

About this program

Why create a Mountain Sustainability Program?

- To recognize the United Nation's declaration of 2022 as the *International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development*, and Canada's 2019 Declaration of a Climate Emergency;
- Because mountains are under various pressures, putting their sustainability at risk, there is a need for youth to appreciate the importance of mountain conservation issues;
- Because there is a need for a mountain sustainability program that deals with mountains as systems, encouraging students to consider atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and anthroposphere in relation to each other;
- To raise awareness that mountain sustainability is a global issue, and the benefit of comparative methodology and transboundary collaboration;
- To enrich the educational experience of visitors to Sea to Sky Gondola with a unique scientific course for children and adults on mountain sustainability issues;
- To share educational capacities and knowledge with respect to mountains on a global basis.

What is sustainable mountain development?

- Sustainability is the process of living within the limits of available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow life to thrive in perpetuity;
- Prevents the depletion of natural resources;
- Improves the quality of human life at present and for future generations;
- Achieves a balance of long-term economic growth while preserving the environment;
- Has a low impact on the environment and wildlife;
- Land use that preserves ecological balance;
- Is aligned with the United Nations Development Program's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

The Mountain Sustainability Course Notes designed for Grades K-3, 4-6, and 7-12, are our featured programs. Each includes a combination outdoor learning and activities to accommodate a blend of learning-styles, so there is something to engage each student.

There are opportunities for emotional learning and reflection at the beginning and end. They are interdisciplinary crosscuts of mountain sustainability subjects. For Grades K-3, the focus is on biodiversity and mountain stewardship and excludes natural hazards. Grades 4-6 look in more detail at mountain creation and destruction and include an introduction to adaptations to climate change. Grade 7-12 have increased focus on mountain conservation and resilience initiatives, and social justice issues. All age groups do a weather measurement activity to stress the importance of climate change, and of being active contributors to citizens science initiatives.

The Modules function primarily as a library from which to draw subject-specific information.

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Sea to Sky Gondola is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Tsleil-Waututh & Musqueam First Nations.

#mountainmatter