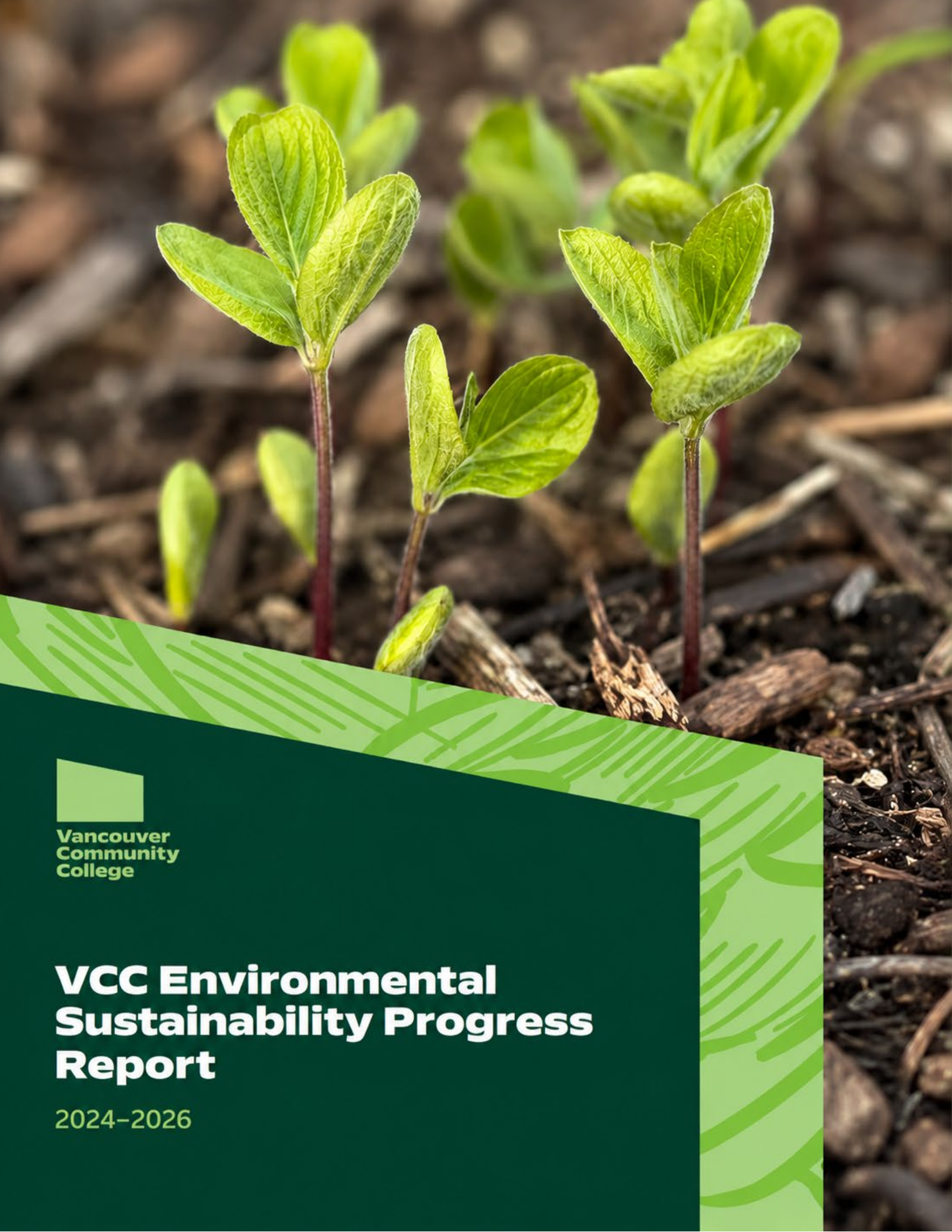




Vancouver
Community
College

VCC Environmental Sustainability Progress Report

2024–2026

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Vancouver Community College (VCC) is located on the traditional unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəṁ (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial.



