures, events and programming to meet strategic initiatives including SDGs, EDI, Internationalization, Indigenization and Student ready program, to ensure we commit to these values and principles. The Student Wellness Centre exists to provide support for students. Our wellness peers offer one-on-one support sessions, health & wellness programming, and help students to find information in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space by identifying resources available to them, and providing referrals when required.

Sexual Health + Pleasure Products

UFV Student Wellness offers sexual health products to reduce sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections at no cost to community members. Recognizing that access to affordable, body-safe, and inclusive products is a large barrier for many folks, they sell sexual pleasure products at affordable prices with options for all bodies and sexual orientations to fill this health gap and reduce stigma.

Priority Access to Student Support (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.

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.

St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs

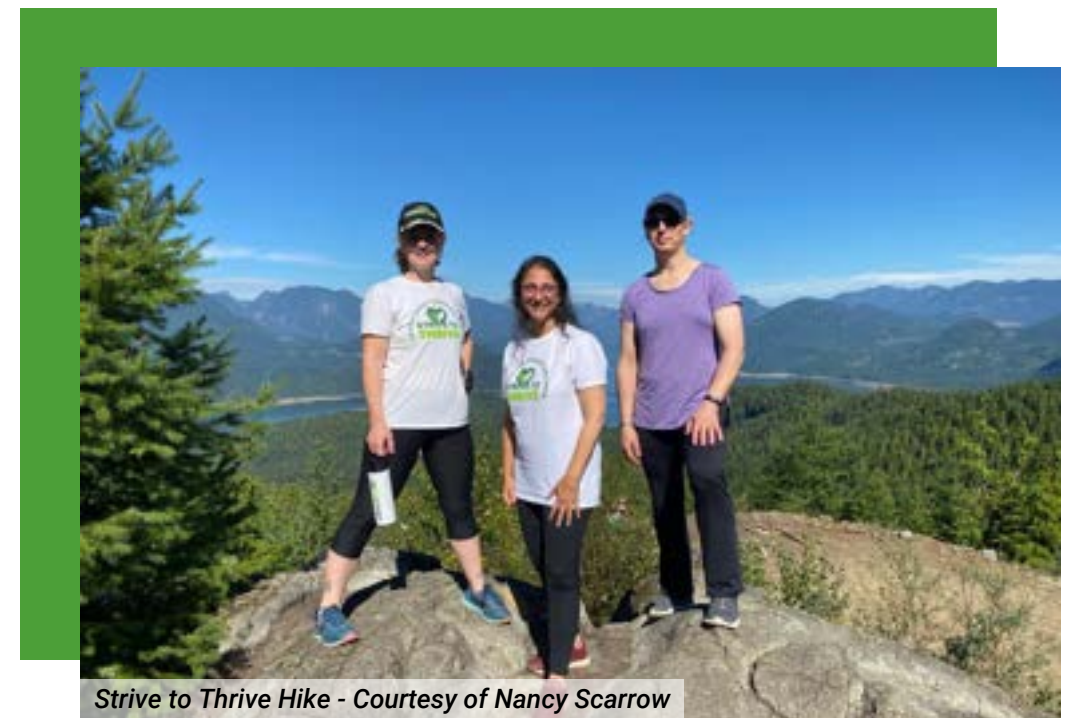
Therapy dogs and their handlers come by UFV roughly every week to provide benefits to the students and staff. Benefits include: increased activity/mobility, improved social skills, reduced stress and loneliness, decreased fear and anxiety, and more!

Not Myself Today Program

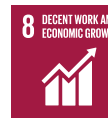
The Not Myself Today program is a Canadian Mental Health Association program that UFV has opened up for use by employees. It focuses on three main objectives: building greater awareness and understanding of mental health, reducing stigma, and fostering a safe and supportive work culture. It provides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

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.



Strive to Thrive Hike - Courtesy of Nancy Scarrow



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



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

– United Nations

Age-Friendly University

UFV's Centre for Education and Research on Ageing (CERA) is proud to share that UFV is the first Age-Friendly University (AFU) in British Columbia.

