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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Update on Actions Underway on the Climate Emergency Task Force Report
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Sustainability & Climate Action Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	April 8, 2021
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	For input only - No action requested
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research and Innovation
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Executive Sponsors:  Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Vancouver Robin Ciceri, Vice-President, External Relations  Lead Author:  Linda Nowlan, Senior Director, UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI)  Contributors:  Tara Ivanochko, Academic Director, USI Jean Marcus, Director, Teaching, Learning and Student Engagement, USI Angelique Pilon, Director, Urban Innovation Research, USI Victoria Smith, Director, Regional and International Engagement, USI Jon Garner, Manager, Communications and Engagement, USI

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## PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has previously been considered by the Sustainability & Climate Action Committee in February 2021.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Context and Background

This report is an update on actions underway related to the UBC [Climate Emergency Task Force \(CETF\) Report](#), which was unanimously endorsed in principle by UBC's Board of Governors in February 2021.

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is taking the responsibility for convening and coordinating discussions to facilitate action towards the recommendations of the CETF. The USI will be mapping how existing University initiatives relate to CETF, identifying which academic and administrative units should receive and consider recommendations in the CETF, identifying and convening climate leaders in faculties and departments to share their experience with forming climate action committees and plans, enabling reporting on climate actions, and conducting communications and engagement activities related to UBC's climate emergency in coordination with others.

Climate action is taking place in the context of UBC's actions on anti-racism to support Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour leadership including the creation of the President's Task Force on Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence, the adoption of the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) and commitment to implement the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

Taking action on the climate emergency is a shared responsibility across both campuses. Many faculty, students and staff are already addressing the CETF priorities in numerous ways. USI will prepare an inventory of related work in the coming months. This report captures some recent known initiatives and events to provide insight into the range of activities. Many of these activities are initiated and supported by USI. Future efforts will capture the many additional activities centered in Faculties.

The expansion of climate education opportunities and resources is one of the most active areas of activity related to the CETF, and includes development of a new certificate program, climate education grants, a guest lecture program, and a collection of climate course listings.

Many new and strengthened partnerships are underway, including work with partner universities in the University Climate Coalition (UC3) under President Ono's leadership, work on a coordinated UBC presence at the upcoming climate treaty Conference of the Parties (COP), renewal of MOUs with partners such as BC Hydro, Metro Vancouver, and the City of Vancouver, and development of a UBC Community Dialogue as part of a McConnell Foundation cross Canada series of events on the theme of "Build Back Better."

Student activism and advocacy on the climate emergency have resulted in the creation of a new Climate Emergency Fund of \$1.5 million to support student facing activity. A Climate Emergency Fund Advisory Committee comprised of students, faculty and staff will provide input on distribution of the funds.

Institutional leadership is demonstrated by UBC's communication and engagement on the CETF, which includes an expansion of the [climateemergency.ubc.ca](http://climateemergency.ubc.ca) website and hosting of a number of recent public events on the theme of climate justice, detailed in Appendix A.

Emissions reduction is an overarching priority for UBC's climate emergency work. Community consultation on the next UBC climate plan, CAP2030, and the first UBCO CAP 2030 is starting March 29th, led by Campus and Community Planning.

Attached as Appendix A is a table of examples to illustrate the breadth of actions underway in the past two months related to each of the CETF's nine priorities.

### Next Steps

- Convene Climate Emergency Fund Advisory Committee to make allocation decisions for \$1.5 million fund.
- Hire two new staff and create workplans with USI program staff to map CETF work underway across UBC.
- Continue with communications plan development and expansion of the [climateemergency.ubc.ca](http://climateemergency.ubc.ca) website.
- Evaluate the recent climate justice events to direct planning of any extensions of the pilot series.
- Continue USI initiatives on climate education, research and partnerships.
- Coordinate and convene campus partners, faculty, and students on CETF priorities.