Introduction

VCC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2023/2028 advances the college's commitment to ecological and equitable practices that support well-being now and into the future. Building on VCC's Strategic Innovation Plan, the Strategy provides a framework for embedding environmental sustainability values and practices across the organization while supporting the college's evolving campuses, programs, partnerships, and operations.

Progress by Priority Area

This report follows the priority areas identified in VCC's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2023/2028. These areas provide the structure for summarizing 2024–2026 outcomes, with key performance indicators included where measurable data is available.

Governance & Leadership and Communications & Engagement provide the foundation for the remaining priority areas, supporting accountability, transparency, and participation across VCC's sustainability work.

The following sections summarize progress across each priority area. For more information, see the full [VCC Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2023–2028](#).



Governance & Leadership

In 2024, VCC continued strengthening the leadership and accountability structures that support environmental sustainability across the college. Sustainability was embedded in VCC's Strategic Innovation Plan through the *Campuses of the Future* priority, supporting climate-conscious planning, operations, and decision-making.

Senior leadership supported VCC's signing of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord. It also continued to provide oversight of the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation to help align the project with VCC's environmental goals. Sustainability was also advanced through the [International Education Strategic Plan](#), which included an objective to align the UN Sustainable Development Goals and environmental best practices with internationalization efforts and operations.

Work in this area included collecting and monitoring data, integrating Indigenous Goals and Objectives, continuing to meet government requirements for public sector organizations, and aligning reporting with the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) framework developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

2024-2026 Key Performance Indicator

- Sustainability was embedded into key institutional planning and reporting frameworks, including the Strategic Innovation Plan, International Education Strategic Plan, SDG Accord, and STARS-aligned sustainability reporting.

Communication & Engagement

VCC expanded opportunities for students, staff, faculty, administration, and community members to participate in sustainability initiatives through campus events, awareness campaigns, active transportation initiatives, and student-facing outreach.

Activities included Move for the Planet, Cycling to the Climate Fair, Go by Bike Week, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action and Awareness Week, and Fall Welcome Days. The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group also adopted the name **ecoVCC**.

In collaboration with VCC leadership, ecoVCC developed the Bike Loan Program to support green transportation, with 18 employees participating in 2024–2025.

VCC strengthened community partnerships through ecological and pollinator-focused initiatives. These efforts supported the use of resilient native species on campus and helped VCC become both a David Suzuki Foundation [Butterflyway Project](#) site and a designated [Bee City - Campus](#).

Communications expanded through regular contributions to the VCC Digest, Student News, and student newsletters, helping strengthen sustainability awareness across the institution.

An Eco Grants Legacy Report was created to showcase the successes and accomplishments of Eco Grants projects over the past three years.

A United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) report was also submitted, highlighting VCC's contributions toward relevant global sustainability goals.

2024-2026 Key Performance Indicator

- Weekly sustainability updates were shared through the VCC Digest to promote ecoVCC events and share information on local, national, and global sustainability, decarbonization, and energy management topics.



Environmental Education

VCC creates opportunities for students and employees to connect sustainability with learning, leadership, and campus life.

Building on environmental education activities from 2023/2024, VCC Day included moss ball workshops, creating hands-on learning experiences rooted in ecological awareness, reciprocity, and connection with the natural world.

In 2024/2025, VCC continued environmental education through employee learning and applied sustainability projects. At VCC Day, a Conversation Carousel created space for employees to discuss VCC's environmental sustainability priorities, including plans for the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation.

In 2025/2026, VCC expanded pollinator education and stewardship through Bee Fest, which engaged approximately 150 participants in hands-on learning about native pollinators. VCC also developed a Fall Bee Care Guide to build staff knowledge and increase participation in bee care.

At the Food Resiliency Fair, VCC participated in *Plant, Grow, Thrive* for the second consecutive year, with participants decorating and planting 200 pots of herbs while learning basic food-growing skills.

