



WELCOME

Climate action and sustainability handbook for students



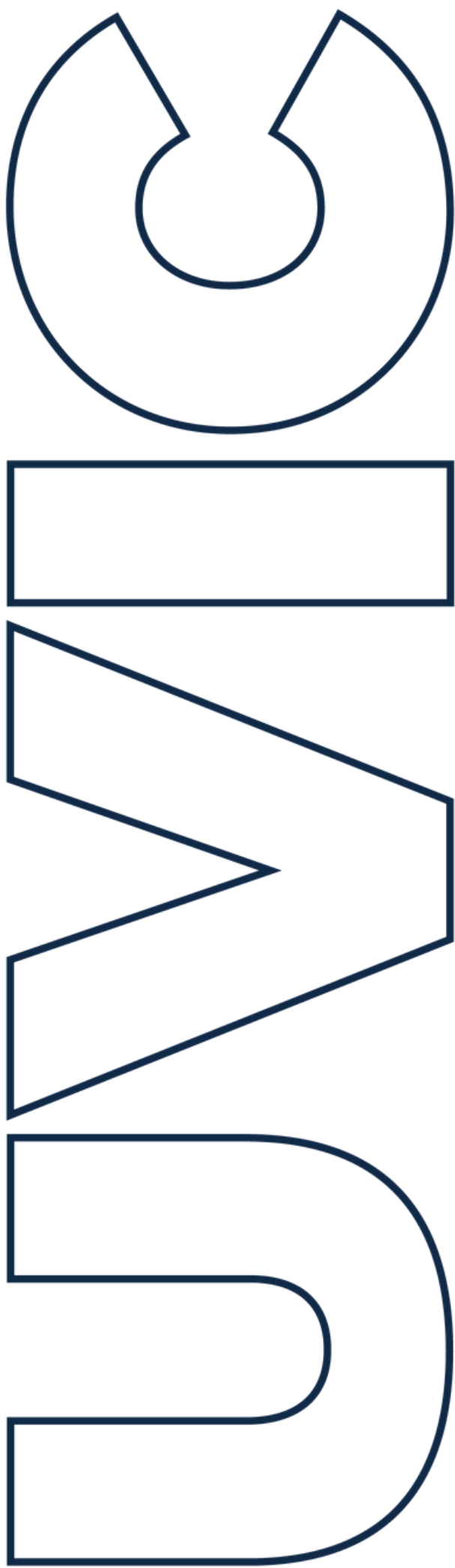
TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xwsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

[View UVic's territory acknowledgment](#)

HELPFUL THINGS

- **UVIC MAPS QR CODE** - Interactive maps to locate water fountains and recycling stations, covered bike facilities, and all-gender washrooms on campus.
- **NEW STUDENT ESSENTIALS** - The New Student Essentials video series is here to introduce you to the space and community you'll join as a UVic student and tell you more about academic and financial supports to help you on your journey.
- **GET YOUR ECO BOX** - Students can now use their student card as well as debit or credit card to borrow Green Eco Boxes (a reusable/returnable food container) for free. A mobile app will be available for students who want to get reminders, see containers outstanding, and track their impact.
- **BIKE RENTAL & STORAGE** - BIKEHUB is an on-campus bike service and storage centre. Also, a place to rent a bike if you need one! uvic.ca/bikehub
- **INDIGENOUS ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** - Here to support all self-identifying Indigenous students - jaceservices@uvic.ca or 250-853-3730.
- **CENTRE FOR ACCESSIBLE LEARNING (CAL)** - Here to support students with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Email [CAL Front Desk](#) or call [250-472-4947](tel:250-472-4947)
- **LGBTQIA2S+ Resources** | **The GENDER EMPOWERMENT CENTRE** | **UVic PRIDE**
- **GET INVOLVED: Sustainability-Focused Clubs and Organizations** | **Work Study Program** | **Co-op Program** | **Sustainability Scholars Program** |
- **GET LOCAL DISCOUNTS** - Use your ONECard at local businesses for deals on everything from groceries to hotel stays.
- **FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS** - are located in washrooms on the first floor of many academic buildings.
- **ALL GENDER WASHROOMS** - are available in many buildings at UVic.



