



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

Climate Action Plan

2025 • 2030





Acknowledgment of Traditional Lands

Royal Roads University acknowledges that its campus is located on the traditional Lands of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

With gratitude, we live, work and learn here where the past, present, and future of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty and staff come together.

In honour of the Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) and Lekwungen (Songhees) ancestors, Hay'sxw'qa si'em (hy-sh-kwa sea-em)! This means, "Thank you, respected or honourable one."

Climate Action Plan 2025-30

Royal Roads University's Climate Action Plan 2025 – 2030 sets out a pathway for the university's climate action over the next five years. This new plan builds on the previous **Climate Action Plan 2022 – 27** and maintains its alignment with the RRU's core values and its vision of ***Inspiring people with the courage to transform the world.***

Through the previous *Climate Action Plan*, RRU advanced climate action through various avenues. Highlights include increasing climate education, skills, and competencies; increasing awareness and engagement through events and initiatives; constructing the new Langford campus to Zero Carbon Building – Design Standard™; increasing understanding of Scope 3 emissions as part of the UN Race to Zero pledge; and undertaking the university's first Climate Risk Assessment. The university increased the number of sustainability and climate-related courses and programs, ensuring greater access to life changing learning and rapid upskilling for working professionals¹.

This plan also renews and refocuses the university's commitment to leadership within its current local and global context. Dramatic change is needed to repair our relationships to the planet and one another. Mitigation and adaptation actions must be combined to build resilience and tackle the current and future impacts of climate change. As a university, our actions are grounded in evidence, relationships, and critical dialogue. This plan outlines goals and actions in addressing the climate crisis as part of the university's broader role in society, and our responsibility to future generations.

This Climate Action Plan leverages the positive impacts that research and education can have on the world. Royal Roads' students, researchers and alumni are well positioned to make lasting and important contributions to the knowledge generation, practice, policy leadership, and societal shifts needed for the challenging times ahead. RRU graduates transform the world through courageous leadership, ultimately amplifying our climate action impacts by reducing emissions and improving resilience in their organizations and communities. Through the Climate Action Plan, RRU students and staff will gain the skills and knowledge to work towards the more holistic and climate-ready systems our world needs.

As a changemaking institution, RRU will inspire transformative action through learning, research and engagement. In every program, at every level, our students are empowered to develop the collaboration skills, deep knowledge and leadership abilities that can help achieve a more equitable, sustainable, and just future. Our vision, aligned with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, puts a focus on people as agents of change. This will involve everyone, especially women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and those living with disabilities². Values and ongoing commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, Indigeneity and human rights will be embedded throughout our approach.

¹[Climate Action Plan Annual Report 2024](#).

Royal Roads University.

²UNFCCC. [Climate Action Pathway: Climate Resilience](#).



Goals and Actions

Goal 1: Equip learners for a climate-resilient future.

Target: By 2030, all RRU students will have access to climate-related learning and research.

Key Actions:

- Assess and anticipate climate-related trends (including labour market) to inform programs and meet learner and community needs.
- Foster academic connections and activities through the Climate Action Hub.
- Explore opportunities to embed climate into experiential learning pathways.
- Develop and expand climate credentials, courses and training.
- Increase climate-related research for positive impacts and service to broader society.
- Consider the inclusion of climate as part of program development and program review.

Goal 2: Strengthen climate action engagement and collaboration for community impacts.

Target: By 2030, RRU increases external engagement in climate-related initiatives.

Key Actions:

- Host signature events to engage the broader community in the most pressing issues of our time.
- Highlight and promote education, research and engagement opportunities that advance climate change awareness and action; strengthen awareness of RRU climate and sustainability leadership to build audience trust, support and action.
- Co-create climate action partnership opportunities.
- Increase student engagement in climate-related initiatives.
- Engage alumni and celebrate their changemaking achievements in climate leadership.
- Integrate climate-related themes and activities into the Westshore Innovation Hub.
- Integrate climate into RRU's food services, supporting low carbon, locally grown food.



Goal 3: Advance campus, community, and ecosystem resilience.

Target: Complete a climate resilience plan and begin implementation by 2027.

Key Actions:

- Develop a climate resilience and adaptation plan for all campuses.
- Engage with Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations on climate resilience, biodiversity and stewardship planning in ways that support and uphold Indigenous values, the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Implement infrastructure and space improvements in alignment with future climate projections and anticipated impacts.
- Develop a biodiversity strategy and rewilding plan for the Colwood Campus.
- Support research projects that advance campus, community and ecosystem resilience.





Goal 4: Reduce emissions and accelerate clean energy transitions.

Targets: From 2010 baseline, reduce emissions requiring carbon offsets by 65% by 2025; 80% by 2030; and net zero by 2050. Reduce total operational emissions by 2030. Reduce scope 3 emissions by 50% by 2030 (from 2019 levels).

Key Actions:

- Reduce campus GHG emissions and transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- Integrate climate and energy considerations into space usage and overall campus planning.
- Design new buildings and infrastructure to align with emission reduction goals, and to ensure safety and comfort in future climate conditions.
- Build on research and baseline data to develop a scope 3 strategy with phased priorities.
- Improve low carbon commuting options and support equitable access.



Goal 5: Embed climate into institutional structures and culture.

Targets: By 2030, climate change is considered in all RRU policies, practices, plans, and actions. By 2030, staff and faculty will have access to climate-related learning and research aligned with career and community needs.

Key Actions:

- Incorporate climate considerations into all policies, procedures, guidelines, directives, procurement, human resources, partnerships, academic services, and institutional planning.
- Establish and operationalize a Climate Action Hub.
- Foster an institutional culture that puts Indigeneity, human rights, climate action and changemaking leadership at its core.
- Integrate climate action into employee onboarding, competencies, volunteering, training and skill development opportunities.
- Pursue and secure funding that contributes to climate action in the following campaign theme areas: Talent & Research; Student Success & Experiential Learning; and Campus Spaces.



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

Learn more

Get involved

Contact us

Climate Action Plan

2025 • 2030