# **RESEARCH CONTENT REQUEST -- 2024-25 ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

**1.Read me!**

1. Thank you for taking the time to support UBC’s 2024-25 Annual Sustainability Report!
2. Last year we tested a shift in approach, favouring a [shorter](https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/files/UBC-Annual-Sustainability-Report-2023-24.pdf) and more strategic ASR and more online storytelling. The feedback was very positive, so this year will follow a similar format.
3. As usual, we’re looking for information that focuses on your key priorities and actions – numbers are always helpful. If you can, please link to a webpage where the info is published.
4. All submissions will be edited for consistency – so no need to worry about perfect wordsmithing.
5. If you have questions or would like to discuss anything, please don’t hesitate to get in touch – [jon.garner@ubc.ca](mailto:jon.garner@ubc.ca) (UBCV) OR [kristen.brooke@ubc.ca](mailto:kristen.brooke@ubc.ca) (UBCO).

**2.Research Overview (approx. 80 words)**

--Briefly describe you/your Research Group’s work that relates to sustainability and/or climate action.

--What are the overall goals you are working towards?

**3.Strategic Priorities and Actions (approx. 250 words)**

--What strategic priorities did your research focus on this year?

--What actions did you take to advance these strategic priorities?

--Why were these important?

**4.Website stories (approx. 400-1,200 words)**

**\*please provide a rough story draft OR an existing story published in the last 12 months\***

--Our online format for storytelling means avoiding print word count limits and the opportunity to include more creative and visual formats (graphics, photography, video, etc.)

--An online feature story provides an opportunity to dive deeper into a project/activity that supports or demonstrates a strategic priority.

--Describe the project or activity. Be as specific as possible. What makes it interesting? How does it support a strategic priority?

--Please provide at least one high quality image, or indicate how we might be able to get one.

--See example on next page.

***Example:***

***Coastal Adaptation Lab addressing sea level rise in Metro Vancouver***

*Sea level rise is expected to cause catastrophic damage worldwide as climate change worsens. Around British Columbia, water levels are expected to rise by 0.5 meters by 2050 and 1.2 meters by 2100; an increase in community displacement, threats to food security and livelihoods, coastal erosion, and biodiversity loss are likely to follow.*

*UBC’s Coastal Adaptation Lab (CAL) aims to develop novel planning, design, and policy solutions for coastal adaptation based on the co- production of knowledge among researchers, decision-makers, and Indigenous communities. The lab integrates research areas including 1) critical infrastructures; 2) coastal habitat squeeze, 3) nature-based solutions, and 4) managed retreat, all within the overarching envelope of climate and spatial justice.*

*The Fraser River Delta, in particular, is a region where sea level rise could have severe consequences. The delta is home to an ever-growing human population of nearly 3 million, it hosts critical habitats for marine life and migratory birds, and has emerged as a key economic and logistical location within the Pacific Rim. A recent CAL initiative, known as the Fraser River Delta Collaborative, investigating the impacts of sea level rise in the area found that a single flood event could cause $20 billion in economic loss, and put over 100 species at risk of extinction. The team, consisting of the Coastal Adaptation Lab and four Vancouver-based landscape architecture firms, analyzed how designers can support planners and policymakers and found that coastal adaptation will require both large-scale and localized planning and design efforts for both the short and long term.*

*Other UBC CAL projects include Clam Gardens, the Future of False Creek, Visualizing the Future Port of Vancouver, and the Living with Water project. The latter, supported by a $1 million, four-year grant from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, seeks to identify coastal erosion mitigation strategies by drawing on global case studies and conducting experiments along coastal sites at UBC’s point Grey Campus.*

*“Coastal ecosystems such as wetlands and salt marshes provide natural buffers against waves and flooding, provide habitat for keystone species, and support coastal livelihoods. We need to develop frameworks to help coastal communities understand and evaluate the trade-offs associated with adapting in place (reinforcing/protecting existing shorelines), accommodating water or making a strategic retreat to higher grounds.” Dr. Kees Lokman, professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and director of the UBC Coastal Adaptation Lab.*

***Images:***

*-Link 1*

*-Link 2*

*-Etc.*