1 In Canada for promoting **INDIGENOUS VISIBILITY** -Maclean's 2022

1 In the CANADA for **CLIMATE ACTION** - 2025 THE Impact Rankings

1 In the CANADA for contributions to **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES** - 2025 THE Impact Rankings



CONTACT US

Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability
University of Victoria, Michael Williams Building
action@uvic.ca
uvic.ca/sustainability



THRIVING OUTDOOR SPACES

UVIC CAMPUS

It is essential to understand **how colonization** has changed the land and how **post-secondary institutions** have **perpetuated colonial systems**, both historically and in contemporary times.

To learn more, please read [Xwkwəṇəṇistəl | W̱CENENISTEL | Helping to move each other forward.](#)

FIND GREEN SPACE ON CAMPUS

- Bowker Creek
- Finnerty Gardens
- Garry Oak & Camas Meadow
- South Woods
- Mystic Vale

BUILDING NAMES

Čeqwəṇín ʔéʔlən (Cheko'nien House) is named after the territory that is now known as **Oak Bay**.

Sṇéqə ʔéʔlən (Sngequ House) is named after a village that is now known as **Cadboro Bay**. The name means "snow patches" in ləkʷəṇən.

INDIGENOUS ART

Banners on campus are the artistic creations of **Margaret August, a Two-Spirited, Coast Salish**, multi-media artist from **shíshálh Nation**.

JOGGING ROUTE MAP

24/7 [SAFEWALK SERVICE](#)
[250 721 7599](#)

BUILDING NAME
PRONOUNCIATION



CLIMATE ACTION ON CAMPUS

The [Climate and Sustainability Action Plan \(2030\)](#) outlines 11 goals with strategies to guide UVic beyond compliance toward climate leadership. It emphasizes greenhouse gas reductions, climate change mitigation and climate resilience through actions that support a sustainable future for the campus and community.

PASSIVE HOUSE TOUR

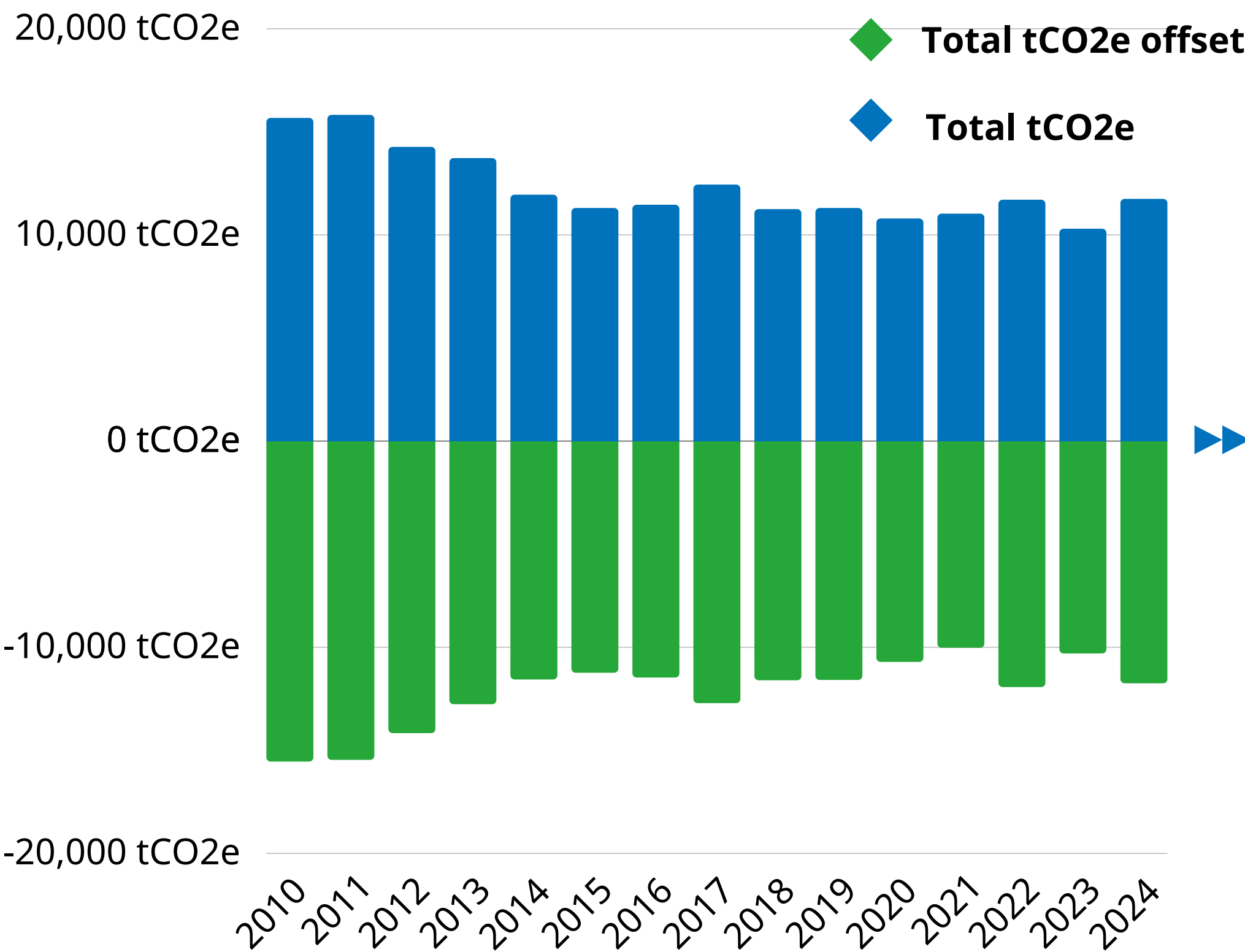
Visit Čeqwəŋín ʔéʔlən (Cheko'nien House) to take a self-guided tour of UVic's Passive House building and see how building design supports emissions reductions.

