



BELIEVE

IN

SYSTEMIC

Change

UBC
CLIMATE
HUB

THIRD
ANNUAL
REPORT

THE FUTURE

go back to nature and reverse the plundering of the earth.



The Climate Hub is based on the UBC Vancouver campus, which is located on the stolen homelands of the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam) People. We also recognize our affiliation with UBC as an institution extends to other traditional homelands such as the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and **səlilwətaʔ** (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples and the Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation. Indigenous Peoples have lived on these lands since time immemorial.

We acknowledge that as community members, students, and employees within the institution of UBC, we actively reap material and immaterial benefits from these stolen Indigenous lands. We recognize that in many ways, our organizing and presence draws from uninvited access to these material and immaterial benefits and contributes to the ongoing act of settler colonialism.

As a collective, we work within the UBC institution to leverage our position for student climate advocacy, university accountability, and redistribution of wealth and power. We work to practice self-reflection and accountability to all of those impacted by the climate crisis, especially Black and Indigenous Peoples. The Climate Hub is committed to supporting and implementing the 2020 UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan, notably Actions 2, 12, 17, and 36.

We begin this report by acknowledging the lands we are on because the land is the foundation for all of our work. We believe strongly in reciprocal relations, not just with humans, but with all things in the world. We know there are always ways to strengthen our solidarity, so please take this as an invitation to call us in so we can work together toward a more just future.

If you are skimming through these words, we urge you to take a moment to reflect on why that is. Many aspects of settler colonialism are designed to distract us from our responsibilities to uphold Indigenous rights and self-determination and the need to reflect on how we interact with and live on these lands. It falls on all of us to combat this complacency, and we can look to the Indigenous Strategic Plan to inform our actions.



Read the [UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan](#)



Art by Meghan Wise



Letter from Our Student Director

Climate Hub: Year 3 | May 2020 - June 2021

Many of us are familiar with the notion of navigating by the stars. One star in particular, known in the western world as Polaris, makes this possible as it is the only stationary star in the sky. Our North Pole always points toward it, so when the world spins -as time passes- it appears to us as though the rest of the stars in the sky spin around it.

My involvement with the Climate Hub has taught me that 'Care' is our Polaris.

We understand that planetary and human health are inextricably connected. The speeding decline of our planet's health has profoundly traumatic impacts on all people. The tendency of settler-colonial systems to promote the individual over the collective makes it incredibly difficult to care for others, especially those who fall outside our immediate communities. As steerers of the Climate Hub, we practice caring thought patterns guided by Indigenous Traditions by holding each others' existence in high regard. We believe that all beings, living and nonliving, deserve care simply because they are.

The Climate Hub was created because there was a need for joy, hope, and agency among students pushing to create systemic change in response to the climate emergency. Throughout our pilot phase, we have worked to fill those needs through programs you'll see elaborated in this report.

My involvement with the Climate Hub has taught me that 'Care' is our Polaris.

As we have grown from a group of three students to hundreds, so have our connections to community. Thus we have built our capacity to truly listen to the needs of those among and around us.

In this past year, we have heard the need for meaningful connection in an isolating world, made even more so by the Coronavirus pandemic. We have heard the need for spaces that allow us to sit in the complexity of our feelings in response to ongoing racial injustice and colonial violence, spaces in which we can be angry and grieve, as well as find hope, laughter, and joy. We have heard the need for urgency and accountability from the university, from climate groups on campus, from ourselves, and the need to refine our definitions of climate justice.

As you read on, you'll learn about how we have tried and are continuing to try to respond to these needs.

The skies have been spinning at dizzying speeds, and we are constantly seeing new stars. A time of so much change can be daunting, but we know that if we continue to ground ourselves in our values, we will have the strength to continue our work.

