



EARTHLAB

Impact Report

July 2024 - June 2025





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*Pictured on cover (top to bottom):
Ribbon cutting for Seattle's first
biodigester as part of EarthLab
Innovation Grantee team "[Catalyzing
Just Circular Communities: A Feasibility
Study of a Large-Scale Anaerobic
Biodigester to Generate Hyper-local,
Community-Owned Clean Energy
Infrastructure in Seattle's South Park](#);"
Washington Ocean Acidification
Director Jan Newton using the Murdock
Sensor array and application; Climate
Change and Clinical Practice
Symposium attendees take part in
rotating table talks on the delivery of
sustainable and climate-resilient care;
EarthLab student interns after their
final presentation, summer 2024.
Main image: UW student collecting
data on Seattle campus cherry trees.*

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has reminded me that everything we do begins with trust. Trust is what makes progress possible — not just in science, but in community, and in one another. It's what allows us to face uncertainty with courage, to engage across differences, and to keep working even when the way forward is not always obvious.

At EarthLab, trust is more than a value — it is our foundation. It's reflected in how we listen to communities, how we connect people and ideas, and how we turn research into action. In a time when so many are questioning institutions and struggling to believe that collective progress is still possible, I've seen how powerful it can be when people choose to trust — to stay in conversation, to share power, and to build solutions together. That is the story of EarthLab this year: people working across boundaries, and through that work, building hope.

Our work is grounded in four simple but powerful commitments. We invest in research that begins with community — projects that bring scientists and neighbors together to solve real problems and share what they learn. We expand what is possible for environmental research and action by helping teams test bold ideas that might not fit traditional funding models. We create connections — across disciplines, campuses, and communities — so that innovation can take root in the relationships that sustain it. And we train the next generation of environmental leaders by giving students hands-on experience in the places and partnerships where change is already happening.

You can see these commitments in action all around us. In coastal Washington, communities worked with UW scientists to rebuild shorelines once thought lost to the sea. In Seattle's South Park neighborhood, community members designed a biodigester to turn food waste into clean, community-owned energy. Across the state, student interns spent the summer translating their climate concerns into action — learning that hope grows strongest when it's shared. And in our research centers, new collaborations emerged between ecologists, economists, artists, and advocates — demonstrating that real innovation often comes not from a single discipline, but from the creative space between them.

Looking ahead, we are building on this momentum. We have published an [addendum to our strategic plan](#) that renews our focus on equity, partnership, and accountability. And in early 2026, we will launch new funding opportunities designed to meet different needs and timescales — helping us move quickly when urgency demands it and stay engaged when relationships require patience and care. We are also strengthening partnerships with local governments, Tribal Nations, and community-based organizations that are leading the way in building resilient, just, and sustainable futures. These collaborations remind us that trust and innovation are not abstract concepts — they are daily practices, built through dialogue, humility, and shared purpose.

The coming years will test our creativity and resolve. Federal support for the climate and environment is shrinking, but local and regional leadership is growing. Across the Northwest and beyond, people are transforming uncertainty into action — finding new paths toward connection, justice, and care. I've seen that the most meaningful progress rarely happens in isolation; it comes when people work side by side, grounded in respect, humility, and trust. That gives me hope — the kind of steady, clear-eyed hope that grows from doing the work together.

The story of EarthLab is one of trust — of people choosing to build rather than retreat. It's about breaking down walls between science and society, and creating space for innovation that grows from listening, learning, and doing together. Collaboration is how possibility becomes progress.