BIG TARGETS

- 1. 50% EMISSIONS REDUCTION BY 2030
- 2. NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040
- 3. CLIMATE POSITIVE BY 2050



UVIC'S ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY AND OFFSET SUMMARY



Carbon Neutral
OVER \$4.5 MILLION
INVESTED IN CARBON
OFFSETS SINCE 2010.

[READ THE
ANNUAL REPORT](#)

RING ROAD IS A PEOPLE'S PLACE FOR WALKING, CYCLING, LINGERING, & SOCIALIZING.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

GETTING TO CAMPUS

- **Download** the **NEXTRIDE BC Transit Bus App**
- Check out the Capital Regional District **Bike Map** [crd.bc.ca/service/commuting-cycling/bike-maps]
- Try **EVO** and **MODO Carsharing**. Download their apps to learn more. Cars are located by the bookstore.
- **Electric vehicle parking** is available. Visit www.plugshare.com to view EV parking across Canada.
- **Need to drive?** But only some of the time? **The Flex 25** permit bundle is **25 daily single-use** General Parking Permits with no expiry date for **\$150**.

RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

- **Bike Loan Program** through Bike Hub
- **Covered bike parking & shower facilities** [HERE](#)
- **Bike lock rental** at the Library
- **Register your bike** through Campus Security or project529.com/garage



NEED A BIKE?



BIKEHUB

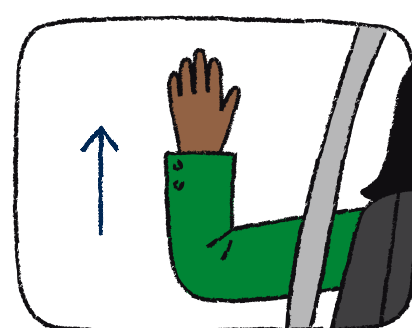
A bike-share program where volunteer mechanics give new life and use to old bikes.
Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
www.uvic.ca/bikehub

WHERE IS BIKE HUB?

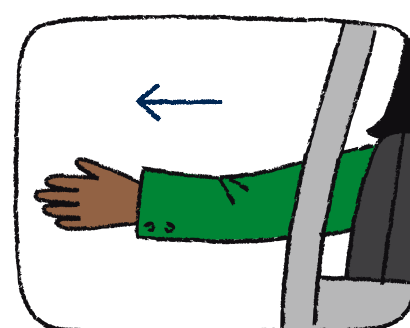
UVic Campus Bike Centre is located in the Jamie Cassels Centre (JCC), the same building as Mystic Market.

Here you can access secure covered bike parking, bike lockers, benches, and UVic's bike loan program through BikeHub.