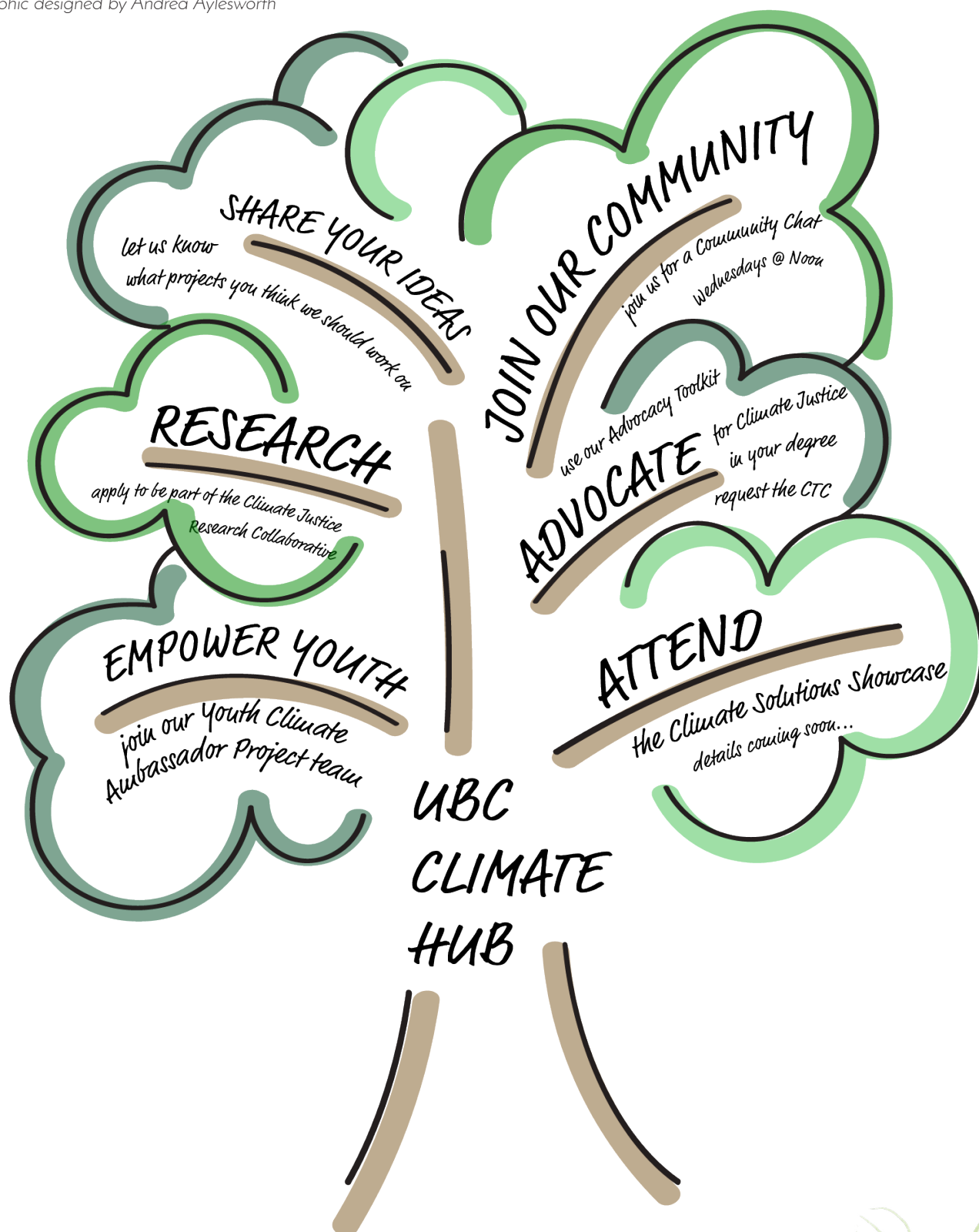
In climate community,



Nafeesa Alibhai (they/them)
Student Director, UBC Climate Hub

Overview

Graphic designed by Andrea Aylesworth



Climate Solutions Showcase

The UBC Climate Hub hosted its third annual Climate Solutions Showcase through a series of virtual events on the online conference platform Zoom. The theme of the showcase was “Climate Justice, Race & Intersectionality”. The aim of this showcase was to highlight the multiple ways climate change intersects with issues of social justice and to discuss possible solutions that would equitably address the needs of marginalized communities. We wanted to amplify the work done by Indigenous and racialized communities relating to climate change and unpack the ways that climate change does and will continue to impact various social issues without necessary action. We hoped to attract a new and diverse audience to the climate movement, enhance people’s awareness of climate and social justice issues, and foster new partnerships whilst igniting a sense of urgency amongst the youth towards the climate crisis.