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## PRESENTATIONS

1. BoG SCA April 2021 CETF Actions Underway.pptx

## Appendix A - Climate Emergency Task Force (CETF) report – Examples of Actions Underway

UBC CETF REPORT - NINE PRIORITY AREAS OF RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p><b>A. Operationalize UBC’s commitments to climate justice: Support climate leadership and initiatives led by Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour</b></p>	<p>The UBC Climate Hub’s Climate Solutions Showcase this year is focused on the theme ‘climate, race, and intersectionality’ and the disproportionate effects of the climate crisis on Black and Indigenous communities. Three events occurred from late Feb to mid-March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Envisioning a Just City: Climate and Racial Justice in Urban Planning</i> on February 25, featured Prof. Maggie Low (Status member of Wikwemikoong Unceded Territory; Co-Chair Indigenous Community Planning, School of Community and Regional Planning, UBC); Jahmira Lovemore White (Co-founder of Black Mutual Aid BC); Salia Joseph, St’axí7alut (Executive Director of Kwi Awt Stelmexw, a Sḵw̱xwú7mesh non-profit focused on language revitalization) who shared expertise to build more racially equitable cities in the face of climate change.</li> <li>• <i>Draining Latin America: Extractivism and Mining</i>, held March 11, was organized with Students4Nature.</li> <li>• <i>Global Perspectives on Gender and Environmental Justice: An Evening of Storytelling</i> held March 16 looked at how the effects of environmental (in)justice are shared unequally across the gendered intersectional spectrum, and featured Adriana Laurent (UBC Climate Hub), Niki Najm-Abadi (Our Time Vancouver), Myia Antone (founder of Indigenous Women Outdoors) and sEvelyn Arriagada ( IRES PhD student, EDGES Research Collaborative). Co-organized with ORICE’s Collective for Gender + in Research.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Demonstrate Institutional Leadership on Climate Justice</b></p>	<p>USI launched the <i>Climate Justice Series</i> examining climate justice from local and global perspectives, presented in partnership with the <a href="#">Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions</a>. Two events attracting large audiences have been held to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Just Is” ≠ Justice, Who does Climate Change Impact the Most?</i> on March 5 attracted 570 registrants and 320 participants. Speakers explored the fact that countries and peoples that are least responsible for causing climate change are the ones suffering most from its effects, through presentations on climate justice in Nigeria, climate justice as a threat to Indigenous sovereignty, BC’s oil tanker and pipeline projects and climate justice, and the global policy framework for acting on climate. The panel of Eugene Kung (West Coast Environmental Law) Kathryn Harrison (Professor of Political Science, UBC) Temitope Onifade (Lawyer; International Doctoral Fellow, Vanier Scholar at Allard Law School, UBC) Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson (Artist; Counsel to the Haida Nation; Master’s student, Allard Law School, UBC) showed UBC’s experts in action.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>From Grassroots to Government</i> on March 19 has over 500 registrants and will feature current and former local politicians reflecting on the process of translating climate justice activism and advocacy into government action. The panel included Andrea Reimer (Former City Councillor and Deputy Mayor, City of Vancouver; Adjunct Professor of Practice at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, UBC); Bowinn Ma (B.C. Minister of State for Infrastructure; MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale); Christine Boyle (City of Vancouver Councillor; United Church Minister); Khelsilem (Council Member &amp; Spokesperson for the Squamish Nation Council).</li> </ul> <p>UBC Reads Sustainability held two readings as part of this series:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On March 11 acclaimed Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh presented his book <i>The Great Derangement- Climate Change and the Unthinkable</i> examining our inability—at the level of literature, history, and politics—to grasp the scale and violence of climate change with 230 attendees. The Peter Wall Institute included a link to the recording of this event in its newsletter.</li> <li>• The second event on March 26 will bring Sheila Watt-Cloutier to UBC to speak about her book <i>The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet</i>. Ms. Watt-Cloutier examined the parallels between safeguarding the Arctic and the survival of Inuit culture. Dr. Ananya Mukherjee Reed, the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, at UBC Okanagan moderated the event, presented in partnership with the First Nations House of Learning, Sustainability Ambassadors, UBC Okanagan, Centre for Community Engaged Learning, and School of Public Policy and Global Affairs.</li> </ul> <p>UBC public lectures frequently feature climate experts. For example, on March 29 the annual Richard B. Splane <a href="#">Lecture</a> in Social Policy features Seth Klein, discussing his book <i>The Good War - Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency</i>, which explores the connections between inequality and climate mobilization, and shows why tackling inequality and economic insecurity is vital for climate action.</p> <p>USI is expanding the <a href="http://climateEmergency.ubc.ca">climateEmergency.ubc.ca</a> website, adding a <a href="#">news and events</a> page and compiling a resources page with student assistance.</p>
<p><b>C. Establish mechanisms and processes that ensure Indigenous perspectives, communities and worldviews shape the development and implementation</b></p>	<p>Many Sustainability Scholar projects aim to embed Indigenous perspectives into climate policies: Three summer projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring Opportunities to Expand and/or Replicate the Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Network now serving eight remote Indigenous communities throughout the North and Central Coast of BC.</li> </ul>