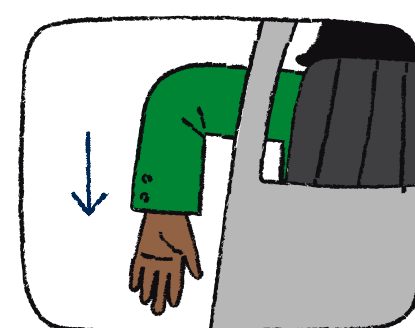
SAFETY FIRST



RIGHT TURN



LEFT TURN



STOP



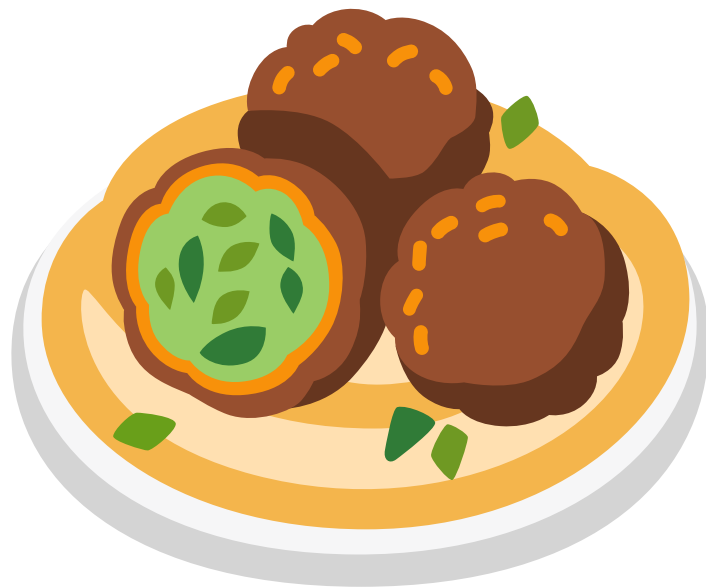
PLANT-FORWARD FOOD BY DESIGN

UVic Food Services follows the Greener by Default food architecture model, where plant-based foods are the default, and diners can opt into meat/dairy options.

DID YOU KNOW

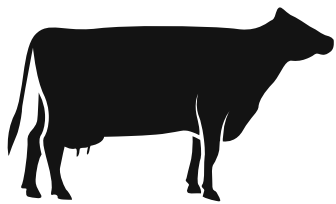
UVic’s dining facilities, including The Cove with its Passive House kitchen, prioritize sustainability through energy-efficient design and plant-forward, low-carbon meals. Campus food options include vegan, vegetarian, halal, and made-without-gluten choices.





