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Climate Action Plan 2020



Welcome! UBC is beginning the process to develop a new Climate Action Plan for the Vancouver Campus.

Over the next 4 months, we will be seeking input from the campus community on what actions we could take to achieve the 2020 climate action target of reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 67 per cent from 2007 levels.

The university has already made significant progress towards achieving the 2015 target of 33 per cent reduction in GHG emissions from 2007 levels, which were set out in the 2010 Climate Action Plan. We are now preparing to lay the groundwork for the next 5 years of reductions to achieve the 2020 target.

As a first step, from **September 14 – 27 we invited the campus community to share their ideas** on how we could reduce our campus GHG emissions, particularly in the areas of:

- energy supply
- energy use in buildings
- UBC-owned vehicles
- individual behaviours

The ideas we receive will help inform the next phase of consultation later this Fall on potential actions UBC could pursue to achieve the 67 per cent target by 2020.

Share Your Ideas:

Our campus community has great capacity for innovation and creativity, please share your ideas on how UBC could continue reducing its GHG emissions.

Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas between September 14 and 27th! The call for ideas is now closed.

Prizes* for top ideas will be awarded in the coming weeks.

If you are interested in sharing your ideas on climate action with us, you may also want to check out the [Global University Climate Forum](#) student call for ideas. *Please note that this is an unrelated process to the UBC Climate Action Plan 2020 online consultation.*

The information included here provides you with [an overview of the challenges and opportunities](#) that lie ahead in creating the UBC Climate Action Plan 2020, [some history on climate action planning at UBC](#), [a summary of the process, timeline](#) and [consultation information](#). We have also included links to [climate change and climate action planning resources](#) that may be of interest to you.

*Top proposals will be awarded prizes, generously donated by FortisBC.



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The 2020 Target

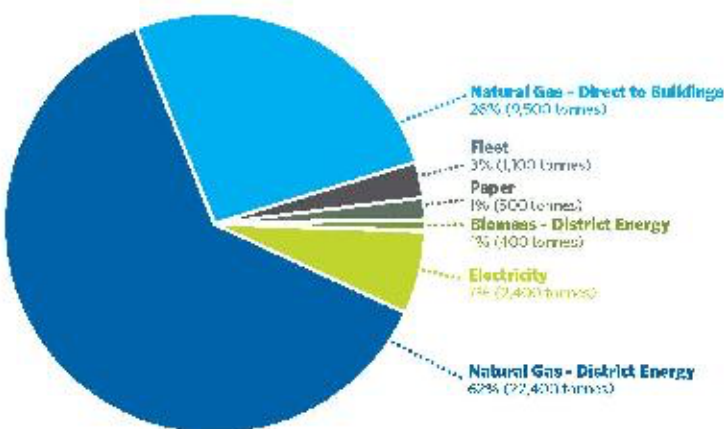
Building on the success of UBC's 2010 Climate Action Plan, we are now developing the Climate Action Plan 2020, which will define actions UBC could take over the next 5 years and beyond to achieve a 67 per cent GHG emissions reduction below 2007 levels.

Where do our current GHG emissions come from?

Here is a quick snapshot of where UBC's current GHG emissions come from. Our emissions are primarily from use of natural gas, electricity and UBC-owned vehicles.

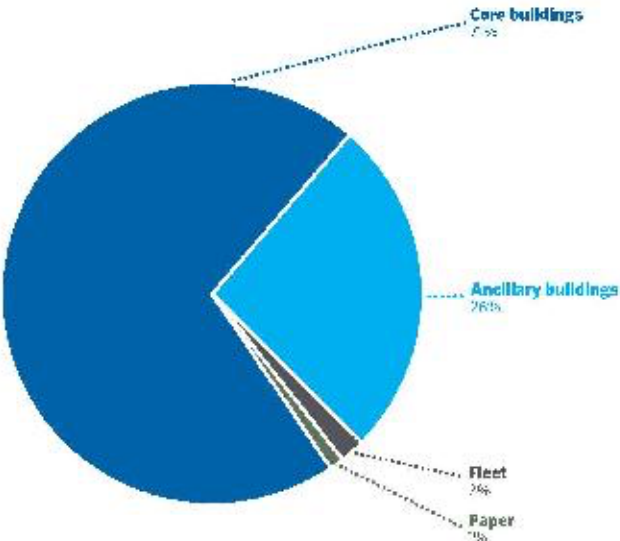
To meet the 67 per cent reduction target by 2020, we will need to increase our energy efficiency and use less fossil and/or non-renewable based fuels to operate the Vancouver campus.

