

2023

UBC OKANAGAN
TEACH-IN ON CLIMATE AND JUSTICE
MARCH 13



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
sustainability

Climate Action Plan 2030
Bold ambition. Collective action.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin by acknowledging that UBC's Okanagan campus is located on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) peoples and that UBC's activities take place on Indigenous lands throughout British Columbia and beyond.

The Syilx Okanagan people have been here since time immemorial. In September 2005, the Okanagan Nation Alliance officially welcomed UBC to Okanagan territory in a ceremony, Knaqs npi'ismist, where UBC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Okanagan Nation Alliance. The University works with the Okanagan Nation in the pursuit of campus plans for UBC Okanagan in respectful acknowledgment of the Syilx Okanagan people's stewardship of their territory for thousands of years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UBC Okanagan's 2nd Teach-In on Climate and Justice event - an educational forum attended by 16 faculty, 53 students, 9 staff and 6 community members - shared ideas and inspiration for researching climate solutions and engaging in community climate action. The event featured two main sessions. The first one consisted of concurrent panels of UBC Okanagan faculty members and graduate students from a variety of disciplines across campus who gave short 5-minute presentations on how they are tackling interconnected climate and justice issues and solutions. In the second session, a group panel of UBC Okanagan staff and students facilitated Open Space discussions on commuting, food systems, waste, supporting climate advocacy and community care, which provided participants a space to share views for achieving ambitious, just climate action both in reducing emissions as well as increasing resilience on campus.

Evaluation feedback reported that the event supported an increase in participant awareness of climate action currently underway at the campus by 24% in food systems, 15% in waste and materials and 10% in commuting with an increase in community advocacy by 27% and community care by 25%. It also motivated participants to take action with 10% completing the UBCO Climate Action Pledge.

Participant feedback captured in this report will be made available to attendees, as well as staff and administrators responsible for various aspects of the UBCO CAP 2030 implementation, and [World-Wide Teach-In](#) organizers at Bard College in New York State. This report, and a short video story from the event and other information will be made available on the sustain.ok.ubc.ca website for viewing.

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UBCO TEACH-IN ON CLIMATE AND JUSTICE

1.0 BACKGROUND

UBC Okanagan held its 2nd Teach-In on Climate and Justice on March 13, 2023, following the 1st Teach-In on March 29, 2022. This event was originally inspired by the “World-Wide Teach-In”, an initiative from Bard College in New York State for discussing and debating complex climate issues, which has attracted participation from over 300 universities, colleges, high schools and faith groups worldwide. This year’s Teach-In was in person, unlike the 2022 Teach-In, which was virtual.

The Teach-In was organized by the Climate Action Plan Engagement Working Group (CAP-E), a group that was formed shortly after the UBC Board of Governors endorsed the UBC Okanagan Climate Action Plan (CAP 2030) in early 2022.

Hosted by CAP-E Co-Chairs Dr. Mary Stockdale (Faculty), Leanne Bilodeau (Staff) and Andrea Egan (Student), the event was opened by Dr. Bill Cohen, Sylx scholar and Assistant Professor, UBC Okanagan School of Education; Dr. Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice- President Academic; and Andrea Egan, CAP-E Student Co-Chair and BA Student in Geography.

The Teach-In showcased how research by our faculty members and graduate students across diverse disciplines is contributing to solutions to the climate crisis. It also facilitated discussion on how all community members can take actions to reduce emissions from food, commuting and waste as outlined in UBCO CAP 2030, as well as actions to build resilience in campus community members through supporting climate advocacy and community care.

Finally, the event was closed by Dr. Katrina Plamondon, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health & Social Development.

This event would not have been possible without the sponsorship of the Provost and Vice-President Office and the tremendous contribution of many student, faculty and staff volunteers - each of whom played an important role in the planning and implementation of this event. All UBCO Teach-In speakers and volunteers are acknowledged in Section 7.0 of this Report.

