



EARTHLAB

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED, IMPACT-DRIVEN

WE ENVISION AN EQUITABLE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD WHERE PEOPLE AND PLANET THRIVE

EarthLab is a visionary institute at the University of Washington (UW) that pushes boundaries to address our most pressing environmental challenges, with urgency and action on climate and its intersection with social justice. As a Carnegie-classified Community Engagement University, the UW aspires to be the #1 university in the world as measured by impact.

2021-25 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1** Activate, leverage and sustain a web of cross-boundary networks, relationships and resources
- 2** Drive momentum for collaboratively solving pressing challenges at the intersection of climate and social justice
- 3** Secure a stable funding model for EarthLab programs, member organizations, and faculty, student and community engagement

“One of my greatest hopes and aspirations for EarthLab is to engage, enable and foster the development of academic professionals at the UW to work collaboratively across disciplines and in partnership with constituencies to solve big environmental challenges, especially those that have a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged communities.”



Sally Jewell, EarthLab advisory council chair & former Secretary of the Interior

EARTHLAB MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Imagine...

...a world in which climate action protects health and health action prioritizes climate resilience.

Center for Health and the Global Environment (CHAnGE)

...decision makers understanding scientific data, tools, guidance and capacity needed to manage climate risks such as sea level rise and forest fires.

Climate Impacts Group

...inclusive conservation management involving a diversity of stakeholders and incorporating multiple values.

Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program

...a workforce ready for 21st century problem-solving while developing a better understanding of the physical, biological and social dynamics of freshwater ecosystems.

Future Rivers

...fewer instances of depression in children, veterans and underserved communities due to an increased exposure to nature.

Nature and Health

...oceans that benefit everyone, equitably.

Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Center

...safeguarding the natural and cultural resources of Idaho, Oregon and Washington for generations to come.

Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

...resilient coastal communities around the world mitigating and adapting to ocean acidification for a sustainable marine ecosystem and thriving shellfish industries.

Washington Ocean Acidification Center



REAL WORLD IMPACT

The EarthLab Innovation Grants Program invests in teams of UW researchers and students and partners from the wider community developing innovative solutions to pressing environmental challenges.

EarthLab prioritizes projects that are community-engaged and interdisciplinary because it is a proven approach to effectively address environmental issues sustainably and equitably.



Assessing Climate Driven Zoonotic Diseases Risk in Washington State

What if public health officials could prevent widespread animal-human infections such as the West Nile virus?

A warmer Washington means more mosquitoes and more risk for climate-sensitive zoonotic (animal-to-human) diseases. This project team of meteorologists and infectious disease experts generated seasonal maps that identify high-risk conditions for these diseases. State and county officials have been briefed on this information for a potential real-time warning system for public safety.



What if food truck workers had better access to green cleaning tools and practices?

Cleaning chemicals used to combat foodborne illness can harm the health of workers and the environment. This project convened a chemist, an environmental health expert and social justice organizers who developed a multimedia toolkit to promote green cleaning practices in food trucks across Washington, with a potential to reach communities nationwide. This toolkit is especially useful in underserved communities that typically do not have access to this information.

Clean Safety & Health in Food Trucks



Connecting Communities to Coastal Hazards Through Innovative Design

What if scientific data on sea level rise was designed in a way that engaged communities and decision makers?

The Climate Impacts Group, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Public Library and data visualization company Tableau teamed up to create more engaging, immersive and interactive tools to help tell the stories of the science, risks and realities of regional sea level rise in 171 areas in Washington. Decision makers are already using the data for planning and the team is developing virtual reality (VR) goggles that will bring this information to new audiences.

OUR ROADMAP

EarthLab's mission is to push boundaries to develop innovative, just and equitable solutions to environmental challenges and climate action. We do this by connecting across sectors and academic disciplines to inspire and incentivize new partnerships that bridge the UW and the wider community.



FOUR PRIMARY ACTION AREAS



Convene cross-cutting conversations



Invest in innovative, interdisciplinary and multi-sector collaborations



Support and amplify the success of EarthLab member organizations



Foster the development of professionals who are skilled in transdisciplinary and applied work

SUPPORT EARTHLAB

EarthLab is funded primarily by private donations to the **EarthLab Core Impact Fund**, which supports the work of our member organizations and faculty, high-impact research, and student and community engagements. As support for EarthLab grows at scale, so does EarthLab impact.

Join us as we bring together communities, academia, non-profits, public agencies, Tribal nations and businesses to deliver innovative and equitable solutions to our most pressing challenges at the intersection of climate and social justice.



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