UBC Emissions Sources - 2016 Forecast



Here's how our emissions break down by use. Figure 2 shows the split between emissions produced by core buildings (labs, offices, operations), ancillary buildings (such as student housing, athletics and recreation facilities), UBC-owned vehicles (also called Fleet), and office paper*.

UBC Emissions Sources - 2016

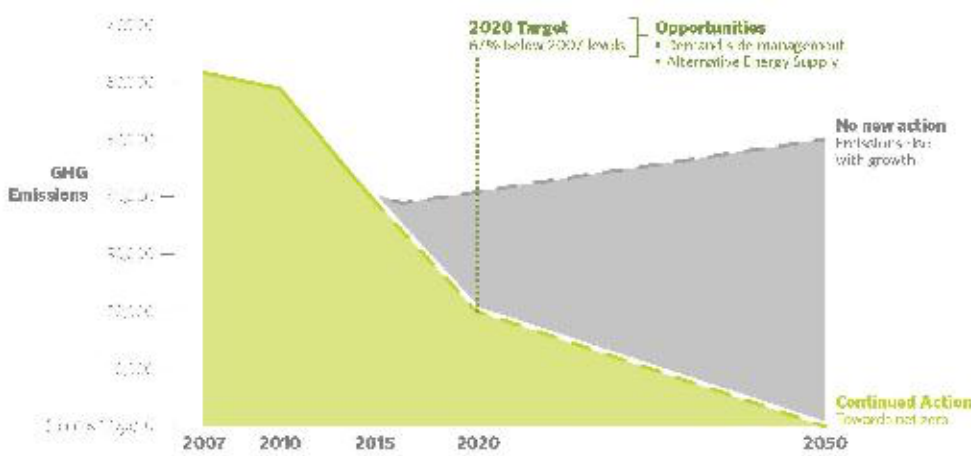


The Status Quo Scenario: Emissions continue to rise

The climate actions already underway are anticipated to reduce UBC's GHG emissions on the Vancouver campus to over 44 per cent below 2007 levels by 2016, exceeding the 2015 target.

The problem is this: if UBC takes no new actions to continue reducing UBC's GHG emissions, they will continue to rise steadily as the campus grows.

UBC CAP 2020 Challenge



To ensure that we continue to reduce our GHG emissions, and meet our 2020 target, further action is needed and four key areas of opportunity have been identified.

**Note: Paper is also included in UBC's emissions profile because the Province requires the University to be accountable for the emissions that result from the paper it purchases.*



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Areas of Opportunity for the Climate Action Plan 2020

To ensure that we continue to reduce our GHG emissions, and meet our 2020 target, further action is needed and four key areas of opportunity have been identified.

- We have identified four key areas where we have an opportunity to further reduce our GHG emissions. They are:
- Energy use in buildings*
 - This includes building design and site location, mechanical systems, equipment, maintenance, operations and occupant behaviour.
 - Energy supply
 - Finding alternatives to fossil fuels or non-renewable fuels used to supply our buildings and District Energy System on campus. Perhaps the largest area of opportunity for reducing GHG emissions is replacing or reducing the amount of natural gas used to heat and operate our buildings, as natural gas accounts for 88 per cent of our total emissions**.
 - UBC-owned vehicles
 - Reducing the amount of fossil fuel used to run UBC-owned vehicles, including research and operational vehicles
 - Individual behaviours – looking at the role individuals play in reducing GHG emissions.
 - Areas on campus that would benefit the most from individual action are:
 - labs (e.g. fume hoods, hot water use, water cooling)
 - offices (e.g. heating, windows, thermostats)
 - student residences (e.g. heating, hot water use)

Interested in learning more about what UBC is currently doing in these areas to reduce GHG emissions? Check out our [resources](#) section!