A total of 108 faculty, staff and students registered for this event and 84 participants attended the event represented by 63% students, 19% faculty, 11% staff and 7% other. 17 participants completed the event evaluation and 8 participants pledged to take immediate climate action. 13 participants signed up to stay in-touch with CAP-E.

2.0 REPORT PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to document the event’s activities and key outcomes including suggested actions to help achieve the UBCO CAP 2030 extended emissions targets; actions participants are willing to take; changes in participant awareness of climate action as a result of this event; and a summary of participant feedback on the overall event. This Report will also be shared with our Worldwide Teach-In contacts from Bard College in New York State. This report and a short video story, produced by UBC Studios Okanagan, will be made available on the sustain.ok.ubc.ca website for viewing.

3.0 WHAT WE HEARD

3.1 SESSION 1 - CONCURRENT PANELS

3.1.1 LIST OF PRESENTERS AND PRESENTATION TITLES

For Session 1, faculty coordinators Dr. Mary Stockdale and Dr. Eric Li invited faculty and graduate students to be presenters if they were known to have done any climate-related work. These invitees were in turn asked to recommend further speakers, in a cascading approach. Panels were developed so as to present a diverse range of disciplinary backgrounds to their audiences, with presentations limited to a five minute span.

Panel 1:

- Dr. Kh Md Nahiduzzaman, Professor, School of Engineering, FAS
Our behaviour and (dis)ownership in climate change
- Fabiola Melchior, Graduate Student, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
Youth as climate actors: A place-specific exploration of climate justice
- Morgan King, Graduate Student, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
Researching the resilience of the Okanagan wine industry
- Dr. Jodey Castricano, Professor, English & Cultural Studies, FCCS
The wicked problem of animal agriculture

Panel 2:

- Megan Buers, Graduate Student, Department of Biology, FS
Are riparian areas thermal refugia for Western Screech-owls?
- Dr. Shona Harrison, Lecturer, English & Cultural Studies, FCCS
The elephant in the room: Sustainability and story in film and symposium
- Dr. Onyx Sloan Morgan, Assistant Professor, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
What is ‘Climate’ + ‘Justice’? A Critical Geographical Perspective
- Kirstin Pulles, Graduate Student, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
Public Transit: How buses can be revolutionary





Panel 3:

- Anjali Desai, Graduate Student, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
The role of universities in polycentric climate governance
- Dr. Aleksandra Dulic, Associate Professor, Creative Studies, FCCS
Waterways of the Okanagan Past, Present and Future: the relationship between art and sustainability
- Dr. Robert Godin, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, FS
Understanding how photocatalysts can harness the power of sunlight
- Emilie Ovenden, Graduate Student, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
Reimagining community-based climate adaptation through community forestry

Panel 4:

- Dr. Sumer Seiki, Associate Professor, Okanagan School of Education, FE
Creating a Syilx native seed garden and grassland restoration with our teacher candidates
- Dr. Adam Wei, Professor, Earth, Environmental & Geographic Sciences, FS
Forest thinning supports climate change adaptation
- Gabrielle Heschuk, Graduate Student, Community, Culture & Global Studies, FASS
Regenerative tourism models as a basis for sustainable community development
- Dr. Astrida Neimanis, Associate Professor, English & Cultural Studies, FCCS & FASS
Climate Justice is a Feminist Issue, when Feminism Means Liberation for All

3.1.2 SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

In the discussion, speakers were asked to present from the perspective of their particular discipline or research area, in order to discuss some major challenges that climate change posed, as well as some possible solutions to these challenges. They were also asked to address climate justice as part of their presentation. Panel moderators encouraged audience members and presenters to contribute comments and questions.

3.2 SESSION 2 - OPEN SPACE

Session 2, presented by Leanne Bilodeau, Associate Director, Sustainability Operations, Sustainability Office, Campus Planning, provided an opportunity for event attendees to participate in Open Space discussions focused on the UBCO CAP 2030 extended emission target areas as well as building resilience through supporting climate advocacy and on community care on campus.

