FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT
engaging a sustainable world

SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY ENGAGING THE WORLD

STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 Updated November 2017

2023
Our Roadmap to the Future

As one of a handful of interdisciplinary, environmental Faculties in Canada – and the only one in Western Canada – we currently offer a broad range of world-class educational, research and community-engaged opportunities. Looking forward, this Strategic Plan describes how we will continue to build on our reputation of excellence in the coming years.

Our vision, guiding values, strategic objectives and initiatives lay the groundwork for meaningful projects that both align and advance broader, university-wide plans while defining a way forward for the Faculty and its departments, schools and programs.

The roadmap is a living document. Suggestions are welcome, and may be emailed to the Dean at fenvdean@sfu.ca.

Faculty Snapshot

58 Faculty members engaged in
220 research projects producing
232 peer reviewed publications and
155 other publications giving
354 presentations in 21 countries with
358 media engagements!

$9.4 MILLION IN RESEARCH FUNDING*

* includes estimated funding from Principal Investigators, Co-P.I.’s, etc. for research activities.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in
- Archaeology
- Geography
- Geography Environment Speciality

Bachelor of Environment (BEnv) in
- Resource and Environmental Management
- Sustainable Business (joint major)
- Global Environmental Systems

Bachelor of Science (BSc) in
- Environmental Science
- Physical Geography

Minors in
- Archaeology
- Geography
- Resource and Environmental Management
- Development and Sustainability

Certificates in
- Cultural Resource Management
- Environmental Literacy
- Sustainable Community Development
- Spatial Information Systems
- Urban Studies
- Corporate, Environmental and Social Sustainability (Faculty of Business)

Post Baccalaureate Diploma (PBD) in Sustainable Community Development

Master of Arts (MA) in
- Archaeology
- Geography
- Heritage Resource Management

Master of Science (MSc) in
- Ecological Restoration
- Geography

Master of Resource Management (MRM)

Master of Resource Management Planning (MRM Planning)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in
- Archaeology
- Geography
- Resource and Environmental Management

Certificates in
- Development and Sustainability
- Heritage Resource Management
- Modelling of Complex Social Systems

BEnv is SFU’s newest degree in 22 years...

...and is recognition that the environmental challenges of today demand an interdisciplinary approach to developing solutions. The BEnv does this by providing students with a foundation in earth systems, ecology, biology, the human role in nature, the social and built environments, environmental stewardship and governance, and the global scale.

WE TEACH OVER 3,000 STUDENTS IN OUR FIRST-YEAR COURSES
The Faculty of Environment’s core values support:

► A realistic but positive, hopeful vision of a just and sustainable world
  While genuinely acknowledging environmental challenges, we recognize the power of positive thinking to enact meaningful change.

► An understanding of “environment” that includes diverse processes across both natural landscapes and sustainable human settlements
  “The environment” reflects complex relations between human beings and the natural world in which we are situated. Since that world is more than 50% urbanized, city building is integral to the environmental mission.

► Teaching, learning and research that are innovative, impactful, academically rigorous, collaborative, discipline-based as well as interdisciplinary
  Exemplary educational and research programs provide both deep and broad approaches to impacting positive environmental change.

► Indigenization and community engagement as integral, rather than supplementary to teaching, learning and environmental research
  Engaging Canada’s indigenous origins as well as other diverse community relationships is integral to our mission.

► An experience that is rewarding and inspiring to students, staff, faculty, alumni, sponsors and community members
  Education is life-affirming. Sharing the joy of learning across all Faculty of Environment communities is how we define the academic experience.

► The promotion of social and environmental justice, equity, care, respect and well-being at all levels, from hiring practices to research engagement
  As an institution of higher learning, our goal is to promote an ethic of virtue and moral integrity at all levels.
The Faculty of Environment’s Strategic Plan rests on the following strategic objectives:

1. **Enhancing Student Experience**
   We are here first and foremost to support our students, each of whom deserve a rewarding set of opportunities at all levels of their learning experience. We enhance the student learning experience through environmental teaching and learning.

2. **Supporting Research & Innovation**
   The joy of discovery and change happens only through high-integrity research. We support world-class, leading edge environmental innovation and research excellence.

3. **Engaging Communities**
   More than supporting ivory tower thinking, the Faculty of Environment strives to make meaningful environmental changes regionally, nationally, and internationally in close collaboration with community partners. We engage the community in a meaningful and mutually supportive manner.

4. **Diversity and Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
   The Faculty of Environment aims to advance diversity, tolerance and respect for multiple voices, acknowledging that meaningful, interdisciplinary environmental dialogue is required to address “wicked” environmental problems from a range of perspectives. We support diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration.

5. **Optimizing Operational Management**
   Delivering educational opportunities in a way that is fiscally responsible, efficient, and judicious is central to our publicly funded institution. We optimize operational management of the faculty.
1. **Enhance the student experience through advancing teaching and learning**
   - Continue to improve academic quality of curriculum
   - Expand tri-campus offerings at Surrey and downtown campuses
   - Improve student life, learning and success
   - Improve recruitment and retention
   - Advance student career opportunities

Photo of co-operative education student Sarah Carlson working in the community of Campbell River on a water conservation project. Sarah and partners are building awareness about different initiatives and how community members can participate.

2. **Support world-class, leading edge innovation and research excellence**
   - Enhance innovative research opportunities across multiple disciplines and departments
   - Provide strategic support for high-quality, discipline-based as well as interdisciplinary research grant applications
   - Update Faculty-wide, strategic research plans annually

Photo of geography professor Jeremy Venditti’s field work excursion on erosion and sedimentation processes in river channels.
3. **Engage the community in a meaningful and mutually supportive manner**
   - Respond to major community-based research priorities
   - Include community partners to help guide the development of the Faculty of Environment
   - Strategically communicate Faculty of Environment activities
   - Sponsor high-profile community events
   - Provide continuing education in Environment

One of the public presentations in our Octopus’s Garden Free Public Talk and Discussion Series on Preparing for Sea Level Rise.

4. **Enhance respect for diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration**
   - Facilitate joint appointments, where appropriate
   - Develop new international cultural exchanges
   - Support diversity training for faculty and staff
   - Support gender equity across all units
   - Organize collective social events for faculty, students and staff

5. **Operationalize management of the faculty**
   - Develop new sources of income through specialty, professional graduate programs and continuing education
   - Work with the Provost to address budgetary shortfalls
   - Engage with donors to reach $2M+ annual goal
   - Carefully build and justify Faculty Renewal Plan
   - Optimize space quality and use
Cover photo of students taken during EVSC 491 field trip to Fraser River.