Why pursue these four key areas?

The Climate Action Plan is focusing on energy use in buildings, energy supply, UBC-owned vehicles, and individuals behaviours because these are areas:

1. that collectively represent the majority of UBC emissions that are reported annually to the Province through the Carbon Neutral Action Report
2. where UBC has the ability to influence and direct reductions through policy, regulation, programs and actions
3. where UBC can achieve long term operational savings
4. where UBC can avoid risks associated with potential increases to energy costs, carbon taxes and offsets

We recognize that there are other areas that can result in GHG emission reductions, such as business travel, commuting, food etc. These are also being considered throughout the climate action planning process.

GHG emissions in these areas will result in significant financial costs to the University if no new actions are taken.

How will we evaluate potential actions UBC could take towards the 2020 target?

- Once all of the potential GHG emission reduction ideas have been collected through the consultation, they will be considered for the Climate Action Plan if they meet a set of robust multi-objective criteria, which include:
- Alignment with existing UBC Policy (e.g. 20-year Sustainability Strategy)
 - Impact on GHG and energy reductions toward achieving targets
 - Economic performance (e.g. business case, cost of energy, operational savings, avoided costs)
 - Acceptable level of risk (e.g. technical, fuel supply, public acceptance, political, health)
 - Within UBC's jurisdiction and control
 - Ease of implementation: affordability, financing, lack of barriers, regulatory approvals required, external dependencies
 - Research and innovation/partnership opportunities
 - Other co-benefits (e.g. impact on reducing water consumption, community building)
- *This includes campus academic buildings, ancillary buildings such as student housing and athletics facilities, but does not include residential neighbourhood buildings. These buildings are addressed within UBC's Community Energy & Emissions Plan.
- **UBC has explored several alternative energy supply options through an Alternative Energy Supply Study. Switching natural gas to electricity was not viewed as a viable alternative since a significant investment in infrastructure for UBC and BC Hydro would be required.



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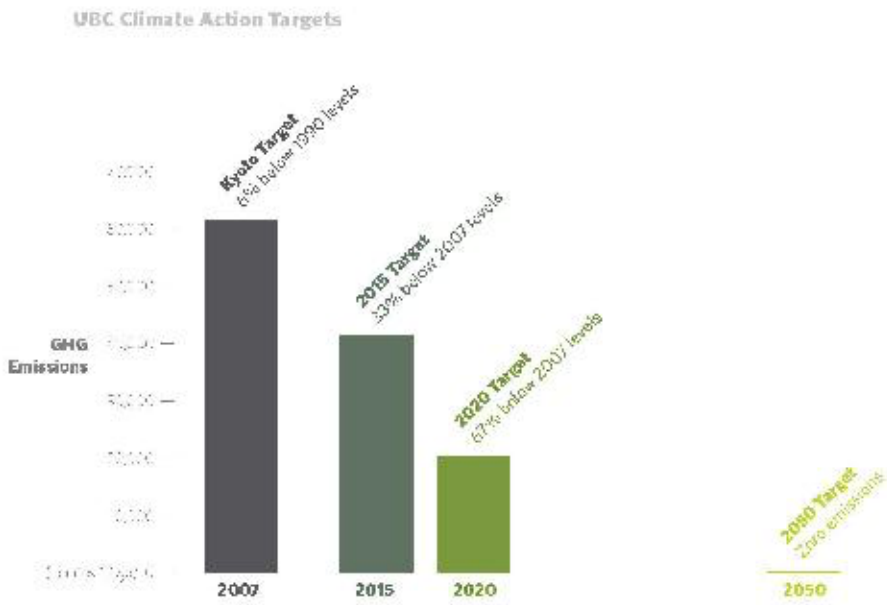
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CAP 2010 Targets + Status

The first climate action target was set in 2010, when UBC committed to bold GHG emission reduction targets that exceed provincial targets, and that are among the most aggressive of the world's top 40 universities.

UBC's 2010 Climate Action Plan set aggressive reduction targets to reduce GHG emissions on campus by 33 per cent in 2015, by 67 per cent in 2020, and 100 per cent by 2050, becoming a net energy producer and zero emission campus.