Being an Age-Friendly University goes far beyond increasing older student enrollment. It means considering physical accessibility in building additions and renovations on campus, supporting older students as they pursue second careers or lifelong educational interests, and ensuring inclusivity by providing meaningful opportunities for older students to be active in the core activities of the university. It also means spreading intergenerational awareness among the younger students and broader community, helping to combat ageism by ensuring older students are involved, respected and heard.

Older Adults Tuition Exemption

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

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Workshops

Anna Griffith, Assistant Professor with UFV's School of Creative Arts led two workshops for faculty and staff on ESD. Session 1, "Sustainability as Interdependence", explored concepts of sustainability and sustainable development through the principle of interdependence. Participants developed a collective understanding of an "ethics of care," reflected on a personal connection to place, and collaboratively developed a definition of sustainability specific to UFV. During session 2, "Transforming Pedagogy Through ESD", participants deepened and applied their understanding of ESD, and considered how to bring sustainability as a lens into their existing work.



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.

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.

Women Explore Trades Program

The Explore Trades program provides a unique opportunity for students to explore a variety of trades including automotive, electrical, plumbing, welding, heavy mechanical, and piping. The winter cohort of the Explore Trades program was specifically for women wishing to learn practical skills, gain general employment certifications, and explore careers in the trades.



Women Explore Trades - UFV Flickr



5 GENDER EQUALITY



"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

— United Nations

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is typically a major event at UFV.

To mark the day in 2022, panelists Dr. Allyson Jule, Dr. Geetanjali Gill, Maggie Korolyk, and Tammy Tsang shared conversations around the biases and barriers women and girls face in the education system. Through the sharing of real-life stories, research, and experiences they shed light on ways in which we can build inclusive education spaces where all women and girls can thrive.

IWD 2023 saw two major events on campus. The first was a screening of the documentary "[I am Belyama](#)" about a low-caste girl in Nepal who becomes a filmmaker. The second was a screening of the documentary "[Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age](#)" which addressed online hatred against women.

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.

Voices of Women Who Survived Trafficking

Dr. Rita Dhungel, an assistant professor with the School of Social Work and Human Services, and the UFV Library organized an anti-human trafficking virtual panel event in collaboration with the Vancouver Police Department for International Women's Day 2022. They followed that up with a Voices of Women Who Survived Trafficking in Nepal photovoices exhibit, which was hosted at the Abbotsford UFV Library for a month. The library staff and research office also helped Dhungel create and house human trafficking educational resources.



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.

Women of Steel: Forging Forward program comes to UFV

UFV will be one of 14 hosts across Canada for CWB Welding Foundation's initiative: The Women of Steel™: Forging Forward program.

The program provides learning opportunities that foster education, personal growth, confidence, and experiential learning for women interested in exploring welding and other welding-related skilled trades careers.



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 academia, industry policymakers and innovators across water and climate change sectors. Together they 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.



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 27 stations at the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses.

Precision Vegetable Garden Watering System

Due to drought, flooding, and extreme weather caused by climate change, food supply shortage and soaring food prices have become a serious issue globally resulting in more people growing vegetables in their backyard.

Dr. Lin Long and four of her students, along with two other co-supervisors (Dr. Renee Prasad, John English), were able to design, prototype, and test a precision vegetable garden watering system.

This system is able to detect the soil moisture level around the plants by using moisture sensors and automatically water individual plants or same type of plants depending on the sensor data. Depending on the individual plant's need, it can customize when to water and how long to water.

The data can be displayed and stored for further analysis or adjustments.



Precision Vegetable Watering System - Dr. Lin Long

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



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

— United Nations



G Building Solar Panels - Jennifer Martel

Solar Thermal Water Heating

As part of UFV's ongoing commitment to clean energy, a solar water preheating system has been installed on the roof of La:lem te Baker (student housing) in 2022. This system harnesses solar power to preheat the building's domestic hot water, resulting in reduced natural gas usage, cost savings, improved energy efficiency, lowered environmental impact, and enhanced system performance.



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 switch are to: have less fossil fuel consumption and GHG emissions, fewer maintenance costs, protection of worker health, and student and staff well-being by reducing 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.

