



# **20-Year Sustainability** vision and goals

**SFU**

# SFU's 20-Year Sustainability Vision

**SFU has embraced sustainability as a core value**

**SFU is globally recognized as a leading post-secondary institution for sustainability**

**SFU graduates and community members are sustainability literate**

**SFU is a safe, inclusive, diverse, equitable, and healthy campus community**

**SFU is a true part of the communities in which it is located**

**SFU's academic programs, research and operations recognize the bounds of our planet**

*For further information refer to the extended sustainability vision on page 4.*

# SFU's 20-Year Sustainability Goals

<p>SFU cultivates a strong sense of community, institutional spirit, and pride.</p>	<p>SFU is globally recognized as the leading post-secondary institution in sustainability research, learning, innovation, outreach and practice.</p>	<p>SFU graduates leave the University sustainability literate and equipped with a deep understanding of how to integrate sustainability into their day-to-day lives and work.</p>	<p>SFU has an interdisciplinary program to better enable campus infrastructure and operations to be living environments in which interdisciplinary learning, applied research and practical work can advance sustainability and resiliency on campus and beyond.</p>
<p>SFU is a truly engaged university, pursuing research and innovation that is of practical concern to its various communities.</p>	<p>SFU students, staff and faculty are exposed to, and have gained a respect for, diverse forms of knowledge, as well as an understanding of sustainability from a holistic and inclusive perspective.</p>	<p>SFU collaborates in a meaningful and lasting way with Aboriginal peoples, communities and organizations.</p>	<p>SFU provides its community with opportunities for engagement and involvement in its long-term planning and prioritization.</p>
<p>SFU's administrative and financial management practices reflect its sustainability values.</p>	<p>SFU is known for placing value on the health and well-being of its community.</p>	<p>SFU is an inclusive institution that works to break down all forms of systematic injustice.</p>	<p>SFU is at the leading edge of making higher education accessible to any person regardless of income, geography or cultural background.</p>
<p>SFU employees are provided with a fair and equitable income.</p>	<p>SFU establishes and maintains abundant public green spaces and protects local biodiversity.</p>	<p>SFU contributes to a vibrant and resilient local food system on campus and within the region.</p>	<p>SFU's procurement decisions contribute to the resilience and regeneration of local and global communities.</p>
<p>100% of SFU's energy is sourced from renewable sources.</p>	<p>SFU is a Zero Waste University.</p>	<p>SFU is a model institution for sustainable and low impact water use.</p>	<p>SFU adopts and advocates for safe, convenient, affordable, accessible, and low carbon transportation and travel.</p>

For further information refer to the extended sustainability goals on pages 5 to 7.

## SFU's 20-Year Sustainability Vision

In twenty years,

**SFU has embraced sustainability as a core value** by recognizing that its institutional responsibility extends beyond its boundaries to include the social, economic and ecological sustainability of its campuses and the communities in which they operate. All SFU community members contribute to this core value in a meaningful way.

**SFU is globally recognized as a leading post-secondary institution for sustainability** research, learning and innovation, attracting leaders and change-makers from around the world to its campuses.

**SFU graduates and community members are sustainability literate** and feel empowered to integrate sustainability into all aspects of their lives, work and communities.

**SFU is a safe, inclusive, diverse, equitable, and healthy campus community** where its people, programs, practices, and spaces foster wellbeing and a sense of belonging among students, staff and faculty.

**SFU is a true part of the communities in which it is located.** The University and the community build partnerships to identify research problems, develop research studies and create learning opportunities together. SFU has strong embedded university-community relationships which contribute to community resilience.

**SFU's academic programs, research and operations recognize the bounds of our planet,** its finite resources, ecosystems and our embeddedness within these ecosystems. Our decisions are made with future generations in mind.



# SFU's 20-Year Sustainability Goals

The following goals were developed through a six-month community engagement process open to all SFU community members across all three campuses. The goals were refined post community engagement by filtering them for relevance, impact and precedent based on the 2013-2016 Sustainability Strategic Plan, SFU's Strategic Vision, the plans that make up the University Planning Framework, applicable policies and University commitments (e.g. Sustainability Policy GP38) and on international, national, provincial, regional, municipal and SFU targets, and Key Performance Indicators (KPI). As a whole, the goals reflect the broad and holistic definition of sustainability as encompassing social, economic and ecological sustainability. They also reflect the recognition that sustainability is inherently systems-thinking and requires a system-wide approach.