The University has made significant progress towards achieving the first target. By 2016, we anticipate that the University will have not only met but exceeded the 33 per cent below 2007 levels target.



The forecasted GHG emission reductions achieved since 2010 are largely attributed to three signature projects and changes in how the Province is calculating the emissions for electricity (i.e. changes to emissions from transmission of electricity to UBC, set by the Province). They are:

1. Converting the Academic District Energy System from steam to hot water (= a 22 per cent GHG emission reduction)
2. Building the Bioenergy Research and Demonstration Facility (BRDF), which now generates renewable energy (= a 12 per cent emissions reduction)
3. Optimizing academic building performance and improving behaviour change programs through the Building Tune-Up Program (= a 7 per cent emissions reduction)

What is remarkable about these reductions is that they are being achieved as the campus continues to grow. To date, there has been a 14 per cent increase in floor space and an 11 per cent increase in students since 2007.

For more detail on UBC's annual progress on climate action planning and sustainability see the Carbon Neutral Action Report (CNAR) to the Province and the UBC Annual Sustainability Report.



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The Rationale for Climate Action

UBC is committed to climate action to demonstrate its leadership in research, innovation and learning, avoid and minimize the impacts of climate change, and create long-term sustainable solutions for the University.

UBC’s commitment to climate action is first and foremost about being an exemplary global institution and reducing the environmental effects of climate change locally and globally. There are also compelling financial, sustainability leadership and innovation arguments for pursuing climate action.

The Business Case for Climate Action

As a public institution, UBC is committed to ensuring that our operations are run responsibly and in compliance with provincial legislation on climate action. Under the Provincial Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and the Carbon Tax Act, UBC is required (as are all public sector organizations) to be carbon neutral in our operations. Currently, to achieve carbon neutrality, UBC pays carbon tax and purchases offsets every year for the GHG emissions that remain after our reduction efforts.

There are two aspects to the financial argument for furthering our commitment to climate action:

1. Opportunity for operational savings

Reducing the campus energy consumption not only reduces GHG emissions but also reduces utility bills, as well as the amount of carbon offsets and carbon tax that we are required to pay. Currently, UBC is paying \$55 per tonne of GHG emissions which translates to over \$2.5 million annually in carbon offsets and carbon tax. UBC achieved a 23 per cent reduction from 2012, when UBC paid \$3.25 million in carbon offsets and carbon tax through its continued actions that reduced GHG emissions. Taking action now provides an opportunity to avoid costs and divert funds towards a transition to an energy efficient, zero carbon future. Even though UBC has achieved sizable savings, there is still room to further reduce the amount of carbon offset and carbon tax we are paying.

2. Reduction of the University’s vulnerability to fluctuating fuel and carbon costs

UBC carries a certain amount of risk with fluctuating fuel prices and the potential for changes in carbon costs that could result from future provincial, federal or international carbon legislation, policies and agreements. Reducing the University’s reliance on carbon-based fuels can lessen the potential impact of rising fuel and carbon prices.

Global Leadership and Innovation Opportunities

Responding to climate change also presents UBC with the opportunity to demonstrate our leadership in sustainability, and in the areas of technology innovation, research and partnerships.

UBC continues to be a global leader and example for other campuses of what can be achieved through climate action, and has shown that it is both cost effective and an area that thrives on collaboration and integration between academia and operations.

As a leading research university, UBC is well suited to support innovative thinking to uncover and test solutions that can be applied elsewhere by facilitating partnerships between researchers, government, private enterprise, utilities and funders. In this case, seeking solutions to achieve further GHG emission reductions helps to advance new technology and market transformation.



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History of Climate Action Planning at UBC

UBC has demonstrated its commitment climate action for almost 20 years.

1990s

UBC’s record of operational sustainability success began almost 20 years ago, when it became a commercial green buildings pioneer in 1996 with the C.K. Choi Building for the Institute of Asian Research, our first green building. Soon after, in 1997, UBC became the first university in Canada to adopt a sustainable development policy. Then, in 1998, UBC opened its campus sustainability office.