Over 800 people registered for our events throughout the year and we had a relatively good average attrition rate, with ~60%-70% of registered tickets sold translating to live audience members. We also recorded most of our events and received an additional 562 views (and counting) on our Youtube and Facebook posts with the recordings.

The showcase kicked off in early November and finished in early April. The schedule of events and interdisciplinary panel discussions covered a ranged of themes:

- Two (2) Sustainability Career Nights
- Indigenous Land Sovereignty and Climate Justice
- Climate Justice and Policing
- Envisioning a Just City: Climate and Racial Justice in Urban Planning
- Extractivism in Latin America
- Environmental Justice and Gender
- Keynote presentation by Dr. Maxine Burkett from the University of Hawai’i on Climate Justice: Reparations and Migration

Over the summer, we also hosted 2 Instagram Lives on the topic of Food Justice and Fashion. We wanted to ensure our events were hosted in collaborative ways and were able to partner with the following organizations, student clubs and UBC departments throughout the year: KPU, SFU Embark, CityStudio Vancouver, AMS Indigenous Committee, Black Student Union, UBC CAPACity & UBC SCARP Student Association, Youth4Nature, UBC ORICE, Legacy Growers Collective and Threading Change.

8

EVENTS

> 600

ATTENDEES



View the event recordings on our [Youtube channel](#)



View the IG Lives on our [Instagram IGTV](#)

What We Heard



[I enjoyed] the diversity of speakers (personal experience and professional practice) - plus the positive atmosphere and playfulness despite the serious topic.

- Attendee, Envisioning a Just City: Climate and Racial Justice in Urban Planning

Environmental and climate justice is familiar to me, but not migration. The historical perspectives presented were so helpful, drawing connections between climate change, agriculture and migration from Mexico to the U.S.

- Attendee, Climate Justice: Reparations and Migration

I was able to meet passionate and like-minded people, hear their stories, and challenge the way I look at climate-related careers and the world around us. It was undeniably an unforgettable event!

- Attendee, Sustainability Careers Night: Resilient Futures

[The event] illustrated the ways in which climate justice and policing are intrinsically related to each other. Despite the overwhelming nature of these issues, I appreciated how the speakers reiterated the need to take time for ourselves to remain engaged.

- Attendee, Climate Justice and Policing



Art by Meghan Wise

Climate Justice Research Collaborative

The Climate Justice Research Collaborative (CJRC) created interdisciplinary collaborations between groups of undergraduate students. These groups researched a climate-focused topic that was co-identified with a community partner. Partners were drawn from the Climate Hub's existing network of allies as well as the networks of students and faculty involved. Interested students were also supported to identify partners and research topics from their own communities. Research teams and partnerships were developed during Term 1 of the Winter Semester and the research was completed over the course of Term 2.

Undergraduate students were offered the opportunity to gain course credit for their work by registering in a course of directed studies under the supervision of one of the project's faculty sponsors during Term 2. Project coordination and support was provided by 5 Graduate Academic Assistants (GAAs) from different faculties. GAAs and Climate Hub staff also co-developed workshops for Term 1 to help guide undergraduate students in their learning process.

The six learning outcomes of the CJRC are:



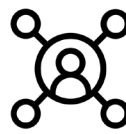
Learn about different research methodologies and their theoretical/philosophical underpinnings



Develop and effectively communicate an understanding of climate justice and broader connections



Develop research skills in the context of interdisciplinary and collaborative research projects



Build new relationships amongst peers, faculty, and community partners to broaden research network



Acquire skills for conducting meaningful, community-driven research (when applicable)



Increased experience in creative pedagogical and research communication pathways

This Year's Projects

This year we had 7 different CJRC projects that were organized virtually with students from across faculties. Due to the virtual nature of this year's cohort, we were able to partner with communities outside of the Lower Mainland. Students delivered a written report and had the option of producing a creative deliverable.