**1. SFU cultivates a strong sense of community, institutional spirit, and pride.**

SFU embraces diversity, celebrates culture and creativity and fosters a sense of belonging. Through a positive and supportive institutional culture, and opportunities for involvement, engagement and meaningful social connection, the SFU community shares, interacts and fosters unique lifelong relationships to create a thriving and healthy community. The SFU community shares a common bond and sense of pride in their affiliation with the University.

**2. SFU is globally recognized as the leading post-secondary institution in sustainability research, learning, innovation, outreach and practice.**

Prospective students and faculty from all over the world actively choose SFU as their destination for academic, research and operational excellence in sustainability. SFU partners with other post-secondary institutions to move forward sustainability excellence in institutions, the region and the globe.

**3. SFU graduates leave the University sustainability literate and equipped with a deep understanding of how to integrate sustainability into their day-to-day lives and work.**

All students at SFU have an opportunity to learn, explore and apply sustainability principles through their programs and courses. Students are exposed to opportunities to explore such principles in their academic and extracurricular work.

**4. SFU has an interdisciplinary program to better enable campus infrastructure and operations to be living environments in which interdisciplinary learning, applied research and practical work can advance sustainability and resiliency on campus and beyond.**

SFU's three campuses are living laboratories where the community learns, explores and puts to the test advances in sustainability and resilience in the built, natural, social, economic, cultural, academic, organizational, and learning environments. Through grants and scholarships, SFU fuels this advancement and encourages its students to actively participate in making their campus and community more sustainable and resilient.

**5. SFU is a truly engaged university, pursuing research and innovation that is of practical concern to its various communities.**

SFU is an open and inclusive university whose foundation is built on intellectual and academic freedom. SFU fully embraces the value of community-directed research and learning, transforming us into a community partner that pursues projects that are of direct benefit to the community. Through mutual learning, the university fuels transformative ideas, research and innovation for the benefit of local and global communities.

**6. SFU students, staff and faculty are exposed to, and have gained a respect for, diverse forms of knowledge, as well as an understanding of sustainability from a holistic and inclusive perspective.**

SFU fosters a culture of inclusion and mutual respect, and celebrates the diversity reflected among its students, staff, faculty, and other community members. This diversity in experience, culture and ways of knowing is integrated into our definition and application of sustainability at SFU.

**7. SFU collaborates in a meaningful and lasting way with Aboriginal peoples, communities and organizations.**

SFU's campuses are widely understood to be situated on the unceded territories of Coast Salish Nations. SFU engages with Aboriginal communities to contribute to their social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing. SFU's academic programming and research respects and reflects Aboriginal peoples' values and traditions.

**8. SFU provides its community with opportunities for engagement and involvement in its long-term planning and prioritization.**

SFU engages and invites input from its community through various forums on the long-term plans for the University. In doing so, SFU cultivates a strong sense of institutional spirit and pride in the current and future SFU. SFU's academic programs, research and campuses will proudly reflect the collaborative input of its community.

**9. SFU's administrative and financial management practices reflect its sustainability values.**

SFU administers itself and manages its finances in a manner that reflects the University's sustainability values. All of SFU's administrative and financial management practices align with its institutional and community values.

**10. SFU is known for placing value on the health\* and well-being of its community.**

SFU recognizes the importance of individual and community well-being as a core element of higher education. SFU embeds a consideration for well-being within programs, practices and spaces. It provides a range of opportunities to foster a positive, supportive learning and organizational environment and to enhance individuals' capacity for well-being. Through collaboration and action locally and globally, SFU also contributes to the health and well-being of wider society.

*\*According to the World Health Organization, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Visit WHO's website for more information.*

**11. SFU is an inclusive institution that works to break down all forms of systemic injustice.**

SFU has a strong culture of inclusion and mutual respect. It celebrates diversity and opposes all forms of systemic injustice by recognizing the connections among social categorizations, including ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental and physical ability, socioeconomic status, and age. SFU is a safe space for all its community members.