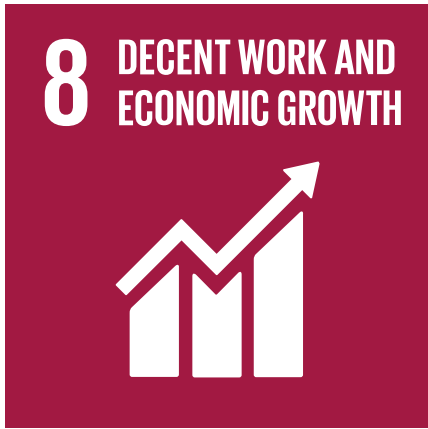
Photovoltaics (PV) System

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 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. By the end of 2022, the PV system produced 237.5 MWh- the equivalent of the annual electricity use of 32 homes, or 2,783 trees planted!

Climate Change Accountability Report

UFV is committed to reducing energy consumption, costs, and environmental impacts while addressing climate change and ensuring the well-being of its employees, students, and communities. UFV has continued to reduce its carbon emissions, recording a 22% overall reduction in total carbon emissions from 2009 to 2022. In 2022, the university implemented various projects, including solar thermal retrofit, energy studies, and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations to promote sustainable practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through these efforts, UFV continues to make strides in creating a more environmentally responsible and resilient campus.



"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.



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.



"Human Library" of the CAS-Registered Students' Lived Experiences

This project focused on understanding the lived experiences of Center for Accessibility Services (CAS)-registered UFV students, or students with disabilities, as they begin transitioning into their careers. The project revealed barriers that many UFV students with disabilities encounter both within their studies and as they enter the workforce. The "Human Library" component utilizes storytelling, centering participant voices to help minimize stigma and isolation, and to increase awareness of these and other challenges for UFV support units, potential employers, and allies.

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.



Sustainability Career Panels

As part of both March for Sustainability 2022 & 2023, the OoS hosted Sustainability Career Panels where attendees heard from industry professionals, recent graduates, and professors working in the broad and evolving field of sustainability. Check out our panelists from [2022](#) and [2023](#).



Sustainability Career Panel 2023 - Chloe Berge

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



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

– United Nations



Inclusive, Accessible Renovations inside UFV Athletic Centre

In line with UFV's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion goals, the project created space that is gender neutral and universally accessible through new and more inclusive changerooms, washrooms, and showers in the UFV Athletic Centre. The renovation also included upgrades to increase water and energy efficiency, as well as keypad lockers compliant with accessibility height requirements.

Welding Students' Innovations Help Farmers with Plastic Waste

Efforts are underway to find ways to efficiently recycle the plastic used to cover silage, and UFV's Welding program is working with local farmers on a solution. A key to successfully recycling the plastic is to find a way to move it efficiently to recycling centres and the end market. A group of welding students took on the challenge of designing a prototype as their capstone project with some seed funding provided by UFV's Research Office. The students created a specially designed compactor to compress the plastic to make it easier to transport. The project was completed in partnership with Cleanfarms Canada, UFV Research, and Kent Agricultural Plastics Recycling.

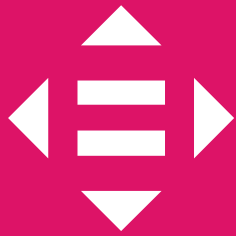
D3 Renovations

Significant renovations have led to a bright, collaborative space on the third floor of Abbotsford's Building D (D3). With a modern design intended to maximize natural light and interpersonal connection, D3 features a mix of private and shared areas divided into four sections – each servicing a strategic cluster of departments. Indigenous elements play a major role in functional design throughout D3, and UFV's Campus Planning department collaborated with DIRTT (Doing It Right This Time) to allow practical and flexible usage. DIRTT, an interior modular wall company, uses technology and sustainable construction to create dynamic spaces that are economical and functional. DIRTT wall panels, insulated with denim and reinforced with aluminum, have been used in other recent projects across campus. Not using traditional drywall prevents thousands of pounds of CO2e from being released into the air, and the sensor lighting and LED lightbulbs reduce energy use.