FALAFEL BOWL

1.5kg CO2e

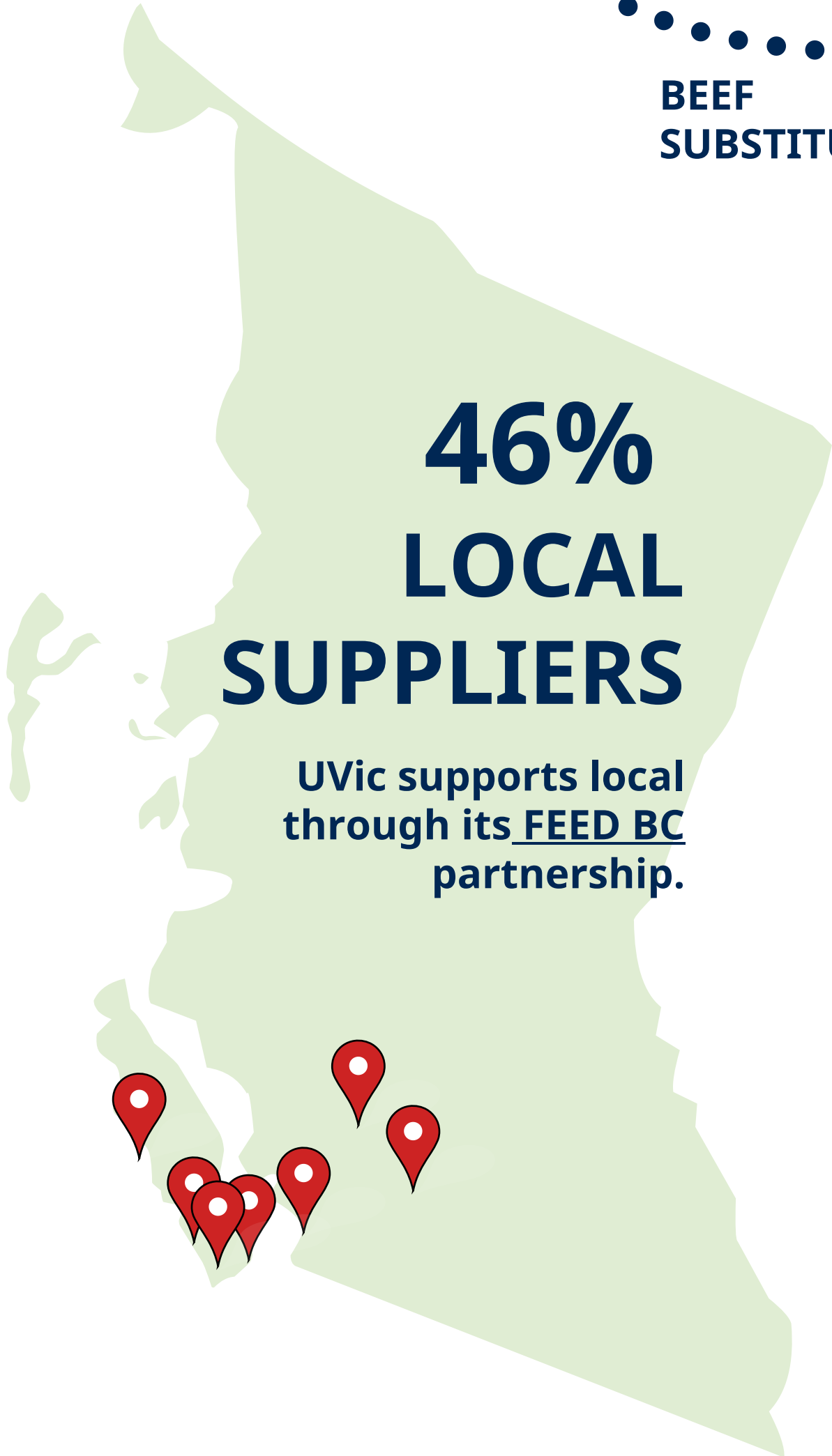


BEEF
SUBSTITUTE

37kg CO2e
(Carbon Dioxide
equivalanet)

46%
LOCAL
SUPPLIERS

UVic supports local through its FEED BC partnership.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

TREAT YOURSELF

UVic is a **FAIRTRADE-CERTIFIED** campus. Enjoy fair-trade coffee, tea, and chocolate almost anywhere on campus.

GET AN ECO BOX

The **ECO BOX** is a **free program** on campus that provides returnable food containers to reduce single-use packaging.

BRING A REUSABLE MUG

Receive **\$0.25 off** any hot/cold beverage when you **bring your own mug** to a UVic Food Services outlet.

RESPONSIBLE WASTE DIVERSION

The first step to becoming a zero-waste campus will be sorting 100% of the waste on campus and diverting it from the Hartland Landfill.



WHAT DOES WASTE DIVERSION MEAN AT UVIC?

- 1. **Performing waste audits** to understand what products are going into our bins. From here, we can work with suppliers and **create policies** to minimize these materials (such as single-use food packaging) from entering campus in the first place.
- 2. **Developing education and opportunities** for staff and employees to **reduce, reuse, and recycle** items **without barriers**.

The Hartland Sanitary Landfill manages waste for the entire Capital Regional District, which includes just over 440 000 people.



SORT-IT-OUT

You will see Sort-it-Out bins throughout campus. **These bins divert rigid plastic, metal, paper, and compost from the Hartland landfill.**

Correctly using the Sort-it-Out bins **reduces our contamination rate** and supports our goal of 82% waste diversion.

LOW WASTE TIPS

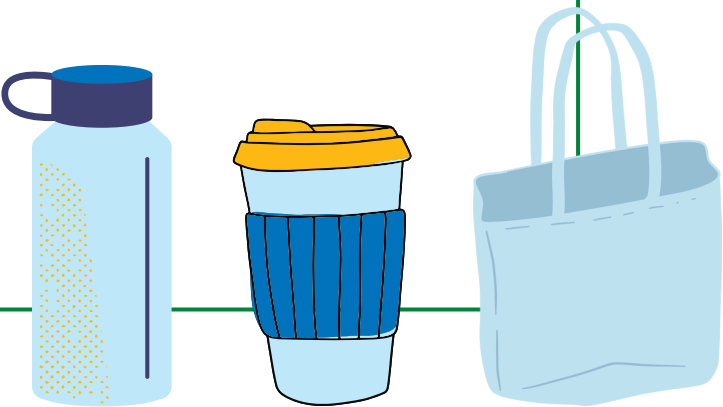
- 1. UTILIZE THE SORT-IT-OUT BINS
- 2. EAT IN OR ENJOY THE ECO BOX PROGRAM
- 3. BRING A REUSABLE MUG
- 4. BRING A WATER BOTTLE
- 5. REMEMBER...THE BLUE BIN IS FOR PAPER!
- 6. THRIFT YOUR OLD CLOTHING

