

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of Victoria is well known throughout Canada for its Environmental reputation. It has recently gone beyond the traditional ways of environmental protection through student led Common Energy group. The content of this paper explores the role the University of Victoria (UVic) has in making the university and all the other universities in the Province of British Columbia go “green”. UVic is located in a remote natural landscape that is one of the most beautiful in Canada. The environment plays a key role in the establishment of the university. The conditions are perfect for integrating human landscapes with natural landscapes. The main focus of this paper is how student led participatory initiatives have led to the innovation and futuristic model of the perfect socially and environmentally friendly universities in the world. Through various stakeholders, including; the faculty, administration and students sustainability is being practiced and actualized in every day life. The campus sustainability office supplements the student clubs in their initiatives to make the university social-ecologically sustainable. The role of participation by community members also adds a unique expertise involved in the “greening” of the campus. The conclusion of this integrated, participatory manner of harmonizing the campus with nature has led to global innovation that has significant positive effects for communities in British Columbia and around the world, and is particularly relevant to Africa. This report proposes that UVic has been a leader in making their campus and community more socio-ecological sustainable. It is well know for its capacity for quality Community Based Research in the fields of sustainable development. It has become a broker for talent and knowledge in this innovative field of research.

The BC Campus Climate Network was created to help support and connect educational institutions with community based organizations to allocate their resources and facilitate climate solutions into their local communities. The network can empower people, organizations and institutions to go beyond carbon neutral. The networks fundamental role is to coordinate campus sustainability groups to share ideas and knowledge across the province and entire country. Its main goal is to build comprehensive climate solutions with all the community partnerships and students in their region. It can provide a wide network of information that was previous compartmentalized behind closed doors. This network opens the doors for collaborative planning and consultation of all stakeholders, organizations and government representatives. This can be used in decision making and strategic planning for crafting targets and outcomes that appeal to everyone. The people and organization need to be flexible as there is a lot of information translated up and down organizational hierarchies. Communication transfer is the biggest barrier to a collaborative planning and comprehended consultation process. The network aims to create direct outreach to all unions, faculties and organizations, on the ground campaigns, forums, workshops and conferences. This implies a holistic, participatory approach to making post-secondary institutions more socially and ecologically sustainable for current and future generations.