Overcoming Policy Barriers to Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

Shawn Fang, Desiree Gabriel,
Shadow Feng
Faculty Supervisor: Eduardo Joviel
Partner:

An Analysis of Environmentalism Among the Black Population within Vancouver: Intersections -- All of Us or None of Us

Temwani Siwu and Maya Nelson-Rowntree
Faculty Supervisors: Mohammed Rafi Arefin and James Connolloy

Psychiatric Abolition and the Climate Movement : A Starting Guide to Transformative Justice Practice for Climate Organizers

Anna Mylvaganam, Sarah Day,
Lucy Wicken
Faculty Supervisor: Bathseba Opini

Climate (In)justice and the Other: Dissecting the Politics of the Representation of Climate Displaced People in the Bay of Bengal

Holly Benna, Sagorika Haque,
Rwittika Banerjee
Faculty Supervisors: Antje Ellermann and
Amanda Cheong
Partner Organization: Bachar Lorai

Is Vancouver's Proposed Road Toll Regressive?: An Empirical Analysis of Congestion Pricing

Justine See-Fernandez and Aditi Sriram
Faculty Supervisor: Werner Antweiler

Climate Justice in Local Indigenous Communities

Cloe Mao, Cassie Lumsden, Maya Dong
Faculty Supervisor: Mark Harris
Partner Organization: Mountain Protectors

Indigenizing Wellbeing Assessment II: Energy Poverty in Remote Communities

Chloe Rickard and Lia Schulz
Faculty Supervisor: Maggie Low and
Naoko Ellis



Learn more about each project on
[our website's Projects page](#)

Climate Teaching Connector

The Climate Teaching Connector (CTC) is a joint initiative with the UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) that further incorporates interdisciplinary climate education into existing undergraduate courses by compensating graduate student climate experts as guest lecturers. In its pilot year (2020-21), 22 guest lectures from a cohort of 15 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows reached more than 1350 students across 7 faculties and 18 departments at UBC Vancouver and Okanagan. Climate experts delivered 1,555 minutes of co-teaching covering topics unique to their teaching and research expertise and lived experiences.

The interdisciplinary nature of this program meant that 18 of the 21 collaborations between course instructors and climate experts were across different faculties. This program has fostered a multiway learning process: course instructors received support on teaching about climate in their classes; climate experts gained practice and experience in lesson co-development and online teaching; students learned about climate from content experts who could expose them to or stoke their interest in climate topics that may have not been part of their learning experience without the CTC.

Academic engagement this past year also focused on supporting student climate academic advocacy. Along with creating resources including an academic advocacy toolkit, we held our first academic advocacy workshop in April 2021. The workshop brought together over 20 people from diverse interdisciplinary groups of students, both undergraduate and graduate. Participants shared they were eager to learn more from future workshops on specific topics such as power mapping and how to frame an ask, while also showing interest in being a part of a community of practice around academic advocacy. We plan to act on this feedback by creating a community of practice this next academic year, while delivering new workshops starting in the summer 2021.

Over the next two years, we aim to scale the CTC to reach 60 courses while potentially expanding the climate expert cohort to other knowledge holders.



Access the [Academic Advocacy Toolkit](#)



Learn more about our [2021/22 Climate Experts](#)

22

GUEST LECTURES

18

DEPARTMENTS

1350

STUDENTS REACHED

What We Heard



The instructor told me beforehand that, for many of the students, it would be the first real lesson on climate change of their degree programs – the participation and feedback from students after the lesson helped me to understand just how important it is to me to be actively involved in changing that.

- Nigel Deans, who delivered a lesson to a class of almost 300 fourth-year engineering students



Being part of the Climate Teaching Connector has been a great experience in both educating UBC students and learning from their diverse views. Raising awareness about climate change issues is critical and engaging diverse groups is key. CTC provides this opportunity for which I am grateful for and aim to engage more this coming year.

- Farrukh Chishtie, Rehabilitation Sciences (Faculty of Medicine)



I've gotten to meet other "climate experts" at the university, while also gaining experience in designing and delivering lectures and working with instructors across several wide-ranging disciplines. The questions I received from students challenged me to view my research from diverse perspectives and I was able to think about the implications of my work in ways that I might not otherwise have considered.