ORANGE BIN IS FOR PLASTIC AND ALUMINUM!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Surfrider UVic Club collected 175 disposable cups and lids from a Sort-it-Out station on campus in 45 minutes. They arranged the cups into their logo (a wave) and are using this art piece to advocate banning single-use packaging on campus.



265 LBS WASTE/PERSON/ YEAR = HARBOUR SEAL

Based on our data, the average campus user produces 265 lbs of waste per year, which is the equivalent to a Harbor Seal.

IMAGINE CARRYING A HARBOR SEAL ON YOUR BACK ALL YEAR.

There are approximately 100 custodians managing 22 000 people's waste on campus. **That is 22 000 harbor seals of weighted waste.** Waste Reduction Services manages all waste and recycling at UVic.

And we are here to help! Please refer to the signage on each bin, and reach out if you have questions. There is a place for everything!



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION ARE LED BY:

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING



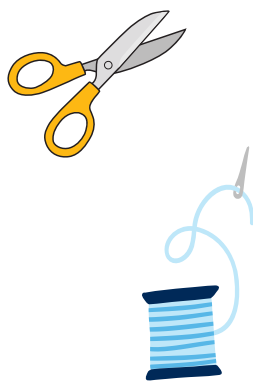
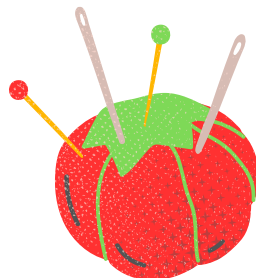
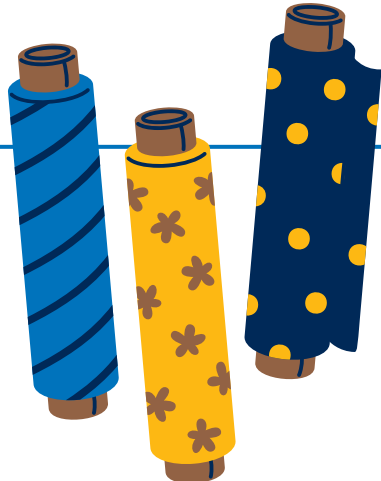
MAKE YOUR CAMPUS SHOPPING AND EVENTS GREENER

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND YOUR STUFF?

Every product has a footprint:
energy, water, labour, waste.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- What is it made of (e.g. organic cotton, linen, recycled polyester)?
- Is it Fair Trade or ethically sourced?
- Is it local?



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE DONE?

- Fix instead of throwing away.
- Donate to campus swap or charity.
- Recycle old hoodies into rags or crafts.



WHERE/HOW IS IT MADE?

- Is it made in factories with fair working conditions?
- Was it made with renewable energy or low water?
- Minimal harsh chemicals?



HOW DOES IT GET HERE?

- Shipped in bulk to reduce packaging and emissions?
- Bought from local brands to cut travel distance?



The less it travels, the better. Fewer trucks, planes, ships = less pollution.

HOW DO YOU USE IT?

- Worn for years, not just one semester.
- Share, swap, or lend to friends.



Buy things that last.
Use them again and again.
Share or swap with friends!

CLOSING THE LOOP

- ✓ Choose reusables over disposables.
- ✓ Look for Fair Trade, local, recycled, or organic labels. Ask staff for help.
- ✓ Ask for reusable and ethically sourced options for clubs and events.
- ✓ Apply for funding to pilot low-waste events.
- ✓ Advocate for more circular options on campus!

PRACTICES AT UVIC

SUPPLIER CODE OF CONDUCT

UVic requires vendors to meet ethical, social, and environmental standards.

ECOVADIS RATINGS

Assesses suppliers' sustainability performance using a global tool—helping them improve.

ZERO WASTE GOALS

UVic has committed to advance itself toward a zero-waste campus.

UVIC BOOKSTORE

UVic's Bookstore offers Canadian-made, recycled, and reusable school supplies, and selecting brands with sustainability goals.