**of climate-related initiatives and policies**

- Research to understand best ways to incorporate an Indigenous lens in sustainability and resilience policy development for the Vancouver Plan
- Assessing opportunities to embed energy management curriculum in Indigenous postsecondary education and training for BC Hydro

Three fall 2020 projects were:

- Development of an Environmental Racism Story Map to Enhance Access to Environmental Justice for Racialized and Indigenous Communities in BC with West Coast Environmental Law
- The BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC) produced a *Discussion Paper on Consent for Mining on Indigenous Lands* which takes a complex legal concept from UNDRIP – “free, prior and informed consent” – and examines how to practically apply it in relation to mining activities on Indigenous lands ( with potential application to fossil fuel extraction projects). As part of the project, FNEMC commissioned a series of short issue papers drafted by experts, including Professor Sheryl Lightfoot, Senior Advisor to the UBC President on Indigenous Affairs.
- *Seeing Through Watchers’ Eyes: Indigenous Knowledge, Intercultural Learning and Climate Action* for the Sierra Club of BC

Other events and initiatives include:

- Inuit leader Sheila-Watt-Cloutier’s UBC Sustainability Reads talk on March 26 will be followed by a community dialogue, inviting community members to share their lived experiences. The stories and ideas exchanged in the dialogue will be collected and presented in a report to the President’s Task Force on Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence.
- *(Re)Imagining Indigenous-Centred UBC Campus Recreation* project, a project awarded funding in the Campus as a Living Lab (CLL) competition this fall will advance Indigenous self-determination through socially and culturally sustainable campus sport and recreation. Led by UBC researchers Drs. Jan Hare and Norman Moss, the project will examine Indigenous alternatives to often highly carbon intensive Western sport, analyze the history of Musqueam physical cultural recreation, and re- tell the story of the UBC team mascot, the Thunderbird. This project aims to decolonize campus space at UBCV.
- USI is a partner in *Fireweed Fields*, an art project of the Belkin Art Gallery’s Artist in Residence in Outdoor Art, which combines art and the greening of campus. By planting a fireweed field outside the Gallery, viewers will be stimulated to reflect on climate change and resurgence in damaged landscapes. With advice from project partner Chrystal Sparrow, the UBC Indigenous Land Based Art and Cultural Advisor, *Fireweed Fields* will become a site for intercultural exchange and will highlight Indigenous plant knowledge. The project will help address the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) Action 22: “Identify and make visible the generational connections of

