



The Fraser Basin Council

Working with you in BC's communities
to advance sustainability

Our Vision: Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) brings people together to advance sustainability in British Columbia. Established in 1997, FBC is a charitable non-profit society led by a 38-member board of directors who come from the four orders of government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations), along with individuals from the private sector and civil society.

Over the past 25 years, FBC has delivered on a wide variety of collaborative initiatives to help people learn about sustainability, resolve conflicts and explore and advance sustainability practices and solutions. As our name suggests, our work has traditionally focused on the communities and watersheds of the Fraser Basin – but we work in other communities also, and many of our initiatives serve all of BC.

Strategic Priorities

The Fraser Basin Council has three strategic priorities that frame our work:

- **Build Sustainable and Resilient Communities**
- **Take Action on Climate Change**
- **Support Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources**

Our multi-disciplinary staff are based in five offices and other locations in BC to support sustainability programs, large and small. We regularly work in collaboration with governments, public and private agencies, businesses, industries, academic institutions, non-profits and other sectors, and with the many individuals participating in initiatives.

If you are looking for a reliable program partner, bring us in!

Our Work

The Fraser Basin Council has a strong track record facilitating processes and managing programs in areas such as community sustainability planning, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation work, sustainability education, sustainability indicators and more. We are inspired to work with BC communities and organizations that are advancing sustainability through collaborative action.



Your Partner in Sustainability

Highlights of the Fraser Basin Council's recent work



Community Wildfire Roundtables

The Fraser Basin Council facilitates community wildfire tables in Williams Lake, Clearwater, Clinton and Lillooet. These bring people together from across governments, fire centres, industries and community organizations. BC is now facing back-to-back critical fire seasons, and the roundtables offer a consistent year-round opportunity in remote and rural communities for people meet, share information and plans and work together on wildfire prevention, preparedness and response.

In May 2023 the roundtables hosted public education sessions and a video by wildfire expert Alan Westhaver to guide risk reduction at a property level. The number of roundtables is expected to expand, in collaboration with the BC Wildfire Service.



Detailed Floodplain Maps for BC Communities

FBC is helping the Province develop high-quality floodplain maps for many BC communities where there is a high risk of flood but a lack of updated maps. Communities are participating in projects for the Lower Fraser and Coquihalla Rivers, Nicola and Coldwater Rivers, Upper Fraser and Nechako Rivers, Bulkley and Skeena Rivers, Shuswap Lake Region and Upper Columbia River. Scoping studies have also been initiated for the Lower Mainland, Coastal BC, Northern BC and Southern BC to identify additional needs for floodplain mapping. On a separate project, several mapping projects were completed in the Thompson watershed in 2023.



Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy Initiative

The Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy (LMFMS) initiative wrapped up in 2023 with two reports: 1) Pathways to Action for Flood Risk Reduction and Resilience and 2) Synthesis of Technical Analysis. The Pathways to Action report sets out 10 recommendations to advance government-to-government work on strategic flood risk reduction in the region. The protection of critical infrastructure is a near-term priority. Local governments and First Nations in the Lower Mainland, as well as some non-governmental organizations, have used the updated hydraulic flood model and associated maps in 60+ flood-related projects to date.

Learn more: floodwise.ca



Realizing UNDRIP Initiative

Local governments and First Nations recognize the advantages of building strong relationships. The Realizing UNDRIP Initiative was launched in early 2023 by the Fraser Basin Council to educate and inspire non-Indigenous people in government and in the private and not-for-profit sectors to work together in a good way with Indigenous peoples, organizations and communities. Watch for upcoming learning events! realizingundrip.ca

Photo: A 2023 learning event featured Í:xel Sq'eq'ó (a Hul'qumi'num word meaning "Together We Paddle"), an agreement signed by the Province, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sumas First Nations and the City of Mission in 2021. Image by the Province of



Cultivating Youth Leadership Across BC

Co-Creating a Sustainable BC is the cornerstone initiative of FBC's youth program – and a way for youth participants (16-30) to find their path to leadership. This past year, with support, youth learned about BC communities, met local leaders, and planned their own climate-friendly projects in the Fraser Valley, Thompson, Prince George, Cowichan Valley, East Kootenay, Vancouver Urban Core and the Helping Spirit Lodge (Vancouver).

Watch this fall for the Down to You podcast to hear stories from BC youth and inspirational actions they are taking on climate change.

Photo: "Living Food-Stainably," a Fraser Valley youth-organized fair.



Learn more at fraserbasin.bc.ca



Plug in BC — Supporting the uptake of EVs

FBC hosts Plug in BC (pluginbc.ca), a central hub on electric vehicles. We deliver:

- Provincial incentive programs for charging stations to build a robust public charging network
- Support to fleets in evaluating their own business case for EVs and support for charging and integration of electric cars, truck and specialty vehicles into fleets. Watch for the Westcoast Electric Fleets Forum early in 2024!
- EV advisory services to help with charging solutions in workplaces and multi-unit residential buildings
- Public education on EVs via social media, #LiveElectric stories, and EV displays and test drives throughout BC. Grants are available for community-hosted EV events!

Climate Resilience and Resources

FBC helps with climate adaptation work in BC, tailored to regional needs, and supports a climate risk network and a climate resilience network for Northeastern BC. With the provincial government, we will also help advance best practices in extreme heat hazard, risk and adaptation mapping. Two must-visit FBC climate sites for communities:

- Emissions reduction: **Climate Action Toolkit** (www.toolkit.bc.ca)
- Climate resilience: **ReTooling for Climate Change** (www.retooling.ca)



Shuswap Watershed Council

FBC provides program staff support to the Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC), which works to protect, enhance and maintain water quality in the Shuswap watershed and to promote safe boating and recreation.

Key activities for SWC are water quality monitoring; annual water quality reporting; administration of grants for watershed restoration and water quality protection projects; educational campaigns on invasive mussels prevention; advocacy to government regulators to better protect the Shuswap watershed from critical threats, and public education on safe recreation. In 2023 the SWC released a Phosphorus Action Plan to explain the problem of nutrification of water bodies, to flag some steps residents can take, and to explain the provincial regulatory role over agriculture and resource industry activities in the watershed.



Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy in First Nations Communities

FBC works with First Nations communities throughout BC as they advance energy efficiency in homes and facilities. Housing consultant Richard Hall of Nuxalk Nation and FBC are hosting the Energy Efficiency Mentorship Program in which Indigenous participants build their skills in energy efficient construction. Through the EPIC Network, First Nations are retaining Community Energy Champions to focus on small-scale (under 100kW) renewable energy projects that are priorities for their respective communities.



Other FBC Partnerships on Air, Water and Land

- Fraser Canyon slides study
- Nechako Watershed Roundtable
- BC/Tsilhqot'in National Government Fish and Wildlife Panel
- Cultus Lake research projects
- Salmon-Safe BC eco-certification
- Prince George and Kamloops Air Quality Roundtables
- Together for Wildlife
- Sea to Sky Visitor Use Management Planning





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*Photo: Some of the
FBC Directors and
staff on a learning tour
in Kamloops ahead of
the June 2023 Board
meeting.*



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