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.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



"Reduce inequality within and among countries"

– United Nations

Building Social-Emotional Resiliency through Mindfulness in Key Organizations Serving At-Risk Population in the Eastern Fraser Valley

This project partnered UFV graduate students in the Mindfulness-Based Teaching and Learning (MBTL) program with MBTL graduate mentors from previous cohorts during field experiences with five key agencies in the eastern Fraser Valley. The intention was to make mindfulness more accessible to vulnerable and marginalized communities that might otherwise not benefit from mindfulness training and education. UFV's MBTL was the first for-credit, graduate program of its kind in Canada and one of the first in North America.



After the Flood: Community Response and Recovery

A report on the 2021 Abbotsford floods, highlighting some of the groups who faced complex challenges, what some of those challenges were, what specific services individuals identified that could have been improved, and what changes and recommendations people who responded to or experienced the flood have suggested in order to strengthen the response to future disasters. Some key populations that were identified as having unique concerns that needed addressing throughout the flood and in recovery include those with language barriers, temporary foreign workers (TWFs), farmers, and the unsheltered population, among other groups.



Regenerative Education

This research project led by Dr. Anna Griffith is investigating how Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can be enhanced and made more robust with attention to Indigenous pedagogies and anti-oppressive pedagogies, moving us closer to regenerative education that can help transform society. As part of this project, Anna is interviewing regenerative education practitioners from all over the world for season 3 of the Creative Praxis podcast.



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

This report conducted by the Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub 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.

Trans People Welcome

Trans People Welcome is a Campus-wide initiative that builds on previous campus work that designated 'Washrooms for Everyone' signage on individual washrooms, adding additional visibility by installing signage to welcome and include trans people in the gendered multi-stall washrooms on campus. Additionally, a UFV community-wide educational session was offered on April 27, 2022, as part of the Provost's Lunch and Learn series, to educate the university community and launch the project.



The Laramie Project

In March 2023, UFV Theatre held performances of The Laramie Project. This modern theatre piece Created by Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theatre Project, is a verbatim play constructed from the transcripts of over 200 interviews, conducted in the aftermath of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man, in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. The piece reveals a community grappling with violence, responsibility, and healing; and showcases how theatre can be a brave space for us to engage with this together.



CHASI Pride Display - Jennifer Martel

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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

— United Nations



Campus Bus Stop — Jennifer Martel



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.

Alternative Waste Streams on Campus

Several alternative waste recycling options have been established on campus, including batteries, disposable masks, and writing utensils. The locations of each on the Abbotsford campus can be [found here](#).

Writing Utensil & Mask Recycling

Mask Recycling Boxes can be found at both the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. The boxes for disposable masks (e.g. N95 and surgical masks), and with these boxes, over 22,000 masks can be prevented from entering our landfills and the environment around us and instead be recycled into construction materials.

As masks are used less frequently, some of the boxes have been converted to collection boxes for writing utensil (e.g. pens, markers, highlighters, etc.).

Learn more about their [recycling journey here](#).



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

The installation of the EV charging stations is part of a broader effort, led by the UFV Office of Sustainability, to reduce GHG emissions and promote leadership in sustainable practices across all areas of the University. Currently, there are eight Level 2 EV charging stations and one DC Fast Charger available for use across Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses. EV charging has saved 256 tons of GHG emissions which is equivalent to planting 6,565 trees and letting them grow for 10 years. This is over 4 times the amount since last year's report!



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"

– United Nations



Furniture Rehoming

In a bid to eliminate landfill waste and align with UFV's sustainability commitments, an initiative between the Projects Team and the Office of Sustainability breathed new life into old furniture. After reaching out to several local secondary schools, nearly 200 chairs, 80 tables, and 15 whiteboards found new homes and were saved from the landfill.



Clothes the Loop - Renew, Reuse, Restyle

This event - part of March for Sustainability - combined four events into one, all focused around clothing and more sustainable fashion. Participants could:

- Learn basic clothing repairs with volunteers on hand to teach basic sewing skills;
- Take part in the everyday clothing exchange - by bringing in their good condition, unused clothes and freely exchange items with others!
- Grab something from the "Career Closet" for their next interview - donated professional clothing was available for students!
- Explore the Fibre Museum - make a bag from a scarf, "grow" fabric flowers, and much more!