	<p>Indigenous peoples to culturally significant places across UBC campuses.”</p>
<p><b>D. Expand, Strengthen and Centre Climate Research at UBC</b></p>	<p>The Sustainability Scholars applied research program Summer 2021 includes <a href="#">63 projects</a>— the largest summer cohort to date. About 41 out of 63 projects explore ways to reduce GHG emissions from buildings, transportation and carbon sequestration. For example, one Scholar’s project will research policies and technologies to support retrofitting building stock to near-zero emissions in a way that safeguards affordability, adding to the new BC Building Electrification Road Map. The project is being done with the Integral Group, funded by BC Hydro, and the Scholar’s mentor is a former Scholar from summer 2011.</p> <p>An upcoming Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) COVID / Climate Fast Track research report from UBC is titled “Aligning COVID Recovery with Local Government Climate Action: Big Moves in Community Scale Climate Solutions” by Dr. Stephen Sheppard and Angela Han.</p> <p><i>Building a Carbon Capture and Conversion System</i> was another successful project from the CLL competition. Led by Prof. Naoko Ellis and James Montgomery, Energy and Water Services, it will connect a collaborative cluster of Carbon Capture &amp; Conversion (CCC) researchers with local governments in the region (e.g., Metro Vancouver) and Small-Medium Enterprises (e.g., CleanO2) developing CCC technology to enhance knowledge exchange, and address emission reductions on the campus scale.</p> <p>The <i>Transdisciplinary Collaborative PhD on the Climate Emergency</i> is under development. In this program, students working with different supervisors, from different disciplines, aim to understand and address climate emergency with the intent to create a collaborative dissertation core. Work has started on a pilot model and funding options are under discussion between the PI, Graduate Studies, the GSS and USI.</p> <p>The UBC Climate Hub’s Climate Justice Research Collaborative hosted a cohort of 18 students on 7 interdisciplinary, community-engaged research projects, mentored by 5 graduate students. A program evaluation report to be delivered in spring 2021 will guide further development and share successes of the model.</p> <p>Many units and faculties are working on climate research and several faculties have developed climate action plans and committees. One example is the L#CAT (Library Climate Act Team) which recently sponsored “Climate Research Made Real: Practical Applications of Research for Better Futures”, a webinar with four panelists from diverse disciplinary backgrounds.</p>
<p><b>E. Foster a Culture of Engagement &amp; Advocacy on Climate Action</b></p>	<p>Elected UBC student leaders in the AMS and GSS have decided to mobilize a total of \$1.5 million incremental funding from tuition over two years for UBC-V programs and projects that advance priorities identified in the Climate Emergency Task Force report. A Climate Emergency Fund Advisory Committee of between 12-14 members is being convened to provide input</p>

	<p>on distribution of the funds including representatives from key campus student and stakeholder groups. Decisions made by this body will be public.</p> <p><a href="#">SDG Week</a> was held in March, organized by the UBC Sustainability Ambassadors, AMS Sustainability, SDG Alliance, and the Global Lounge. This week- long series of events included a Hack-Earth-On and Career Connections panel and involved several hundred participants.</p> <p>The Climate Hub offered a Climate Academic Advocacy Workshop on March 22 to help students prepare for conversations with professors and academic leadership about including more climate content in their courses.</p> <p>Climate Justice UBC held <a href="#">The UBC Divestment Campaign: Story of a Student Movement</a> March 23 to discuss the student activism campaign at UBC that resulted in the decision to fully divest from fossil fuels.</p>
<p><b>F. Support Community Wellbeing in the Face of the Climate Crisis</b></p>	<p>The topic of climate anxiety remains a high priority for students. Climate change has both direct and indirect implications on mental health and well-being. Climate anxiety workshops are being developed by students. The Wellbeing Department is also examining ways to support students on this issue.</p> <p>On March 12, speakers from <a href="#">Fraser Basin Council</a>, including USI Sustainability Scholar Judy Wu, a Master’s student in public health, <a href="#">SHIFT Collaborative</a>, the <a href="#">BC Climate and Health Network</a>, discussed the stress and anxiety of living in communities impacted by slow and steady climate changes, the trauma of climate related disasters such as wildfires, flooding, extreme weather and heatwaves, and the existential crisis many feel about the future of the planet.</p>
<p><b>G. Expand Climate Education Opportunities and Resources for the UBC Community and Broader Public</b></p>	<p>Dr. Tara Ivanochko Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences (Faculty of Science) and Dr Jess Dempsey Geography (Faculty of Arts) are developing an Interdisciplinary Climate minor, a 15-credit certificate to be offered collaboratively by both Faculties. The certificate will be accessible to all UBC students with no pre-requisites. It will incorporate existing climate science courses and add 9 credits through new courses, including a course on Climate Justice and the challenge of decarbonisation. The co-developers are holding consultations with the Faculties of Arts and Science, EOAS and GEOG and 6 external organizations, CCEL, and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs.</p> <p>Ten Climate Education Grants were recently awarded, including these examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision of a second-year math course that serves 100 students to include climate modelling examples throughout the course.</li> <li>• upgrading the climate literacy components in four large first year EOSC courses which collectively serve over 2500 students per year at UBCV.</li> </ul>