Dani Korven, Associate Director, UBCO Food Services, presented on actions undertaken in 2022 to reduce extended impact emissions from food. Hailey Rilkoff, Planner, UBCO Campus Planning presented on actions implemented in the last year to reduce extended impact emissions from commuting identified in the UBCO CAP 2030 and UBCO Transportation Plan. Stephanie French, Advisor Sustainability, Sustainability Office, Campus Planning, presented on actions initiated in 2022 to reduce extended impact emissions from waste and materials.

New topics added this year included supporting climate advocacy and building community care on campus. These topics were facilitated by Fabiola Melchior, Student and Fridays for a Future - Kelowna Chapter organizer, and Melissa Feddersen, Wellbeing Specialist, UBCO Student Wellness, respectively.

Building from the presentations, participants were asked to share their views and suggestions for achieving ambitious action on climate mitigation and resilience on campus. They were also asked to apply a climate justice lens to determine what barriers there might be for the most marginalized members of the campus community to take climate action, and how these barriers might be overcome.

Below is a summary of participant feedback on the UBCO CAP 2030 food systems, commuting, waste & materials and campus community advocacy and community care sessions.

3.2.1 SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Key achievements of the past year that were highlighted during the Open Space included:

COMMUTING

TARGET: 40% reduction in commuting emissions from 2013 levels by 2030.

- Completed UBCO Transportation Plan
- Established Sustainable Transportation Levy
- Launched Staff/Faculty ProPASS and increased employer subsidy to 50%
- Launched e-bike and e-scooter program



FOOD SYSTEMS

TARGET: 50% reduction in GHG emission reduction of food systems by 2030.

- Completed UBCO CAP Food GHG Baseline Project Report and reduction strategies
- Scaled-up local food procurement through Land to Table Network Partnership
- Eliminated single use plastics and offering plant-based options at every station in Pritchard Dining Hall

WASTE & MATERIALS

TARGET: 50% less waste per capita by 2030, progressing toward a zero-waste community

- Implemented 4 stream sorting stations in Student Residences
- Composted/dehydrated all organics at Pritchard Dining Hall to support zero food waste
- Green-to-go reusable food containers re-launched at UBCO Food Services Outlets (post-Covid)
- Campus food waste sent to Spa Hills Compost Faculty offsetting emissions by 430 kg (40 tCO₂e) of carbon

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Feedback collected from the Open Session discussion included:

REDUCING COMMUTING EMISSIONS

- University should publicly advocate for better transit system
- The transit system needs to be more reliable
- A full time staff is needed to work on transportation planning and implementation
- Clear off streets in winter and spring: extend the bike season!
- How to balance lower parking fees and sustainability transportation levy?
- Increase number of buses running early in the morning and late at night
- Electric mini-bus for up and down Academy Hill and/or reroute 97 up Academy Hill
- UBCO needs an effective system for carpool matching

REDUCING FOOD EMISSIONS

- Promote plant-based food and connect with students
- Gather data and student insights / feedback
- Program to eliminate food waste from catered events:
 - Pantry/Picnic
 - To go containers
 - Bring Your Own to go container
- Food services advisory committee



- Cost accessibility
- Bringing back Green-to-go plastic food containers

REDUCING WASTE EMISSIONS

- Communication to improve compliance, awareness of programs, and of sorting streams available
- More compost bins
- More awareness around contamination when recycling, it's impacts
- Student move-out / move-in waste reduction:
 - diversion options
 - sale of used goods
 - donation
 - recycling (sorting)

BUILDING STRONG ADVOCACY

How can you feel supported in your advocacy at UBCO?

