UBC CLIMATE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
UPDATE ON ENGAGEMENT, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

14 OCTOBER 2020
OVERVIEW

• In December 2019, UBC endorsed and declared a climate emergency, and committed to full divestment, following years of advocacy by students.

• The declaration was prompted by a student-mobilized open letter, signed by 1,500 students, staff, faculty and campus organizations, and in response to the participation of more than 5,000 UBC students, faculty and staff members in the Global Climate Strike at UBC Vancouver’s campus (thousands more students marched concurrently in climate strikes across Vancouver and the Okanagan).

• In making the declaration, UBC committed to run a climate emergency engagement process to hear what community members across both campuses want the response to accomplish.

• A cross-campus Task Force students, faculty and staff was convened to steer the engagement process and lead the development of community-informed recommendations.
TIMELINE

DECEMBER 5, 2019
UBC DECLARATION ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY
President Ono released the Climate Emergency Statement, which was unanimously endorsed by the Board of Governors.

MARCH 2, 2020
POP-UP BOOTHS BEGIN AT UBC OKANAGAN

MID-MARCH 2020
ALL IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT POSTPONED

APRIL 2020
INTERIM REPORT WRITING
Progress report prepared on what was heard from online survey, pop-up events and campus-wide forum.

JUNE 16, 2020
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Meeting at which the UBC Board of Governors considers the recommendations outlined in the report.

JULY TO EARLY OCTOBER 2020
FINAL REPORT WRITING
Input from across all aspects of the engagement process is compiled into a report and a set of recommendations and next steps are formulated.

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2020
PRESENT REPORT TO BOARD AND SENATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2020
ENGAGEMENT PROCESS BEGINS

MARCH 11, 2020
UBC VANCOUVER CAMPUS-WIDE FORUM
A chance for students, faculty, staff and the campus community to learn, engage and discuss bold actions around the climate crisis.

MARCH 27, 2020
ONLINE SURVEY CLOSES

JUNE 16, 2020
INTERIM REPORT PRESENTED
Progress report presented to Board of Governors on emerging themes from the engagement process.

MAY TO JUNE 2020
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

FALL 2020
ONGOING COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
The Indigenous Engagement working group continues to develop and refine climate emergency recommendations, building on the new UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan. UBC staff begin to identify implementation leads for climate emergency recommendations.

JANUARY 2021
IMPLEMENTATION
Implementation begins, strengthened and supported by ongoing community engagement.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (1/3)

About 3,954 participants from UBC’s communities provided their input through our community engagement activities:

- **Online survey**, open from February 27 to March 27
  - Heard from 1,985 participants

- **Campus-wide forum** at UBC Vancouver
  - Group discussions attended by 70 participants
  - Panel discussions attended by 180 participants

- **Five pop-ups** at UBC Okanagan
  - Three pop-ups at UBC Vancouver
  - Gathered input from 1,009 participants

- **Community dialogues**
  - 7 In-person dialogues, attended by 199 participants
  - 11 virtual dialogues, attended by 511 participants

There was a strong university-wide participation in the engagement activities, with significant response in particular from faculty and staff.

**Note:** Participant counts are not unique. Participants were welcome to engage in multiple formats.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (2/3)

• Participants from both UBC Vancouver and Okanagan were aligned in the focus areas they wanted UBC’s climate action to pursue. Themes of interest included divestment, justice, institutional and personal advocacy, interdisciplinary climate research, and decarbonizing campus operations.