	<p>The Climate Teaching Connector, a USI-Climate Hub collaboration, was active this term. Thirteen guest lectures occurred, and the pilot program is wrapping up this Spring. To date there have been 31 requests for guest lectures (Sept-March), of which 21 were successfully matched (8 in Term 1, 13 in Term 2)</p> <p>USI’s climate course listing will be formally launched in early May. The dedicated page on the USI website profiles an initial list of approximately thirty courses, which will be publicized to attract other faculty to volunteer their courses for listing.</p>
<p><b>H. Develop New and Strengthen Existing Partnerships to Tackle the Climate Emergency</b></p>	<p>The climate change treaty meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP), will take place in Glasgow this fall. USI and the International Office are organizing a coordinated UBC COP delegation featuring President Ono. USI has connected to University of Edinburgh and Strathclyde (UK), Colorado Boulder, Washington U, SUNY, Second Nature, and the City of Vancouver on COP activities.</p> <p>University Climate Coalition (UC3) partnership activities under UBC’s leadership this term include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the launch of a new University Climate Coalition (UC3) Fellows program includes two Fellows at UBC: a postdoc working on a city-university thematic project with the University of Toronto and the University of Arizona and a graduate student working on the climate justice stream with the University of California.</li> <li>• A Feb. 26 UC3 webinar organized by USI featured Prof. Walter Merida, titled <a href="#">Pursuing Climate Justice Through Climate Action: Perspectives across North American Universities</a></li> </ul> <p>Two partnership projects in USI’s Urban Innovation Research program relate to the climate emergency and demonstrate the potential of Living Lab work off campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Embodied Carbon Pilot secured funding from BC Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) for phase 3 (year 3) which will focus on developing embodied carbon benchmarks and future performance targets for different building typologies. Later in the year the team will present the experiences and learnings from the 3 phases of the pilot to policy makers at the municipal and provincial levels, and lifecycle assessment practitioners and organizations.</li> <li>• USI is a partner with the BiM Topic Lab in Civil Engineering on the Vienna House project, a social-housing building project with ambitious goals on sustainability, resilience and technological applications (such as BIM – Building Information Modelling). The project is currently in the conceptual design phase and undergoing rezoning with the City of Vancouver. After the City of Vancouver/BC Housing announces the project architect, there will be two more Integrated Design Process workshops in March.</li> </ul>

<p><b>I. Accelerate Emissions Reductions at UBCV and UBCO in Response to the Climate Emergency: Climate Action Plan 2030</b></p>	<p>Emissions reduction is an overarching priority for UBC’s climate emergency work. Community consultation on the next UBC climate plan, CAP2030, and the first UBCO CAP 2030 is starting March 29, led by Campus and Community Planning.</p> <p>The CAP team will be folding these inputs into the final draft plan which will be reported to the Board this fall. Concurrently, work is also progressing to update the implementation priorities of the Zero Waste Action Plan and the Green Building Action Plan with a focus to help accelerate carbon reductions associated with materials and building operations.</p>
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# **CLIMATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT – ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY**

**GAIL MURPHY, VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION  
ANDREW SZERI, PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC, VANCOUVER  
ROBIN CICERI, VICE-PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
LINDA NOWLAN, SENIOR DIRECTOR, UBC SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE**