Eco Grants were reintroduced in 2023/2024 to support student-, staff-, and faculty-led sustainability initiatives across themes such as waste reduction, biodiversity, sustainable transportation, food resiliency, and environmental education. A detailed summary is available in the Eco Grants Report.

2024–2026 Key Performance Indicator

- 11 Eco Grants projects were completed, supporting applied sustainability learning, project management skills, leadership development, and campus-based environmental action.



Carbon Reduction

Carbon reporting helps VCC turn emissions data into action. By tracking building energy use, transportation fuels, offsets, and greenhouse gas emissions, the college can measure progress, meet reporting requirements, and identify opportunities to reduce emissions.

VCC participated in four carbon and energy reporting systems, each with a different purpose:

Public Sector Organization Climate Change Accountability Report: reports annual emissions, offsets, and reduction actions.

B.C. Low Carbon Fuel Standard: reports transportation fuel supply and electricity supplied through electric vehicle charging stations.

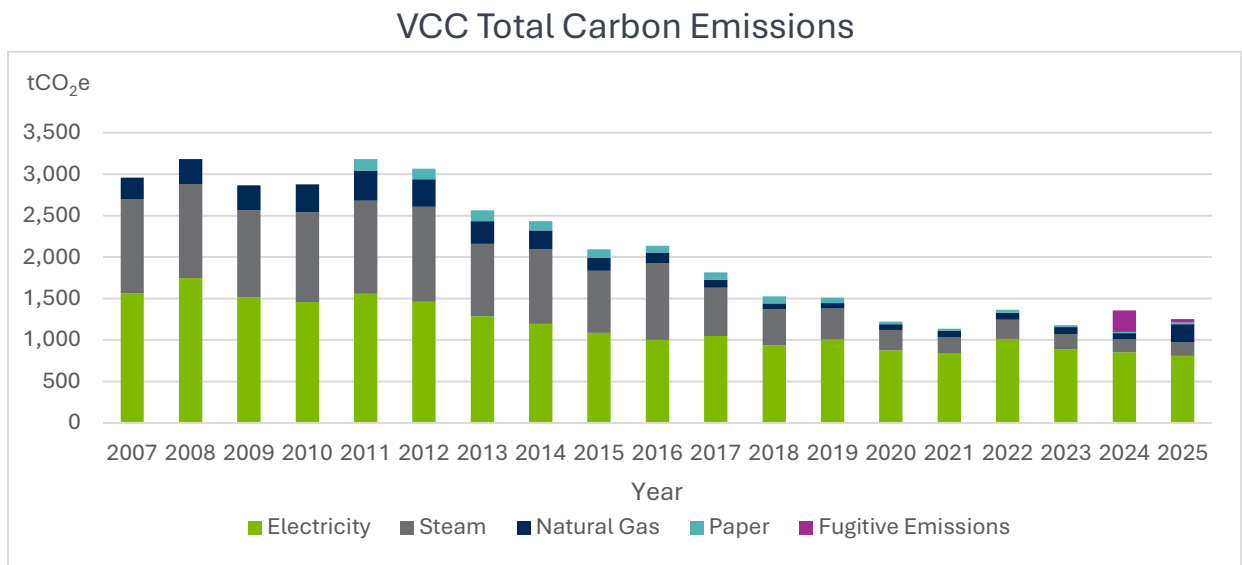
City of Vancouver greenhouse gas and energy reporting: reports building energy use and emissions.

Building Benchmark BC: compares VCC’s building energy and emissions performance with other buildings in British Columbia.

Together, these reporting systems strengthen transparency, support planning, and help align VCC’s operations with provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets. To learn more about VCC’s carbon reduction initiatives, visit the [PSO Climate Change Accountability Report \(CCAR\) 2025](#)

2024-2026 Key Performance Indicator

- VCC achieved 49% reduction in total carbon emissions compared with the 2007/2008 baseline.