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 is undertaking an environmental scan (the first of its kind) of 120+ companies involved in the sustainable clothing sector in the Lower Mainland .



Creation of a transparency metric tool for critical assessment of the sustainable fashion sector

This project builds and expands upon previous research review of gaps and opportunities in the sustainable fashion sector in the Lower Mainland. This created a rich database with which to understand how and where the sustainable clothing is operating, and to identify critical gaps in infrastructure needed to create a circular clothing economy in the Lower Mainland. This project aims to develop and apply a methodology to critically evaluate the 120+ companies identified in the previous research project. The methodology will be centered on creating a transparency rating matrix and tool with which to assess the validity of the sustainability.



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.





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

— United Nations

Creativity Lab for Climate Resilience

This project brought together staff, faculty, and students from UFV as well as community participants from across the Fraser Valley to work on the complex problem: How do we (re)build for climate resilience?

A Creativity Lab is a structured, facilitated process that guides participants to build cohesive, interdisciplinary project ideas. Through activities that stimulate creativity and collaboration, this process has been proven to generate vibrant, actionable solutions.

The three Creativity Labs had a slightly different focus: How can we (re)build for climate resilience? What role can arts and community organizations play in developing climate resilience? And, How can we shift priorities and adapt to the climate crisis? A final, day-long Incubator Lab was co-facilitated by three external mentors who helped groups move from the idea generation stage to actionable project plans.

Season 2 of the Creative Praxis podcast focused on the experiences of participants, and the bridges between sustainability, creativity, and interdisciplinarity. [Listen here.](#)

Confronting Climate Change: Post-disaster recovery and regional collaboration in the Lytton region

This event celebrated the launch of UFV's new School of Social Justice and Global Stewardship (SoJust) with guest speaker Sarah Kamal. Sarah will discussed her work with the Kanaka Bar Indian Band, suggesting the need for collaborative and coalition building responses to climate displacement, and the capacity of Indigenous story gathering to promote healing.



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.

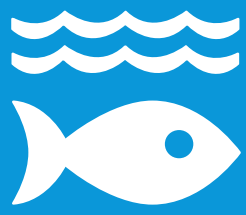
Creative Praxis Podcast

Creativity and sustainability are vital components for shaping a better future. Through curated clusters of interviews, the Creative Praxis podcast aims to spark conversations and plant the seeds of new ideas. The show speaks with individuals from various fields who share their unique perspectives and insights on how creativity can tackle global challenges and promote sustainability. They hope to inspire and empower listeners to think creatively and sustainably about our world. Season 2 interviews community members, students, and faculty who were involved in the project Creativity Lab for Climate Resilience.



OoS at the SDGs LAB - Alara Cohen

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



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

— United Nations



Bertrand Creek Watershed Group Environmental Farm Plan

The Bertrand Creek Watershed is the largest of the major tributaries entering the Lower Nooksack River and is a critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Falling primarily in the BC Agriculture Land Reserve the recent water sampling done by the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has identified high levels of fecal coliforms and E. coli where its watercourses discharge into the United States

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, Woodwell Climate Research Center, and many more.

Work has also begun with Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zurich (ETH Zurich) to monitor black carbon, and UFV research assistant Fraser Riddolls completed an internship in Zurich with Dr Tim Eglinton's lab as part of the project.

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.



15 LIFE ON LAND



"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



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 is an ongoing body of work. 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.

Pollinator Ecology Research

In the past decade, North America has seen severe range contractions and drastic declines of previously common bumblebee species, which are key pollinators in temperate ecosystems. Thus, we need to understand how global change, including agricultural intensification, are impacting these important pollinators. Dr. Gillespie has worked with UFV Biology students to investigate these issues, including (1) monitoring bumblebee communities in parks in the Fraser Valley to track patterns in both diversity and pathogen prevalence over time and (2) investigating the impacts of the recently established invasive eastern bumblebee, *Bombus impatiens* on native bumblebees.