- Sara Cannon, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries and the Department of Geography (Faculty of Science and Arts)



Youth Climate Ambassadors Project

Due to Covid-19, the Youth Climate Ambassadors Project (YCAP) program had to put a pause on in-classroom workshops in March 2020. Over the summer, alongside our Partner Organization Be the Change Earth Alliance, the YCAP team adapted our workshop into multiple online versions, which we piloted with Sustainabiliteens groups in June and August. The team also streamlined feedback and workshop evaluation processes, began collecting teacher feedback, and developed our online workshops to make climate justice an overarching theme. The YCAP team grew from four to eight between June and September 2020.

During the UBC Winter Session, the team recruited and trained 26 facilitators to deliver online workshops. Six of these facilitators from the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows area went on to create a spin-off YCAP program in Maple Ridge. The Hub's facilitators delivered our climate justice storytelling workshops to more than 400 students in the Lower Mainland during the school year.

In May, the YCAP team gave the program's first in-person workshops since the pandemic began to a group of 60 students in Stanley Park, along with outdoor games and nature-based experiential

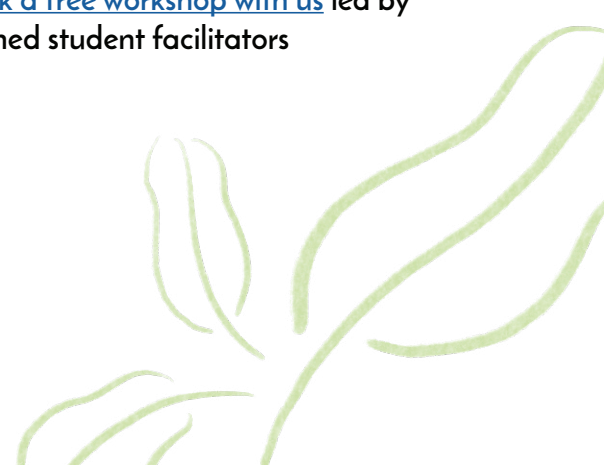
The YCAP team connected with numerous climate organizations and initiatives over the past year, including UBC Sustainability Ambassadors, Ridge Meadows and Okanagan Climate Hubs, Sustainabiliteens, Future Ground Network, and Insight Global Education. In November, we hosted a social media storytelling collaboration with Youth Climate Lab. We connected in the spring with Climate Education Reform BC and the Suzuki Elders to chart the British Columbia climate education landscape and strategize for new and improved YCAP workshops for the future.



Learn more about the
[Youth Climate Ambassadors Project](#)



[Book a free workshop with us](#) led by
trained student facilitators



Climate + Wellbeing

The Climate Wellbeing Engagement Network (CWEN) is a new student-led initiative focusing on developing and connecting students, staff, faculty and the broader community to a network of climate mental health and wellbeing workshops, resources, community engagement, and research and learning opportunities.

In our 2020 pilot year, CWEN collaborated with a variety of UBC departments and groups to facilitate ten climate wellbeing workshops reaching over 500 students, staff, faculty and broader community members. Our workshops created inclusive spaces for validating and creatively exploring climate mental health challenges and building community knowledge about climate change impacts to help shift climate anxiety from paralyzing, doom and gloom narratives towards proactive, hopeful and creative climate momentum.

Over the past year, CWEN also developed 10 climate wellbeing resources and several climate wellbeing toolkits as part of our Climate Wellbeing Series. These resources address: climate mental health and wellbeing, eco-anxiety, climate wellbeing coping strategies, community resilience, heatwaves, forest fires, air pollution, flooding and climate justice.

This work had great community feedback and reach, with several resources added to UBC department websites (e.g. EAOS climate wellbeing website and the official UBC Instagram page with over 1,600 likes).

We also partnered with the British Consulate to Canada for a discussion panel event spotlighting climate activists, experts and youth leaders on issues of Nature, Mental Health and Climate Action. This live webinar event spanned British Columbia, Quebec and the UK with close to 100 live attendees.

As a program, CWEN works to understand climate challenges for BIPOC, marginalized and vulnerable communities. CWEN actively contributes to nurturing community wellbeing and advancing climate justice—core principles of UBC Okanagan Charter, University Climate Change Coalition (UC3), and UBC strategic level plans and policy. It also directly supports the UBC Climate Emergency Report recommendation of supporting community wellbeing in the face of climate crisis.