**12. SFU is at the leading edge of making higher education accessible to any person regardless of income, geography or cultural background.**

SFU advocates for greater value to be placed on higher education to the provincial and national government to improve affordability and accessibility. SFU has significantly reduced systemic barriers to obtaining higher education for the least represented groups.

**13. SFU employees are provided with a fair and equitable income.**

SFU ensures that its workers earn sustainable compensation. Poverty, or the inability of current generations to meet their needs, is a sustainability challenge even in highly developed countries. By providing employees with wages and benefits that meet basic needs, a university enfranchises its entire workforce so that each individual can contribute positively and productively to the community.

*Visit the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating Systems™ (STARS®) website for more information on why this goal is included.*

**14. SFU establishes and maintains abundant public green spaces and protects local biodiversity.**

SFU campuses are part of a thriving local ecosystem, where green spaces provide an array of benefits to the institution, community and environment. There are spaces where the community can convene, and natural systems for storm water management, water filtration biodiversity and food production can thrive.

**15. SFU contributes to a vibrant and resilient local food system on campus and within the region.**

SFU students, faculty and staff have ready access to healthy, low-impact, seasonal, local, culturally appropriate, and affordable food. SFU community members have the opportunity to contribute to the growing, processing and distribution of their own food as well as food for the communities where its campuses are embedded. SFU, its people and its communities are considered food secure.

**16. SFU's procurement decisions contribute to the resilience and regeneration of local and global communities.**

SFU's procurement decisions will be ethical and adhere to the highest standards through a life cycle assessment. Purchases of all goods, services and infrastructure are made with the intent to achieve the highest possible positive impact on the environment, people and local economy.

**17. 100% of SFU's energy is sourced from renewable sources.**

SFU is at the forefront of the transition to a low-carbon economy where 100% of its energy is sourced from local renewable sources, the majority of which are on-site renewables. SFU incorporates on-site energy production into its infrastructure development and renewal. The advancement of renewable energy technology and distribution systems is a key research and learning priority for the University.

**18. SFU is a Zero Waste University.**

SFU recognizes the bounds of our planet and its finite resources and ecosystems. SFU's operational and consumer waste is reduced through behavioral change, institutional infrastructure and processes. SFU strives to eliminate all waste generation; if waste is produced, its disposal and recovery adheres to zero waste standards.\*

*\* SFU adheres to the Zero Waste International Alliance's definition of 'Zero Waste', in which a minimum of 90% of all solid waste is diverted from the landfill, and products and processes are designed and managed to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, as well as conserve and recover all resources. For more information, please visit Zero Waste International Alliance's website.*

**19. SFU is a model institution for sustainable and low impact water use.**

At SFU, water is treated as a precious resource, not a waste product. The University protects its water quality and conserves water through infrastructural and behavioral modification. SFU maintains a natural system for stormwater management together with a system for wastewater management.

**20. SFU adopts and advocates for safe, convenient, affordable, accessible, and low carbon transportation and travel.**

SFU has a strong transportation infrastructure and support system which encourages low-carbon modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, carpooling, and public transportation. SFU works with all levels of government to increase capacity, accessibility, efficiency, and affordability of these modes of transportation.



**Appendix A Plans and Commitments that Inform and Contribute to the Achievement of the Sustainability Vision and Goals**

<b>Document Titles</b>
SFU Strategic Vision
Sustainability Policy (GP 38)
SFU's Sustainability Strategic Plan (2013 – 2016)
Strategic Research Plan 2016 - 2020
Academic Plan (2013 – 2018)
SFU Innovates
SFU's Community Engagement Strategy
SFU's Vision for a Healthy Campus Community
University Energy Utilization Policy (GP 43)
Responsible Investment Policy (B10.16)
Ethical Procurement Policy (AD11.21)
Human Rights Policy (GP 18)
Aboriginal Strategic Plan (2013 – 2018)
Okanagan Charter
No Discrimination Policy (AD 9.14)
President's Goals and Objectives 2016 – 2017
Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEMP)
Zero Waste Initiative
Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) – Version 2.0
UN Sustainable Development Goals