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**APRIL 8, 2021**

# CETF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

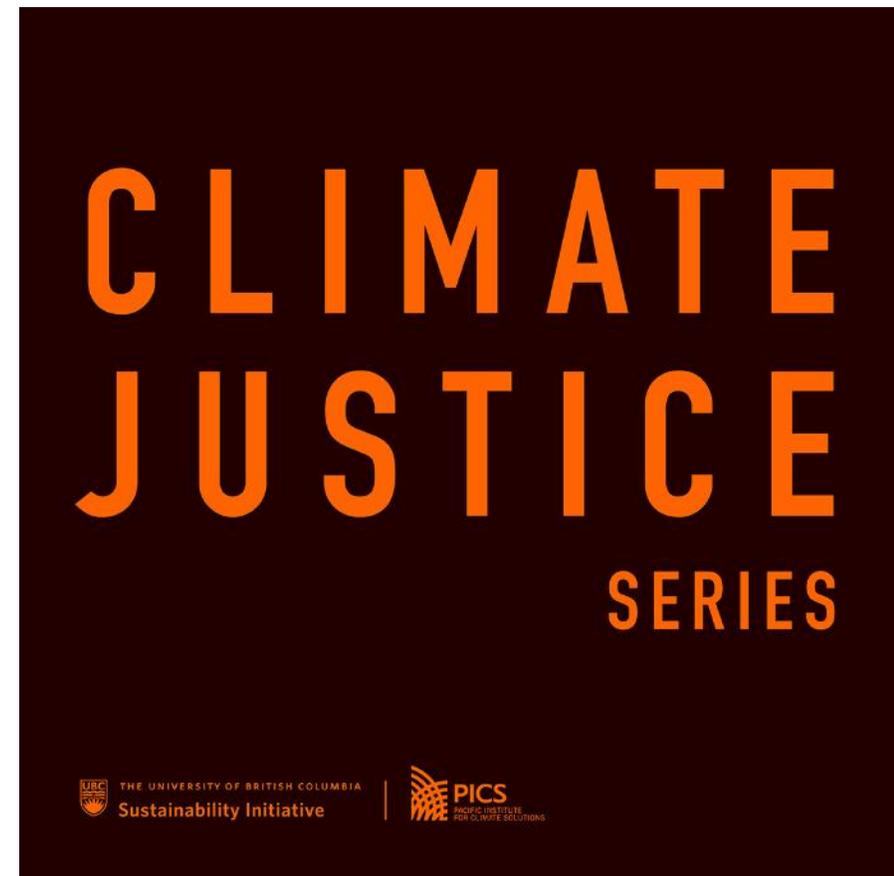


# DEMONSTRATE INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

## USI Climate Justice Series

### 3 Webinars

- Just-Is ≠ Justice, Who Does Climate Change Impact the Most? March 5
  - 320 attendees
- From Grassroots to Government March 19
  - 260 attendees
- Climate Justice at UBC, April date TBC



# DEMONSTRATE INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

## Two UBC Reads Sustainability events

- Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement*  
March 11
  - 230 attendees
- Sheila Watt Cloutier, *The Right to Be Cold*  
March 26

Climate Hub Climate Solutions Showcase events - 3 events on intersectionality and climate



# EXPAND CLIMATE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

- Climate certificate under development by 2 professors, EOAS and Geography: low barrier, adaptable, combines existing science courses and new courses
- 10 climate education grants awarded to allow instructors to revise existing courses to include more climate content
- Climate Connector - guest lecture program
- Climateemergency.ubc.ca website updates, including news and events section, development of resources page
- More details in Appendix A, Board report



A screenshot of the UBC Climate Emergency website. The header includes the UBC logo and 'THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA' on the left, a search icon on the right, and a dark blue navigation bar with 'UBC Climate Emergency' and a menu icon. The main content area features the heading 'News and Events' and a paragraph: 'UBC understands that the actions we take today, will affect human and environmental wellbeing for generations to come.' Below this is a sub-heading: 'The news and events below provide a window into the broad range of climate emergency-related activities underway by UBC academic units, operational'.

# FOSTER A CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY, CLIMATE ACTION

- New \$1.5 million fund created from redirected incremental 2019/20 tuition funding for student facing activities on climate
- Allocation recommendations will be made through a Climate Emergency Fund Advisory Committee of students, faculty and staff
- More details in Appendix A, Board report



# PARTNERSHIPS TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- Campus as a Living Lab (CLL) Extended partnerships :
  - Embodied Carbon, Phase 3
  - Vienna House with BC Housing
- CLL Competition resulted in 4 awards to new interdisciplinary partnerships combining research and operational benefits
- Climate treaty COP26 coordinated UBC presence with partner universities, governments
- University Climate Coalition (UC3) Activities under UBC's leadership:
  - Fellows program
  - Webinar



More details in Appendix A, Board report

## MOVING FORWARD

- Process will reflect the diversity of the recommendations – e.g., Faculty and Senate(s) for new academic programs, UBC Board for capital projects, etc.
- Convene Climate Emergency Fund Advisory Committee to make allocation decisions for \$1.5 million fund.
- Hire USI staff and create workplans to map CETF work underway across UBC.
- Continue with communications plan development and expansion of the [climateemergency.ubc.ca](http://climateemergency.ubc.ca) website.
- Coordinate and convene campus partners, faculty, and students on CETF priorities
- Governance: UBC Executive Sustainability Strategy Steering Committee and USI Steering Committee
- A core administrative team with representation from the Provost Office(s), Campus and Community Planning, Finance and Operations, Communications, and VP Students supports this work.