- Community Education
- Go beyond facts & figures
 - stories
 - empathy
- How can sustainability build advocacy across campus? Outside Faculty?
- VISIBILITY
 - smaller actions
 - encouragement
- Other pathways
 - promoting action even if you personally cannot act
- Getting buy-in - champions
- Navigating the boundaries that different groups / individuals face in advocacy

BUILDING COMMUNITY CARE

In the face of global and local catastrophes, how do we create communities of care?

- Platform., e.g., applications, website
- Role of the professor
 - Being more kind and caring
- Physical spaces
- Institution's culture and policies
- Eat together

4.0 HOW PARTICIPANTS ARE COMMITTING TO TAKE ACTION

4.1 CLIMATE PLEDGE

Eight participants - 23% faculty, 27% staff, 41% students & 9% other - submitted a Pledge to Take Action in the areas of Food Systems, Waste & Materials, Commuting, Building Advocacy and Building Community Care on campus.

FOOD SYSTEMS	%	WASTE & MATERIALS	%	COMMUTING	%
I will choose one day a week to not eat meat.	100%	I will cut down on my material procurement to reduce my disposal amounts helping to reach the 50% less waste (per capita) in waste & materials emission target.	100%	I will take transit or bike to campus instead of driving by myself two days a week to help reach the 40% reduction in commuting emissions target.	50%
I will reduce my beef consumption and replace it with chicken or fish.	63%	I will use reusable food ware, when possible, instead of getting a single-use item for take-out.	100%	I will coordinate a carpool to campus with coworkers and friends at least one day a week instead of driving alone.	38%
I will substitute my milk and cheese for a non-dairy option.	38%	I will sort my materials for disposal correctly, improving the diversion rate of materials from the landfill.	100%	I will try the shared LIME bikes on campus and use them to run errands or commute to campus instead of driving.	0%
I will buy local food - from a farmers market or direct from the grower, where possible.	75%	I will visit the UBC Okanagan Recyclepedia to learn about material sorting - what goes where - on campus.	50%	I will encourage friends and colleagues to try taking transit or biking to campus instead of driving alone.	50%
I will commit to making my next family / friend / colleague dinner plant-based.	25%				
I will bring my own bags to the store when getting groceries.	100%				
ADVOCACY	%	COMMUNITY CARE	%		
I will learn how to be a supportive colleague to fellow climate activists.	88%	I will build community through active participation in campus life.	63%	Participants who requested a copy of their Pledge	38%
I will share survey data and information within my sphere of influence.	88%	I will strive to create a culture of kindness and care for the UBC Okanagan Campus.	88%		
I will mentor other emerging activists.	88%	I will connect with colleagues and / or fellow students when I know they have been impacted by climate or other disasters.	88%		
I will keep up to date with campus opportunities and support campus activism events.	100%	I will enhance opportunities for dialogue and engage in good-faith conversations about climate change and other topics from a place of curiosity and openness.	88%		

4.2 CAP-E CONNECTIONS

Thirteen participants signed up to stay in-touch with CAP-E activities - 7 signed up directly via the online link and 6 additional participants requested a connection once they completed the event evaluation.

5.0 TEACH-IN EVALUATION

5.1 TEACH-IN IMPACT EVALUATION

Evaluation of the UBCO Teach-In on Climate and Justice was completed by 17 event participants - 18% faculty, 12% staff, 65% students & 6% other.

5.2 FEEDBACK ON THE EVENT'S IMPACT

The following feedback was provided from the completed event evaluation forms.

- Overall rating of the teach-in event 3.94/5 or 79%
- Per session ratings were:
 - Opening Session 3.94/5 or 79%
 - Session 1: Concurrent Panels 4.06/5 or 81%
 - Plant-Forward Meal 4.53/5 or 91%
 - Can I ask you a question?" performance 3.67/5 or 73%
 - Session 2: Open Space 3.75/5 or 75%
 - Closing Session 4.00/5 or 80%
- 65% of respondents provided additional feedback about the event or its individual sessions:
 - The time allocated for each research presentation should be increased. As well, the Q&A session.
 - Wished the discussion sessions could have been longer. Not much time for questions.
 - The only reason that I scored most of the sessions as a 3 was because I felt that they were quite rushed. Each session was interesting and engaging, but I believe that this event could take place as full-day or weekend conference. The event was amazing, but too rushed.
 - More time for the panel sessions (not enough time for the Q&A afterwards) as well as for the Table sessions (15 minutes wasn't enough time for participants to move between tables as intended)