11
WORKSHOPS

>500
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
REACHED

9
DEPARTMENTS



Community Chats

Community Chats began in Summer 2020 to connect people from disparate corners of the UBC and Vancouver climate communities, and to sustain community-level resilience throughout the pandemic, through diverse and engaging conversations about climate change. Community Chats empower participants to make connections outside of their immediate job or discipline, build networks, share stories from their own lives, and see themselves as part of a larger community.

Through these chats, the Hub engaged more than 100 people throughout the year, including students, staff, faculty, and attendees not affiliated with UBC. Each week's chat had on average 10-15 attendees, and most featured a guest speaker or facilitator from a different climate-related discipline. Community chats serve to help foster new friendships and connections. Spaces like these will be a priority for ongoing community support and engagement by the Hub.

Climate Creative Workshops

Art is an important part of the climate movement because it generates new questions and possibilities, and enables us to imagine and build new worlds. The Climate Creative Workshop Series was piloted in Term 2 this year, which aims to nurture students and community organizers to dream just and resilient futures beyond fossil fuels, mass extinction, policing, segregation and exclusion, and to explore different artistic mediums as creative work of care and movement building. Mediums included filmmaking, creative fiction, poetry and comic-making.

The six 2-hour workshops were led by artists and introduced creative ways to imagine and tell our climate stories, crafting collective artworks through old and new relationships and visions. We received a total of 93 participants across 6 workshops. We are grateful to the following workshop leads:

- Anjalica Solomon
- Avery Holliday
- Dallas Hunt
- Mita Mahato
- Moumy Mbacké
- Samantha Marie Nock
- Tonye Aganaba

Art by Meghan Wise



UBC Climate Emergency

Over July and August 2020, the Climate Hub team provided coordination support for the Climate Emergency Task Force and five working groups involving more than 40 students, staff, and faculty tasked with translating community input into recommended actions. Groups were organized along broad thematic areas aligning with input received during the community engagement phase in spring 2020. Working groups included Beyond Campus, Community Engagement and Wellbeing, Indigenous Engagement, Research, and Teaching and Learning. Each group had representation from the Climate Emergency Task Force, faculty, students, and staff. Each working group was also supported by a member of the Climate Hub team.

In late July 2020, the Climate Hub team facilitated cross-working group dialogue and compiled emerging recommendations to submit to the Task Force for feedback. In August, the Climate Hub team co-drafted the UBC Climate Emergency Report, which the Task Force reviewed in September. Over the fall, the Climate Hub coordinated additional support for the Indigenous Engagement Working Group, which provided additional recommendations and reviewed the report to strengthen its alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The finalized report was reviewed and unanimously endorsed by the UBC Board of Governors in February 2021.

Responding to another call for support from student advocates, in Fall 2020, Climate Hub student leaders and staff engaged with the AMS, GSS, and members of the UBC administration to help mobilize the creation of the Climate Emergency Fund. This fund was further refined and approved in winter 2020. Fund disbursement is being managed by the UBC Sustainability Initiative, with funding recommendations made by students, staff, and faculty members of the Climate Emergency Fund Committee, and approved by the UBC Vancouver Provost and VP Students. As a result, \$1.5 million in funding will support student-facing climate initiatives on the Vancouver campus focused on supporting community wellbeing, engagement and advocacy, and expanding climate education opportunities and resources over 2 years.

Moving forward, the Climate Hub will continue to collaboratively support student leadership and engagement in the implementation of UBC's Climate Emergency Response, and partner to support the inclusion of climate justice lenses in other UBC plans, policies, and initiatives.



