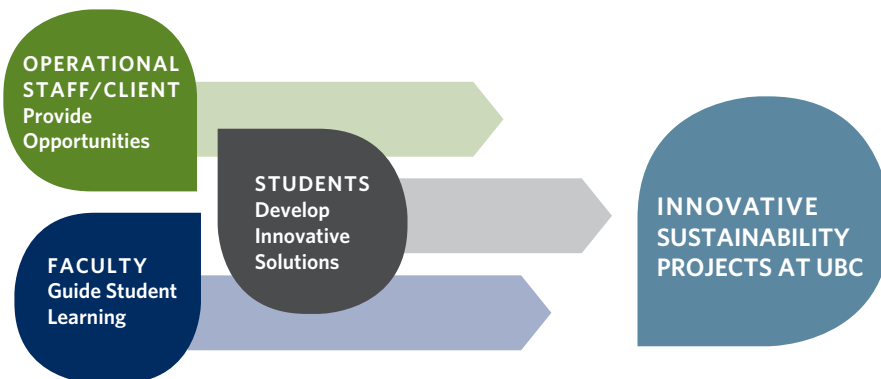




Enabling innovative sustainability research projects by creating partnerships between students, faculty and staff



Since 2001, the SEEDS Sustainability Program has advanced sustainability at UBC and beyond by creating partnerships between students, faculty, and staff on innovative and impactful research projects.

Research projects give student participants the opportunity to put research into practice, develop professional skills, gain firsthand work experience, and contribute to real change.

Core benefits of the program include collaborations across units on campus, development of career capital through experiential learning, and measurable and innovative outcomes for operations on campus and beyond.

## By the numbers

Since 2001, SEEDS has engaged:

- **7,500 students**
- **240 faculty**
- **460 operational clients**
- **12 faculties**
- **190 courses**
- **900+ sustainability projects**
- **1500+ reports**
- **23 sustainability plans**

## All projects result in the following deliverables

- Report
- Presentation
- Applications  
(e.g. conceptual designs, demonstration, full build, installation, prototypes, videos etc.)



## What projects look like

- Biodiversity inventory
- Climate Action Plan engagement strategy
- Composting audit
- Food waste recovery partnerships
- Human-powered charging station
- Main Mall hammock poetry installation
- Million-dollar Sustainability Revolving Fund
- Real time energy dashboard

## Projects are diverse

Projects can be as small as a course assignment or as large as a graduate thesis

Art installations, assessments, critical analyses, evaluations, interactive maps, policy development, prototypes, surveys, and more



## SEEDS is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in North American universities

Building on the theme of Campus as a Living Laboratory, SEEDS helps unite campus operations and academics to find collaborative solutions to real-life sustainability issues on campus. The SEEDS Program employs a variety of approaches and methods to enable collaborative and applied action-orientated learning.

The program builds upon the pedagogical foundations of: Participatory Action Research, Community-Based Action Research, Radical Incrementalism, Community Service-Learning, Experiential Education, Case Study, Best Practices and Volunteer Management in all stages of the process (i.e. planning, establishing, managing, evaluating).

### Our goals

The SEEDS Sustainability Program is embedded in campus planning, directly supporting the University's strategies, operational plans and international commitments. Specifically, the Program seeks to:

1. Achieve university and department-level goals in environmental and social sustainability.
2. Develop strategies that will achieve the University's environmental and social sustainability goals in 15 thematic areas, including: climate, energy, water, waste, land, food, transportation, community, finance, buildings, materials, biodiversity, procurement, health, and wellbeing.
3. Enrich the student learning experience through providing opportunities for applied learning in sustainability.
4. Integrate operational and academic efforts in sustainability through projects and partnerships.

### Program impacts

#### Academic and community partnerships

SEEDS formalizes strategic partnerships with UBC faculties and schools as well as community partners to support shared interests in sustainability.

#### Project implementation

The outcomes of the majority of SEEDS projects get implemented or influence decision making around ecological, social and economic sustainability on campus

#### Benefits

- **Students:** Earn course credit, put research into practice, develop professional skills, and contribute to advancing sustainability;
- **Faculty members:** Provide students with authentic, hands-on learning experiences, and integrate real-world sustainability challenges into the classroom;
- **Operational staff and community partners:** Engage faculty and student expertise for their sustainability projects and challenges, tap into academic creativity, mentor students, and collaborate with other departments.

### Sustainability Themes



### Global and local recognition

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)

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