- The open table session felt a bit awkward to join in on when walking around, and the can i ask you a questions presentation was good but I was in the food line and missed most of it unfortunately.
- Too much talking for the opening and ending sessions, would have been better to have more discussion during the table discussions. Also, more compost is needed in the university in general and in specific targeted places
- The only reason I marked down the First and Second sessions was because there wasn't quite enough time for the discussion. but overall great presentations
- Extend the event so that the valuable information does not feel rushed. Better acoustics/ microphone use. Plant-forward meal option that doesn't include legumes (allergy).
- Shorter opening and closing remarks. More time in panels and break out tables
- I wish this had been a longer event, and the panels had not been concurrent. As a presenter, I would have liked to hear the other panels.
- The opening session really set up the evening, although it went a little overtime and that cut into the panel discussion time immediately following. The panels seemed rushed, presenters most focused on getting their presentation on time. This reminds me of what I call "panic scholarship": hurry. Not so much time for reflection. The "plant forward" menu was a great idea but there were dairy products on the table. Dairy industry, one of the worst contributors to climate change. I really wonder what might have changed for people hearing the panels? Would like to follow up there. The survey asks if one would give up meat one day a week or beef or chicken. I am vegan. No room for me to respond. The talk with the food services person afterward led me to understand as she put it "students want more meat" when I mentioned that universities in the UK were going meat free. Cambridge has just voted unanimously on plant-forward campus. There's not enough promotion of that here. It's not enough to start using re-usable cups.
- 53% of respondents provided a response when asked "What are your ideas for actions we can take as individuals or as a community to support the UBCO CAP's implementation in the areas of CAP engagement, and in reducing food, transportation, food and waste emissions?":
 - Continuing to push boundaries in increasing the accessibility in these areas. Make it possible and affordable to buy locally by connecting with local farmers. Reducing food waste is huge especially in Kelowna where most of the city has no compost programs. (I live on academy and have no way of composting and it makes me really sad that probably almost 50% of my waste could be composted.)

- Creative ways for communication; Engagement and feedback sessions with all levels of students, staff and faculty members; Creating competitions to invite better ideas; Formally connecting CAP with the courses through assignments, brainstorming sessions, debates, etc.
- Find ways to coordinate activities with the Kelowna community and share what UBCO is doing so we can learn and do better in the wider community.
- Partner with existing clubs on campus to collaborate, support, and share ideas with each other.
- Be REALLY pro-active about making this campus plant-forward (no one wants to hear "vegan", so PF will do)
- 1. support establishment of a sustainable transportation office; 2. integrate reducing food waste into campus catering (to go containers or participant driven food saving) 3. more programming to reduce waste during student move out
- As a community the University needs to get serious about compost, it should be everywhere and if not at least in more strategic locations such as where people gather to eat like all the collegians
- Better waste disposal systems with more sorting information, community advocacy for better transit lines
- Support Kirsten Pulles research & advocacy into Kelowna Public Transit!! More buses more frequently to campus.
- 47% of respondents provided a response when asked "What are your ideas to build community care on campus?":
- I think a big part of the lack of community care is the lack of connection people in our society have to wear everything around us has come from and the lack of connection to where our food comes from. Efforts to build that connection in everyones brains may help.
- A coordinated communication plan is needed to let everyone know about the benefits of this program
- I'm not entirely sure what that term means.
- Positive messaging/campaigns around actions being taken by different groups (visibility to students/faculty/staff)
- More events like this would be great, and a community garden!
- More events and spaces to connect, and greater focus on the justice, equity and self care aspects of climate
- Make better use of The Well student pub and terrace. The hours are strange, drinks expensive, and atmosphere unwelcoming. It could be a community hub