2000s

In 2007, the Province of British Columbia introduced the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act, requiring all public sector organizations to be carbon neutral in their operations by 2010. In the same year, UBC achieved its Kyoto targets, reducing GHG emissions from academic buildings to six per cent below 1990 levels, despite a 35 per cent growth in floor space and a 48 per cent growth in student numbers.

This early success can be attributed in a large part through the ECOTreck program, a project completed between 2001 and 2008 that involved retrofitting 288 UBC academic buildings to reduce energy and water consumption. The changes made resulted in approximately \$4.5 million in annual cost savings.

In 2008, the Province put a revenue neutral carbon tax in place on all fossil fuels. That same year, UBC became one of six founding signatories to the ‘University and College Presidents’ Climate Statement of Action for Canada’. The statement committed UBC to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce GHG emissions through a collaborative planning process and to set emission reduction targets. The new tax, requirement to be carbon neutral, and the Statement set the stage for the development of UBC’s 2010 Climate Action Plan.

2010

In 2010, the UBC Board of Governors approved UBC’s Climate Action Plan targets, committing UBC to bold emission reduction targets that exceed provincial targets, and that are among the most aggressive of the world’s top 40 universities.

UBC has not only committed to bold plans, policies and guidelines over the past 20 years, but is successfully acting on these plans through strategic projects and ensuring on-going implementation and monitoring of progress to ensure we are on track.

Learn more about the 2010 Climate Action Plan targets and status



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Process + Timeline

The process to develop the Climate Action Plan 2020 began in Summer 2015 and will conclude in Spring 2016.

The process to develop the UBC Climate Action Plan 2020 is taking place in 5 distinct steps with multiple opportunities for input from the campus community.

UBC CAP 2020 Process



Phase 1 – Summer/early Fall 2015 (Review + Innovate)

This first phase of planning includes:

- preliminary technical analysis based on our performance to date
- engaging key staff, researchers, and external collaborators in a series of four idea generating workshops (behaviour change, UBC-owned vehicles, energy supply, and energy use in buildings)
- an early call for proposals to the UBC research community (August-September 2015)
- broader call for ideas to the campus community (September 2015)(**Current phase of planning process*)

Go [here](#) to read the summary report of what we heard during the four workshops.

Phase 2 – Fall 2015/Winter 2016 (Evaluate)

The second phase of planning will include:

- preliminary evaluation of ideas received in Phase 1
- consultation with students, faculty, staff, neighbourhood residents, and external stakeholders on potential actions for consideration (generated in Phase 1).
- further evaluation of potential actions to include in the Plan.

Phase 3 – Winter/Spring 2016 (Integrate + Adopt)

This final phase of planning includes:

- developing a draft Plan
- consultation with students, faculty, staff, neighbourhood residents, and external stakeholders on the draft Plan
- preparation of next draft of the Plan, informed by consultation input
- presentation of draft Plan to UBC Board of Governors for approval (targeting April 2016)
- adoption of UBC Climate Action Plan 2020.

Project Governance

The Climate Action Plan 2020 process is being led by Campus + Community Planning, in collaboration with UBC Energy & Water Services. Staff from both groups sit on the project team and seek guidance from a Steering Committee that includes representatives from the following:

- Campus + Community Planning
- UBC Properties Trust
- Infrastructure Development
- Building Operations
- Energy + Water Services
- Student Housing and Hospitality Services
- Risk Management Services
- UBC Sustainability Initiative
- Treasury
- Faculty
- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS)



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Public Consultation - Submit Your Ideas!

Our campus community has great capacity for innovation and creativity, please share your ideas on how UBC could continue reducing its GHG emissions.

Online Public Call for Ideas – September 14 -27

The public call for ideas is now closed. Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas!

From September 14 - 27th, we asked the campus community for ideas on what actions UBC could take to reduce our GHG emissions from 2007 levels by 67%, particularly around:

- energy supply
- energy use in buildings
- UBC-owned vehicles
- individual behaviours

Proposal and Idea Prize Contest

Thanks to a generous donation of \$3,000 from FortisBC, we are offering prizes to the top proposals and ideas received by September 27th, 2015.

Read the contest rules [here](#).