Pollinator Garden — Jennifer Martel



Pollinator Garden

Just behind the Lá:lem te Baker student housing on UFV's Abbotsford campus lies a new, neatly manicured garden. The pollinator garden is made up entirely of native plants that vary in size, shape, and colour to make it a suitable space for different pollinators to feed. The garden will not only benefit the pollinators, it will also provide a teaching space for courses on plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate biology, as well as biodiversity and conservation.



Fruit Trees on Campus

Fruit trees were planted on the Abbotsford campus behind Lá:lem te Baker in an effort to increase biodiversity on campus, increase enjoyment opportunities, and provide free food options. Specially-designed trees - espalier trees - were purchased in apple, cherry, and pear. Also, each tree has grafts of three different types of each fruit, as well, increasing the variety of different fruits to up to nine.



Shakespeare Reconciliation Garden

As an act of reconciliation, this garden, located in Stó:lō Temexw at CEP, was designed by students, staff and faculty in 2019 and 2020, and planted in 2021 by volunteers. This space revives and reimagines the former UFV Shakespeare garden and aims to honour both Shakespeare and Indigenous knowledge by lifting up plants and stories. It offers a peaceful, contemplative, learning space, a space to nibble on berries, learn from and care for plants and start conversations. It features many plants that are edible and culturally significant.



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.



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



Chowiyes/Xwithet! - Rise Up/Wake Up!

Chowiyes-Xwithet/Rise Up-Wake Up brought together the diversity of students, programs, faculty and staff at UFV. The event, held at the Gathering Place on the Chilliwack campus, honoured the shxweli ("life spirit") of children lost to residential schools, survivors, and their families and is dedicated to reconciliation and revitalization of Halq'eméylem, the up-river dialect of the Stó:lō people. The event featured bilingual Good Medicine Songs, written in Halq'eméylem and English. The song lyrics are steeped in Sxwōxwiyám ("stories from the distant past"), and Sqwélqwel ("true family stories"). Good Medicine Songs create a unique cross-cultural space for people of all backgrounds to enjoy, learn and sing together in Halq'eméylem.



UFV Welders Forge Strong Anti-War Symbol

"Give a welder a communications challenge and they will express it in metalwork." The war being waged by Russia against Ukraine hit too close to home for Maciej Kaczor, a program technician in the Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies at UFV, who is originally from Poland. Kaczor's colleague, welding instructor Matt Olafson, sought ways to help the university express a message of peace and solidarity with the beleaguered Ukrainian people. The two worked together to craft a symbol of peace: a 'hedgehog' mounted on top of a map of Ukraine, with the words End War and a Ukrainian symbol mounted on top. They then challenged students in the Welding Foundation program to create their own peace hedgehog and received permission to place it in a prominent spot at a main entrance to the Chilliwack campus.



Anti-War Hedgehog – UFV Flickr



Equity, Diversity 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.



Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building

The UFV PARC, in partnership with the Stó:lō Nation, the Stó:lō Tribal Council, the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, and the Stó:lō Grand Chief's Council, launched a new, collaborative program initiative: "Xwelítem Siyáya: Allyship and Reconciliation Building."



This program - which was designed in direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action - seeks to help build people's capacity for reconciliation-building by teaching the importance of authentic allyship and providing skills for building relationships between colonial settlers and Indigenous communities here in the Fraser Valley and beyond.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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

— United Nations



City Studio Hubhub Winter 2023 — UFV Flickr



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.

Winter 2022 themes included food security and justice, solid waste management, the UN SDGs, sustainable fashion, and water sustainability.

Winter 2023 included topics such as sustainable transportation and empowering youth voices.

Enactus UFV - Fraser Valley AgroConnect

In December 2022, Enactus University of the Fraser Valley successfully launched its Fraser Valley AgroConnect project, a free web-based interactive platform that aims to support local farmers in three areas: resource and information gathering, business management, and labor recruitment. Fraser Valley AgroConnect is a free to access online website where farmers can find information on various government resources including grants and other benefits and resources that can help with their business operation and management. Plans to expand the website include youth employment opportunities, equipment rentals and sales, and seasonal produce postings.