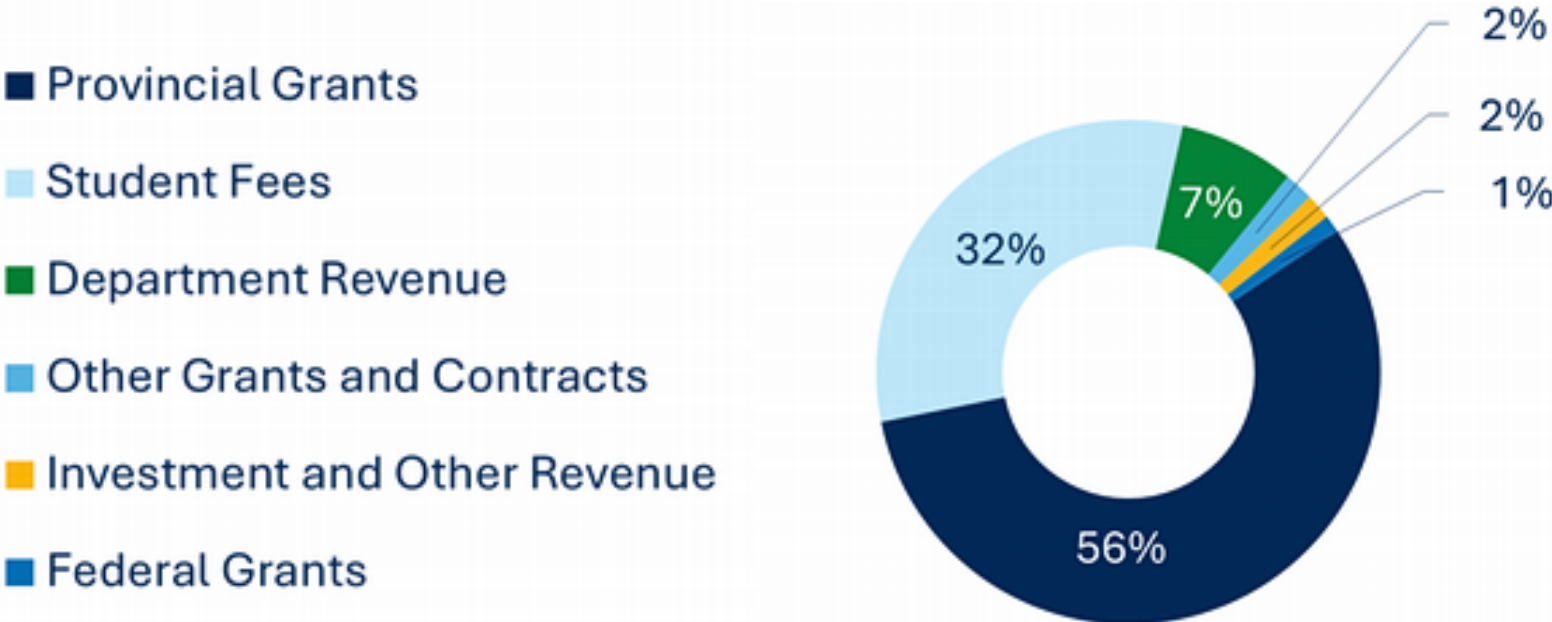
ELECTRONICS PURCHASING

All electronics bought by UVic University Systems are EPEAT-certified, designed to last longer and be easy to recycle.

RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

At UVic, your tuition, the province’s investment, and other university resources support a system that fuels learning, research, and campus life. But what happens between when you pay and when those funds are spent? How does UVic manage its money—and why should responsible investment matter to you?

UVIC’S OPERATING BUDGET: WHO PAYS FOR CAMPUS LIFE?



STUDENT ADVOCACY DRIVES CHANGE

- UVic’s Working Capital Investment Policy and Responsible Investment Policy are public for all to read and review.
- Student campaigns have historically helped shape UVic’s approach to responsible investing.
- Recent changes have resulted in investment policy enhancements, including higher decarbonization and impact investing targets and a commitment to the principles of UN Global Compact.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE DOLLARS?

Tuition & Government Grants Received

Student tuition and government grants arrive at UVic.

Pooled as Working Capital

Funds are pooled as working capital - cash held for operations.

Invested Responsibly

UVic’s Working Capital Investment Policy (FM 5200).

UVic’s Responsible Investment Policy (FM 5215).

