Climate Emergency Engagement – Report and Recommendations

February 17, 2021

Walter Merida, Associate Dean, Research and Industrial Partnerships, Faculty of Applied Science; Chair Climate Emergency Task Force
Overview
Engagement Highlights

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.
Strategic Priorities

- Operationalize UBC’s commitments to climate justice: Support climate leadership and initiatives led by Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour
- Accelerate emissions reductions at UBCV and UBCO
- Develop new and strengthen existing partnerships to tackle the climate emergency
- Expand climate education opportunities and resources for the UBC community and broader public
- Demonstrate institutional leadership on climate justice
- Establish mechanisms and processes that ensure Indigenous perspectives, communities, and worldviews shape the development and implementation of climate related initiatives and policies
- Expand, strengthen and coordinate climate research at UBC
- Foster a culture of engagement and advocacy on climate action
- Support community wellbeing in the face of the climate crisis
Recommendations (1/3)

**Operationalize UBC’s commitments to climate justice**

1. Support fair compensation and representation for UBC’s IBPOC community leading climate initiatives
2. Support Off-Campus IBPOC-led climate initiatives
3. Engage further with Black and POC Communities
4. Examine and transform institutional practices and policies that reproduce inequalities for IBPOC communities at UBC

**Demonstrate institutional leadership on climate justice**

1. Establish climate justice standards for the University’s activities
2. Demonstrate and advocate for justice-based climate action
3. Enact commitments to divestment and sustainable investment

**Indigenous perspectives, communities & worldviews shape climate initiatives & policies**

1. Leverage UBC’s Indigenous Strategic Plan and Inclusion Action Plan as a basis for long-term engagement with Indigenous communities
2. Provide resources that support staff to work on Indigenous engagement around UBC plans, policies and initiatives
3. Create a standing Indigenous community advisory committee on the climate emergency
4. Welcome and develop greater institutional capacity for engaging with the full range and complexity of Indigenous perspectives
Recommendations (2/3)

Expand, strengthen and coordinate climate research
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 and resources for engagement

Support community wellbeing in the face of the climate crisis
1. Build capacity for mental health, resilience and community care strategies
2. Update emergency preparedness and response plans
3. Collaborate to expand public discourse around climate change and public health impacts
Recommendations (3/3)

1. Advance climate education opportunities across disciplines
2. Support climate education pedagogy and curriculum development
3. Expand climate education and professional development for UBC community members and UBC partners

1. Coordinate a climate knowledge to action central contact
2. Scale up Living Lab research collaborations with diverse partners beyond campus
3. Community Councils - expand and deepen external engagements
4. Develop a strategic partnership framework

1. Support the forthcoming recommendations and new interim emission targets emerging from the Climate Action Plan 2030 process, which establish specific emissions targets responding to UBC’s alignment with 1.5°C
Snapshot of activities underway

- Presidential Community Round Tables on Climate Action and Anti Racism
- Senior Advisor to the President on Race and Inclusive Excellence
- Anti-Racism Advisory Task Force
- Student, Faculty & Staff Campus Housing

- New USI Academic Director (Fall 2020)
- Expansion of Sustainability Scholars (USI, Fall 2020)
- Climate Teaching Connector (USI-CH collaboration)
- New climate change credential proposal
- USI's climate education grants

- BRDF Expansion Project
- Green Building Action Plan
- Steam to Hot Water
- Recommissioning Buildings (“Building Tune up”)

- Systemic Racism
- Indigenous Strategic Plan
- Inclusion Action Plan

- CUES Program
- UC3
- U7+
- MOUs with City of Vancouver, BCH, MV
- Green Labs Program
- Amplified SEEDs Program (“Big Five” including Climate and Biodiversity)
- Amplified Campus as a Living Lab

- Working group on cross-campus climate research centre/institute being formed (VPRI)
- Low Carbon Economy Consortium
- UBC Integrated Energy Testbed
- Coastal Adaptation Initiative (PICS)
- Climate Justice faculty cluster hire (Arts)
Call to Action

This is a call to action for all UBC communities to engage and advance the recommendations from the Climate Emergency Report and to combat climate change and its impacts.
Acknowledgments

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Climate Emergency, especially our students, members of our Indigenous Engagement Working group and in particular Michelle Marcus who was co-chair of the Task Force