

# Sustainability Walking Tour

UBC Okanagan

## Welcome!

Welcome to UBC Okanagan's Sustainability Walking Tour. Today you will explore the many initiatives that make sustainability a cornerstone of our campus development and operations. Our tour highlights how UBCO integrates environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and innovative planning into its infrastructure and community practices.

## What is LEED?

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a green building rating system in which points are awarded to buildings that meet specific green performance criteria. Performance categories include:

- sustainable sites
- materials and resources
- indoor air quality
- energy and atmosphere
- water efficiency
- innovation and design



[sustain.ok/ubc.ca](https://sustain.ok/ubc.ca)



## 1 Engineering Management Education (EME)

This LEED Gold certified building features 40% water savings, and a 46% energy cost reduction, showcasing eco-friendly design at UBCO.



## 2 Outdoor Art: 14 Not Forgotten

This Memorial by multidisciplinary Indigenous artist and UBCO Creative Studies assistant professor Tania Willard and Berlin-based Syilx Nation artist Krista Belle Stewart, honours lives lost in the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre and symbolizes resilience and equity.



## 4 ǰəl sic snpaǰnwíǰtn

Scheduled to open in 2026, this LEED Gold-targeted building reflects UBCO's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and partnerships with the Syilx Okanagan Nation. The building incorporates carbon reduction technologies including the world's largest earth tube for energy-efficient heating and cooling.

## 5 Transit Exchange

UBCO's hub for sustainable transportation, offers bus bays, a drop off area and bus layover stations, transit shelters, and bicycle storage lockers. In addition, UBCO offers discounted public transit, micromobility partnerships, EV charging stations, and bike facilities.

## 6 Geothermal Exchange

This innovative system powers UBCO with centralized heating and cooling, significantly cutting fossil fuel reliance and aligning with UBCO's Climate Action Plan 2030 65% emissions reduction target.

## 7 CO2 Air Source Heat Pump Project

This system enhances energy efficiency, boosts heating and cooling flexibility, and reduces emissions by over 700 tonnes annually.

## 8 The Commons

LEED Gold Certified in 2023, the Commons integrates a low-temperature district energy HVAC system, eliminating natural gas use, and features a cascading rain garden that captures 100% of on-site rainwater.



## 9 Purcell Residence

This residence incorporates solar panels for water pre-heating and has its own closed-loop geothermal system for heating and cooling.

## 10 Skeena Residence

Completed in 2020, Skeena is Canada's first Passive House Certified dormitory, utilizes an airtight envelope and heat recovery ventilation system to support a fully electric, fossil-fuel-free building.



## 11 Nechako

LEED Gold Certified in 2023, Nechako is a 220-bed student residence, featuring an "All You Care to Eat" dining model that reduces food waste and supports composting and recycling initiatives, as well as providing local, often organic, food sourcing.



## 12 Raingarden #2

This cascading rain garden captures rainwater from the Nechako Building, aligning with UBCO's Integrated Rainwater Management Plan while offering an amenity for relaxation and interaction.

## 13 University Centre

As a LEED Gold-certified hub for student services and dining, the UNC focuses on waste diversion, local food sourcing, and single-use plastic reduction, supporting UBCO's "Let's Choose to Reuse" program.

## 14 Fipke Centre

Canada's first to be awarded 5 Green Globes, its design includes a wind tower with heat recovery and connection to district energy which reduces natural gas use by 94%.

## 15 ASC

The ASC, certified with 5 Green Globes alongside Fipke in 2010, was part of the world's first paired campus buildings to achieve this distinction.

## 16 RHSC

This building earned LEED Gold certification through energy-efficient window glazing, water-saving fixtures, and sustainable construction practices, designed to reduce its annual carbon emissions by 285 tonnes..

## 17 The Hangar

This building features recycled materials like pine beetle-damaged wood and tire flooring, along with xeriscaping for water conservation.



## 18 Nonis Sports Field

This artificial turf field reduces water use through a permeable design and pairs with the campus-wide Hunter Wireless Irrigation System to ensure efficient water management.

## 19 Green Labs

The Green Labs program at UBCO reduces the environmental impact of lab operations through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling, diverting significant plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices.

## 20 Courtyard Art Installations

The central courtyard features sn ilí tn, by Syilx artist Les Louis, which celebrates Syilx culture and UBC's anniversaries and Decomposition, by Secwépemc artist Dr. Tania Willard, which reflects on environmental sustainability and ecological cycles.



## 21 Big Belly Waste Bins

The Big Belly waste bins, improve waste management efficiency, reduce collection trips, and are supported by initiatives like Sort It Out and Let's Choose to Reuse.

## 22 Nsyilxcn Street Signs

Installed in 2022, the Nsyilxcn street signs were created in partnership with the En'owkin Centre and the Okanagan Nation Alliance designed to reflect the Syilx Okanagan Nation's language and culture.