Learn more about FortisBC's [Energy Savings Tips](#) for universities and colleges.



Other Opportunities to Share Your Climate Action Ideas

If you are interested in sharing your ideas on climate action with us, you may also want to check out the [Global University Climate Forum](#) student call for ideas. Please note that this is an unrelated process to the UBC Climate Action Plan 2020 online consultation

Consultation Process

There will be multiple opportunities to provide your input on the Plan this Fall and Winter. Go [here](#) to learn more about the planning and consultation process.

The Climate Action Plan 2020 consultation incorporates the established Campus + Community Planning [Engagement Principles](#).

Consultation Summary Reports

This summer, we held four workshops with key internal stakeholders and subject matter experts. Here is a summary of what we heard in those workshops.

[Workshop Summary Report](#)

A summary report of ideas received from September 14 - 27th will be posted here later this Fall.

Questions about the Consultation Process?

Please contact Gabrielle Armstrong, Senior Manager, Consultation, at gabrielle.armstrong@ubc.ca or at 604-822-9984.

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [Email](#)

Events

- [Online Consultation- Wesbrook Neighbourhood Design Vision Process](#)
February 4, 2016 - 00:00
- [Public Open House - DP16003 Wesbrook Place Lot 23](#)
February 9, 2016 - 16:30
- [Public Open House- Wesbrook Neighbourhood Design Vision Process](#)
February 11, 2016 - 16:30

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- U-Pass / Compass
- Vancouver Campus Plan eNewsletter
- Forms and Documents
- Campus Maps

campus + community planning

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Consultations + Engagement
C+CP Engagement Principles
UBC Community Conversations
UNA Child Care Needs Survey
Library Garden Design Process
University Boulevard Precinct Planning
Wesbrook Place Design Vision Process
Climate Action Plan 2020
THE 2020 TARGET
AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2020
CAP 2010 TARGETS + STATUS
THE RATIONALE FOR CLIMATE ACTION
HISTORY OF CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AT UBC
PROCESS + TIMELINE
PUBLIC CONSULTATION - SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS!
► CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING RESOURCES
Cellular Radio Frequency Study
Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP)
Current Applications
Projects Under Construction
Completed Projects + Consultations

Climate Change and Climate Action Planning Resources

Here are some additional resources on UBC's current climate action initiatives and studies.

General Climate Change Information Resources:

- BC Provincial Government
- BC Climate Action Toolkit
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Rocky Mountain Institute and AASHE Accelerating Campus Climate Initiatives

General UBC Resources:

- UBC 20 Year Sustainability Strategy: Provides a long-term strategic direction for sustainability at Vancouver campus, including reaching the 2010 CAP targets.
- UBC Climate Action Plan (2010): UBC's climate action vision to 2050 and action plan to meet the 2015 GHG reduction target.
- UBC Vancouver Campus Plan: Provides a cohesive framework for the campus' current and future development and guides decision-making for the next 20 years.
- Annual Sustainability Reports: Provide an overview of sustainability activities and highlight achievements at UBC's Vancouver campus.
- Carbon Neutral Action Reports: Required under the province's carbon neutral regulation, track UBC's actions and progress towards carbon neutrality and achieving the goals of UBC's Climate Action Plan.
- SEEDS Program Library: Digital repository for all SEEDS student reports resulting from collaborations between students, UBC staff and are guided by faculty to produce recommendations that advance sustainability in campus operations. Energy Supply
- Energy and Water Services and UBC Sustain websites provide information on energy supply projects
- Alternative Energy Supply Study: Email climate.assistant@ubc.ca for a copy of the study.
- Energy Conservation Projects: Review energy conservation projects being led by Energy and Water Services.

New Buildings:

- Technical Guidelines: These serve as the code of quality and performance for the design, construction and renovation of University-owned institutional buildings, including LEED Requirements.
- UBC LEED Implementation Guide: Optimizes the LEED process and provides UBC-specific guidance for us to achieve our sustainability goals.
- Also see the UBC Sustain website.

Behaviours

- UBC Sustain Website provides information on programs and resources for students, staff, and faculty members to help us reach our climate and energy goals.



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