Used for University Operations

Funds pay for salaries, classes, scholarships, and campus services.

Remaining Funds Re-Invested

Unspent funds are pooled and invested for short-term safety and yield, overseen by UVic’s treasury team.

*Different pools for endowments, sponsored research, ancillary (residences, food, bookstore) —donation and grant funds are managed separately from student tuition.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **UVic has reduced** the carbon intensity of its working capital carbon intensity by 80% since 2019.
- UVic’s commitment to **impact investing** includes funding for the Indigenous economy, climate technology companies, and UVic’s energy-efficient student housing buildings - Čeqwəŋín ʔéʔlən House and Snéqə ʔéʔlən House.
- **Annual reports** are public - ask questions, get involved!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Connect** with a UVic student group that seeks to drive policy changes.
- **Join in:** Attend open Board of Governors meetings where investment policies are discussed, join advisory groups, and/or participate in student campaigns around responsible investment and social justice.
- **Ask questions:** Reach out to UVic’s Treasury team to discuss investment policies, reports and/or additional updates & priorities.
-

WITH GREAT WATER, COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

WATER CONSERVATION



SHORTEN YOUR SHOWER

Reducing your shower time by **2 minutes** can have a massive impact on not only water use, but energy use too.



SUDS AND SUCH

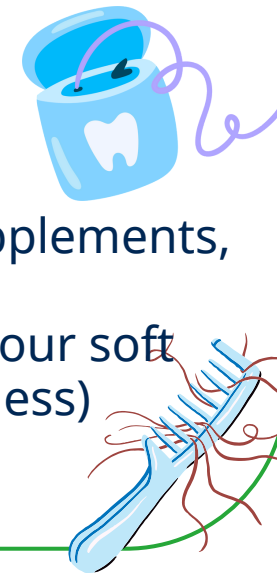
Any products you use on your body gets washed into the drain. Try to use **natural soaps and lotions** to protect your skin and the planet. Bonus points if you check out a **refillery!**



PROTECT THE PIPES

DO NOT FLUSH

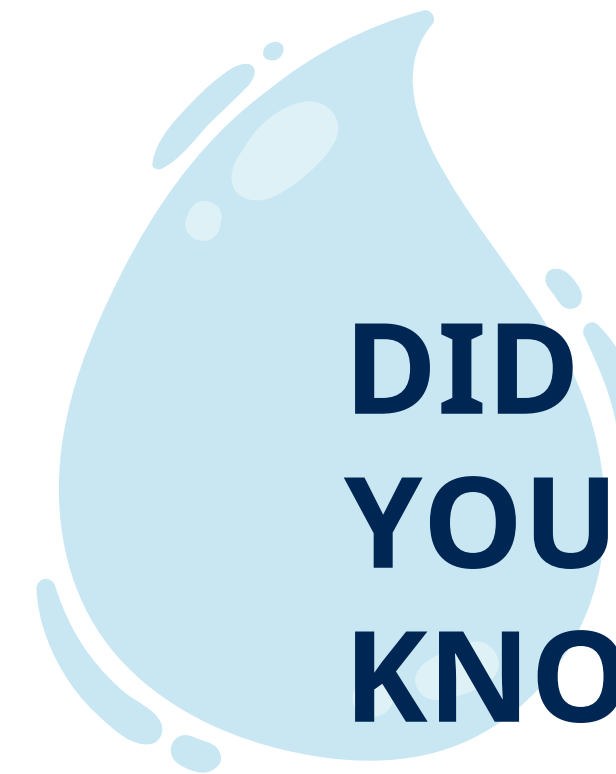
- Floss
- Hair
- Menstrual products
- Medications, herbal supplements, eye drops, or creams
- Too much soap (due to our soft water, we can use 50% less)



WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

Greater Victoria's drinking water comes from Sooke Lake Reservoir.

It is one of the most stable drinking water sources in the Pacific Northwest.



DID YOU KNOW

65% OF INDOOR WATER USE OCCURS IN THE BATHROOM.

- 24% TOILET
- 19% SHOWER
- 19% FAUCET

WHAT IS SOURCE CONTROL?

Pollution prevention from what goes down the drain.



REPORT LEAKS

In 2019, UVic discovered an underground leak that accounted for around 30% of the water usage on campus, the equivalent of approximately 200 million litres of water.



To report a leak call **250-721-7616** or **250-721-7599 (24/7)**