Read the [Climate Emergency Final Report and Recommendations](#)



Partnerships

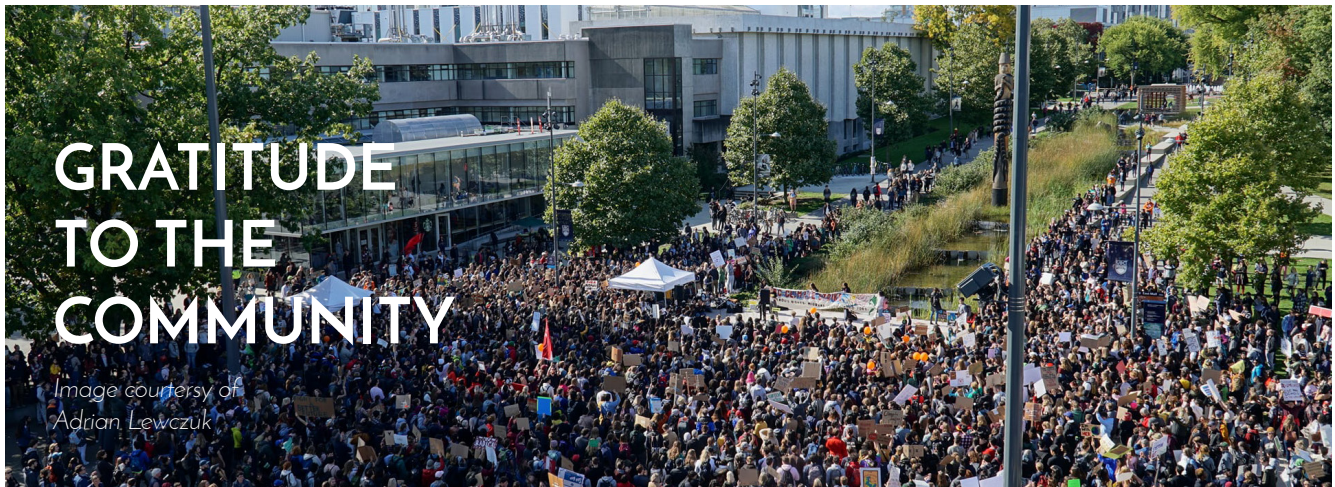
The Climate Hub continues to focus on expanding partnerships between on- and off-campus communities throughout our work. Delivering core projects and events, the Climate Hub collaborated with over 45 organizations and initiatives, including:

- Over 10 on-campus student groups, including UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS), AMS Indigenous Committee, UBC Black Students Union, UBC SCARP Student Society, and more;
- Over 12 on-campus partners, including the UBC Sustainability Initiative, UBC Office of Regional and International Engagement (ORICE), and the SEEDS program;
- Over 24 off-campus organizations and initiatives that deepened existing relationships and generated new collaborations. Some collaborations included Mountain Protectors, Youth4Nature, Youth Climate Lab, and the UK High Commission to Canada.

These partnerships helped us reach new communities, develop meaningful projects, access funding and guest speakers, and create a network to amplify our work.



Graphic by
Andrea Aylesworth



The UBC Climate Hub is beyond grateful for the community that made our work possible this year. We're not a hub without a greater community around us to engage with and learn from. This year was challenging, isolating, and every other descriptor typically applied to the pandemic-- especially for a climate organization, where the nature of our work is so dependent on connections to people and physical place. We're grateful for everyone we could connect with on our migration to the virtual world. This year reinforced for us the importance of resilient community for weathering crises-- the pandemic and climate crisis alike.

Thank you to all our campus partners at UBC. Our partners off-campus are too many to name but include all the organizations listed in this report and more. Special thanks to the brilliant new leaders at the new Ridge Meadows and Okanagan Valley Climate Hubs, both of which we're excited to keep working with in the future.

Thank you to all the mentors and researchers in the Climate Justice Research Collaborative, who added bold and creative works to the climate justice research canon this year.

Thank you to the climate experts who joined the Climate Teaching Connector program and instructors that welcomed them into classrooms, highlighting our conviction that climate change interconnects with everything.

Lastly, thanks to all the individuals who engaged with the Hub's work this year, whether through sharing their knowledge and passion as speakers, or attending our Climate Solutions Showcase, Climate Creatives Series, Wellbeing workshops, or YCAP workshops. Thank you to the folks who shared our work with their networks, and those who tuned in on Instagram Live. Thank you to everyone who joined us in conversation at a weekly community chat. Your support and engagement sustain this group. You are the Hub!

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UBC CLIMATE HUB

Voice
VOLUNTEER
VOTE

Report design by Rachel Cheang