Energy Conservation

VCC continues to reduce energy use by monitoring consumption patterns, optimizing building systems, and integrating energy efficiency into capital planning. Energy conservation supports long-term sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and improved building performance across VCC campuses.

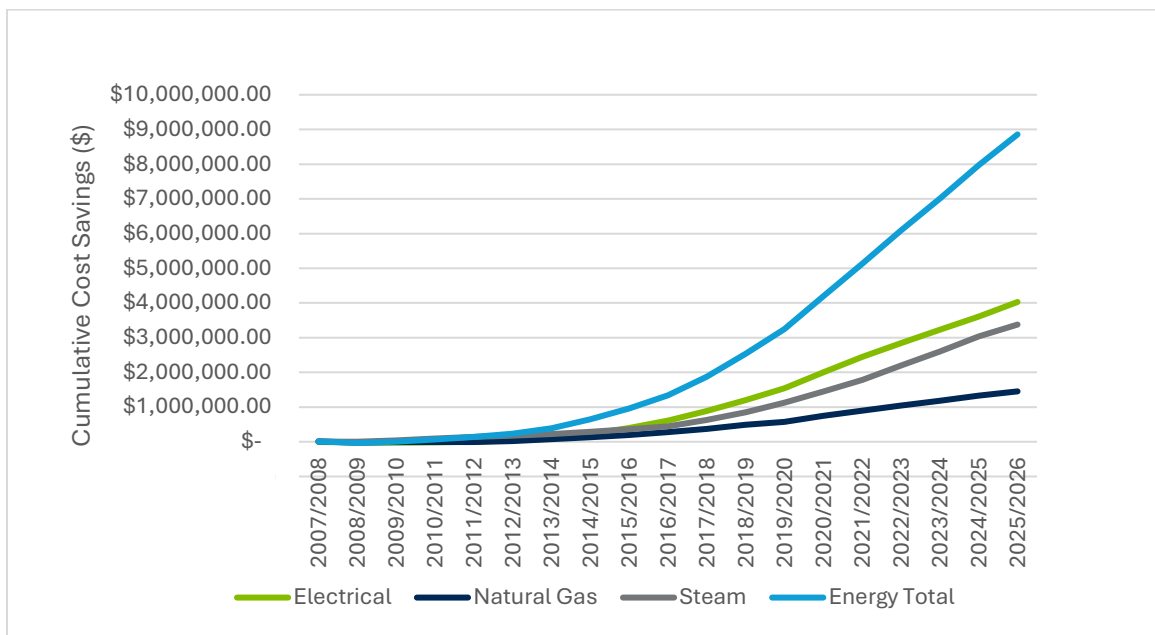
The college also continued to pursue funding opportunities and incentives that support energy-efficiency upgrades, conservation initiatives, and future decarbonization work. The 2025/2026 Strategic Energy Management Plan identifies the need for more targeted projects to achieve further reductions, including electrification and deeper building-system improvements.

To learn more about VCC’s energy conservation and carbon reduction work, see the [2025/2026 Strategic Energy Management Plan](#).

2024-2026 Key Performance Indicator

VCC achieved almost \$9 million in cumulative utility cost avoidance through long-term energy conservation.

VCC Cumulative Cost Savings



Climate Resilience

VCC continued to strengthen climate resilience by completing a climate risk assessment for both campuses. The Climate Risk assessment helps the college understand climate-related hazards, identify campus vulnerabilities, and determine actions to reduce future risk. The findings will also be incorporated into VCC's institutional risk registry.

Facilities Management and Safety and Security also advanced climate risk management through a detailed review of electrical and mechanical systems. The review identified vulnerabilities related to extreme weather, infrastructure reliability, operational continuity, and occupant safety.