• Community feedback (particularly student feedback) emphasized unequivocal support for justice to be a foundational component of the climate emergency response; it was made clear that climate and racial justice must be core facets of the UBC’s post-COVID recovery.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (3/3)

• One of the gaps in this work has been IBPOC engagement and the centering of Indigenous, Black and POC communities and their worldviews in the recommendations. To respond, the following actions are being taken:
  • The Indigenous Engagement Working Group, led by Dr. Jan Hare, is continuing to lead the development of recommendations after more in-depth engagement with Indigenous community members.
  • The Indigenous Engagement Working Group is also hiring a GAA to help with this process, whose primary focus will be to produce a literature review that will document Indigenous-led approaches to climate change, and the ethics and politics of how universities (around the world) historically and currently engage with Indigenous communities.
  • A long-term IBPOC youth engagement plan is also being drafted by the Climate Hub.
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Operationalizing UBC’s commitments to climate justice

Accelerate climate action on both campuses (UBCV & UBCO)

Demonstrate institutional leadership on climate justice

Develop new and strengthen existing partnerships to tackle the Climate Emergency

Expand, strengthen and centre climate research at UBC

Expand climate education opportunities and resources for the UBC community and broader public

Foster a culture of engagement & advocacy on Climate Action

Support community wellbeing in the face of the climate crisis
### Strategic Priority

**Operationalize UBC’s commitments to climate justice:** Support climate leadership and initiatives led by Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour

1. Support compensation equity and representation for UBC’s IBPOC community leading climate initiatives
2. Support off-campus IBPOC-led climate initiatives
3. Promote further engagement with Indigenous communities
4. Promote further engagement with Black and POC communities

**Expand, Strengthen and Coordinate Climate Research at UBC**

1. Establish a Body for Climate Research
2. Start a Climate Emergency Fellows Program
3. Conduct Climate Focused Faculty Hiring
4. Recognize and Reward Community Engaged Scholarship

**Foster a Culture of Engagement & Advocacy on Climate Action**

1. Encourage Civic Engagement
2. Increase Capacity & Resources for Engagement

**Support Community Wellbeing in the Face of the Climate Crisis**

- Build Capacity for Mental Health, Resilience & Community Care Strategies
- Update Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans
- Collaborate to change the discourse around climate change and public health impacts

**Expand Climate Education Opportunities and Resources for the UBC Community and Broader Public**

1. Advance Climate Education Opportunities Across Disciplines
2. Support Climate Education Pedagogy and Curriculum Development
3. Expand Professional Development for UBC Community Members
KEY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY AMS LEADERSHIP (1/2)

1. Further engagement with, and support for, IBPOC students:
   - Create a dedicated pool of funds to ensure that on-campus IBPOC-led climate emergency initiatives receive adequate funding and support.
   - Provide dedicated funding & honoraria for Indigenous, Black and POC students who engage in the process.
   - Support the implementation of an IBPOC youth engagement strategy that hires students to conduct peer-to-peer engagement.

2. A UBC Activist Lab that works with all students who want to be involved; funds activist fellowships; incubates student activist projects (e.g. mentorship opportunities, Ambassador programs, workshops, toolkits) and supports student learning of active civic engagement.

3. Create activist fellowships, where UBC students can be compensated for advocacy-related activities on climate change for the duration of the academic year.
5. Establish a long-term governance model & funding that secures the Climate Hub as a student-led, administration-supported research, policy, and action-oriented centre at UBC. This would expand their projects and offer micro-grants to enable, support and compensate student-led climate action.

6. Build opportunities for climate emergency awareness-building into first-year student orientations and transition programs through partnership with Imagine, Jump Start, Firstweek, Create, Collegia, Residences and Student Unions.
STUDENT CALL TO ACTION

• Student leadership has been crucial to get UBC’s climate emergency response to this point.

• Student leadership on the Task Force and working groups, along with strengthened capacity for the student-led Climate Hub, has driven a higher level of ambition throughout this process and made clear that students expect accountability to the Climate Emergency declaration.

• Student buy-in and financial leadership demonstrates that students will be active partners in the next phase of the climate emergency response and are committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure that the recommendations are implemented without delay.
NEXT STEPS

• Establish preliminary support to mobilize funds for the key actions of interest identified by AMS & GSS leadership.

• Identify scope of fund-matching commitments from the UBC administration.

• Frame student-supported actions as quick starts/ immediate priorities for the UBC (to see these funds disbursed quickly and move momentum forward).

• Analyze potential costing of the quick-start actions, in partnership with the UBC administration.