6.0 CONCLUSION

This year's event provided UBC Okanagan faculty, students and staff as well as operational departments with an opportunity to share their research as well as actions being undertaken on campus to address a variety of climate and justice related issues. All ideas and comments collected during the event's engagement opportunities and evaluation feedback forms will be broadly shared through this report and used by the CAP-E working group and event organizers to inform and improve upon future events.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

• Shelley Bergeron	Student	Volunteer
• Leanne Bilodeau	Associate Director, Sustainability Operations, Sustainability Office, Campus Planning	Co-Chair, Speaker & Moderator
• Megan Buers	Graduate Student, Department of Biology, FS	Presenter
• Dr. Jodey Castricano	Professor, English & Cultural Studies, FCCS	Presenter
• Dr. Bill Cohen	Assistant Professor, Okanagan School of Education	Speaker
• Dr. Jon Corbett	Associate Professor, IKBFASS, CCGS	Moderator
• Marcey Costello	Student, FCCS	Performer
• Miriam Cummings	Student, FCCS	Performer
• Anjali Desai	Graduate Student, CCGS, FASS	Presenter
• Dr. Aleksandra Dulic	Associate Professor, FCCS	Presenter
• Andrea Egan	Student, Geography, CCGS, FASS	Co-Chair, Speaker & Moderator
• Melissa Feddersen	Manager, Campus Wellness & Education, UBCO Student Wellness	Facilitator
• Ronan Fraser	Student, FCCS	Performer
• Stephanie French	Advisor, Sustainability, Sustainability Office, Campus Planning	Facilitator
• Annie Furman	Student, FCCS	Performer
• Dr. Robert Godin	Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, FS	Presenter



• Dr. Shona Harrison	Lecturer, Department of English and Cultural Studies, FCCS	Presenter
• Gabrielle Heschuk	Graduate Student, IGS Sustainability	Presenter
• Faith Hunt	Sustainability & Climate Engagement Assistant Work Study Student, Sustainability Office, Campus Planning	Volunteer
• Morgan King	Graduate Student, CCGS, FASS	Presenter
• Dani Korven	Associate Director, Food Services, UBCO Food Services	Facilitator
• Dr. Eric Li	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management	Moderator
• Samantha MacArthur	Student, Geography, CCGS, FASS	Volunteer
• Amira Maturo	Student, Psychology, FASS	Volunteer
• Fabiola Melchior	Graduate Student, CCGS, FASS	Presenter
• Adam Monckton	Student, Faculty of Science	Volunteer
• Dr. Kh Md Nahiduzzaman	Professor, School of Engineering	Presenter
• Dr. Astrida Neimanis	Associate Professor, ECS, FCCS & GWSS, FASS	Presenter
• Emilie Ovenden	Graduate Student, CCGS, FASS	Presenter
• Dr. Katrina Plamondon	Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, FHSD	Presenter
• Kirstin Pulles	Graduate Student, FASS	Presenter
• Hailey Rilkoff	Planner, UBCO Campus Planning	Facilitator
• Dr. Rehan Sadiq	Provost and Vice President, Academic	Speaker
• Dr. Sumer Seiki	Associate Professor, Okanagan School of Education	Presenter
• Maji Shaikh	Post-Doctoral Fellow, School Health and Exercise Science, FHSD	Presenter
• Dr. Onyx Sloan Morgan	Assistant Professor, CCGS, FASS	Presenter
• Dr. Mary Stockdale	Adjunct Professor, CCGS, FASS	Co-Chair, Speaker & Moderator
• Mayuran Thavaraj	Student	Volunteer
• Emily Tu	Student	Facilitator
• Dr. Adam Wei	Professor, EEGS, Faculty of Science	Presenter
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