Climate resilience planning was also applied at the project level through a specialized risk assessment for the beeVCC program. The beeVCC risk assessment identified ways to better protect campus pollinators from extreme weather events. As a result, bee homes were relocated to a more sheltered site.

2024-2026 Key Performance Indicator

- Climate risk assessment was completed for both VCC campuses, supporting future planning for climate adaptation and risk reduction.

Waste Management

Waste management practices continue to align with City of Vancouver standards while VCC strengthens systems for tracking, education, and ongoing improvement.

In March 2025, VCC completed comprehensive waste audit to better understand campus waste streams and identify opportunities to improve diversion. The audit supports more accurate monitoring of waste and recycling quantities, collection schedules, and infrastructure needs.

VCC is also continuously auditing waste infrastructure and developing educational materials to help students and employees sort materials correctly and reduce contamination across campus

2024-2026 Key Performance Indicator

- Comprehensive waste audit completed in March 2025 to support improved waste tracking, diversion planning, and waste management education.

Sustainable Food Systems

Sustainable food systems advanced through plant-based options, local food purchasing, food recovery partnerships, and continued integration of sustainability into food-related learning and operations. Commercial Services supports these efforts by managing the sale of products prepared by Culinary and Baking & Pastry and coordinating surplus food recovery partnerships with organizations such as the YMCA and Vancouver Food Runners. Culinary supports food recovery by preparing and packaging suitable surplus products for donation.

Sustainability is also reflected in food-related education where relevant to course content and instructor-led activities. In Baking & Pastry, students develop plant-based baking techniques and work with seasonal and locally sourced ingredients where available. The department continues to strengthen product upcycling and responsible ingredient use, while field trips and work experience opportunities expose students to regional food systems, ingredient sourcing, and sustainable industry practices.

Food security was supported through VCC's Food Security Project, developed with the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College and the VCC Foundation. The project focused on improving student access to nutritious food, increasing awareness of available food resources, and strengthening community-based food supports. Initiatives included the Food Resiliency Fair, departmental Snack Shacks, and grocery and cafeteria supports for students experiencing immediate food needs.

Indigenous knowledge, partnerships, and food traditions remain central to VCC's food systems work. Locally and traditionally sourced foods are supported through remote Indigenous educational programs and collaboration with Indigenous partners and knowledge holders, including Big City Bannock, Mr. Bannock, Lori Snyder, Spirit Works Gallery, and others.

2024/2025 Key Performance Indicator

- Sustainable food systems were advanced through expanded plant-based options, local food purchasing, and surplus food recovery partnerships.



Green Purchasing Practices

Procurement improvements are helping embed sustainability into purchasing decisions and align VCC's green purchasing practices with broader sector standards. The Green Purchasing Guidelines are also being updated to reflect current best practices and institutional goals.

VCC continues to participate in BCNET's Sustainable Procurement Program, which supports improvements in supply chain sustainability.

We will continue to build on the success of incorporating sustainability criteria into appropriate solicitations, and in addition will create an ESG Scorecard to assess supplier sustainability performance. These actions support responsible purchasing and help reduce VCC's long-term environmental impact.

2024-2025 Key Performance Indicators

- +Develop an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Scorecard that includes four pillars: Environmental, Social Responsibility, Ethical Procurement, and Indigenous Procurement to be used as part of the supplier selection process.

Across the Environmental and Sustainability priority areas, VCC has continued to strengthen how sustainability is embedded in planning, operations, learning, engagement, and decision-making, while building the systems, partnerships, and practices needed to support continued progress.

Looking Ahead

VCC will continue advancing the Environmental Sustainability Strategy by strengthening accountability, expanding implementation across priority areas, and using data to guide decisions that reduce environmental impact. Students, employees, and community partners can look ahead to continued opportunities to participate in sustainability learning, engagement, and campus-based initiatives.

Executive Sign Off:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Humphreys".

Signature:

Date: Sep 10, 2026

Ian Humphreys VP Administration & International
Development

VCC