PRME Working Group

UFV's School of Business (the School) is a member of PRME - Principles for Responsible Management Education. The United Nations supported platform is aimed at raising the sustainability profile of Business and Management Schools. Being part of the PRME initiative shows how the School plays an active role in the integration of the SDGs through its programs, curriculum, and initiatives.

Collaborating with the Office of Sustainability as part of March for Sustainability, the School organized the SDGs LAB, an all-day seminar and interactive workshop focused on the SDGs. With over 100 participants, the event provided a platform for diverse stakeholders to deepen their understanding of the SDGs. The dedication of the School to sustainability is further evident in its biennial Sharing Information on Progress report for the PRME initiative, which highlights its sustainability goals and activities aligned with the principles for responsible management education and the SDGs.

Next Steps

The fact that work is being done under each of the 17 SDGs shows the diversity and dedication of the changemakers at our institution.

We hope this report will help to facilitate communication and collaboration between those working on similar projects.

By working together, we can realize a coordinated and strategic approach to accelerate our impact toward greater levels of sustainability.

In 2023 the OoS will be working with stakeholders across the University to develop a Strategic Sustainability Action Plan. The Plan will build upon existing work and fill in the gaps where needed to advance sustainability across all areas of the University.

We look forward to collaborating with more of you in the coming year and building a more sustainable world together.

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"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."

*Jennifer Martel
Sustainability Manager*

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Special Thanks

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

We would also like to thank all of the staff from the Office of Sustainability, including our amazing student workers, who have consistently gone above and beyond to make this important work happen.

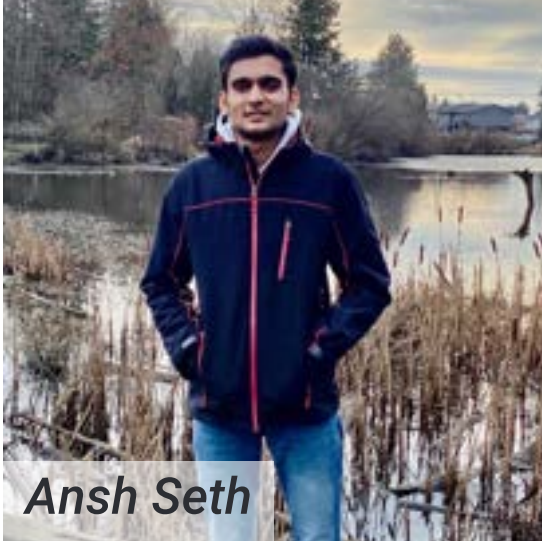
Thank you to Alara Cohen, Ansh Seth, Breanna Gueldner, Cameron James, Chloe Berge, Hayley Katan, Noah McGuire, and Olivia Jackson.



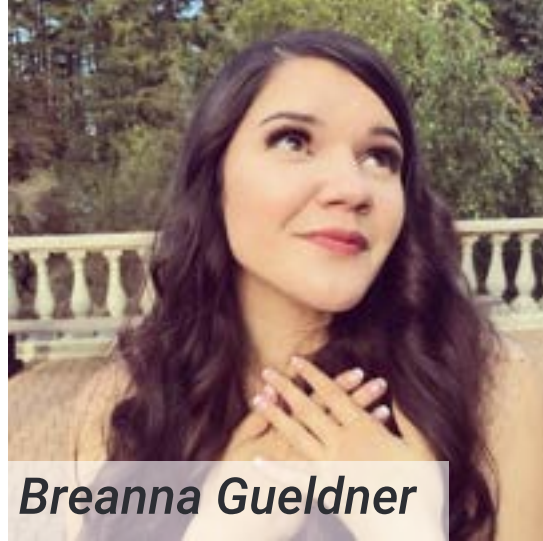
Doran Hoge



Alara Cohen



Ansh Seth



Breanna Gueldner



Cameron James



Jennifer Martel



Chloe Berge



Hayley Katan



Noah McGuire



Olivia Jackson



Parisa Mohammadi



Walking into the Future with Pride - Jennifer Martel