In partnership and possibility,

Phil Levin
EarthLab interim executive director



EARTHLAB'S FOUR KEY ACTION AREAS

WITH CASE STUDIES FEATURING OUR FY 2025 IMPACT



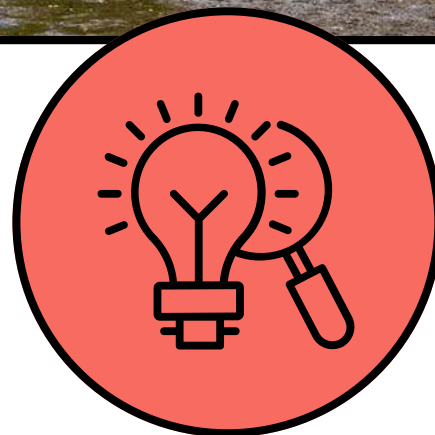
INVESTING IN RESEARCH

CO-CREATED WITH COMMUNITY



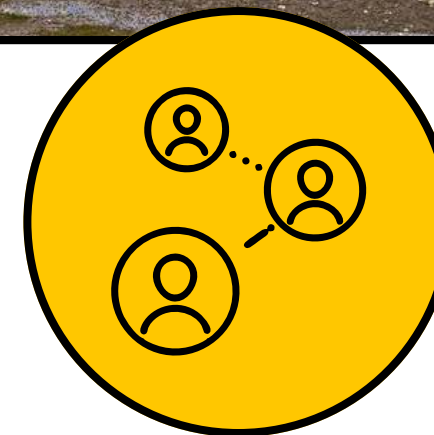
TRAINING & MENTORING

TOMORROW'S CLIMATE LEADERS



EXPANDING WHAT IS POSSIBLE

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & ACTION



CREATING CONNECTIONS

AT UW AND IN COMMUNITY



INVESTING IN RESEARCH

CO-CREATED WITH COMMUNITY

INNOVATION IS EVER CHANGING

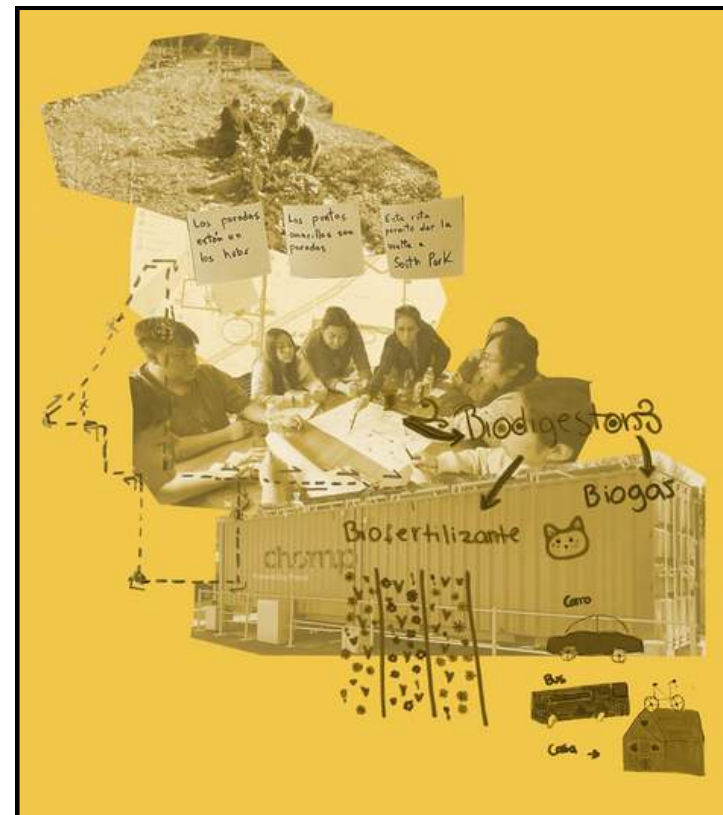
COLLABORATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

When we launched the Innovation Grants Program in 2018, our "high-risk, high-reward" model addressed a gap we saw in academic funding: supporting applied, interdisciplinary, and early-stage research that centered community needs and participation. There has always been high interest in this type of funding: in the first year alone, over 30 teams applied and 5 were selected. Since then, we have awarded nearly \$2M to 29 teams with high potential for impact. Many of our grantees sustain their projects or partnerships long after our funding, including this year's featured Coastlines - Camera - Action case study.

After five cohorts, we took this past year to benchmark our program against similar models, steward 14 active grants toward completion, and conduct a thorough evaluation to inform our future direction. During this process, one thing became very clear: complex problems require multi-pronged solutions. As one respondent shared, "you need money to buy time, which enables relationship building." Other organizations showed that the most successful programs were able to offer multiple levels of funding and support, because they had a variety of resources to do so.

Put simply: Innovation in 2025 looks different than it did in 2018. This learning will shape the next chapter of EarthLab's granting, especially as we balance deep relationship building with the rapid responses that acute environmental challenges demand in this moment.

In early 2026, we'll launch two new funding opportunities designed to meet different needs at different speeds. Because if there's one thing the last five years has shown us, it's that saying 'yes' in only one way means saying 'no' to too many brilliant possibilities. Together, our new approaches will let us say 'yes' more often, in more ways, to the transformative ideas our planet urgently needs.



Above: Image from the recently released "[Feasibility Study of a Large-Scale Anaerobic Biodigester for South Park](#)," funded by EarthLab's Innovation Grants Program.



"Without EarthLab funding, our team would have remained a group of separate individuals at different organizations thinking along similar lines about thermal safety, housing, and energy justice, but without any time or bandwidth to communicate with each other beyond a few coffees or zoom meetings. Moreover, while we may have found some ways to consult or collaborate on ongoing projects, **there is no way that we would have been able to take on anything matching the breadth and depth of what we've been able to do together.** The time spent acquiring and analyzing energy assistance data, collecting and analyzing surveys, conducting fieldwork at cooling shelters, planning, holding, and analyzing a listening session, writing sections of the commerce needs assessment report, and purchasing and distributing air filters to households would have all been impossible without EarthLab funding."

Sam Kay, Principal Investigator for the Innovation Grantee team, "[The Housing Spectrum, Temperature Extremes and the Costs of Thermal Safety and Comfort: A Community-Informed Policy Evaluation of Weatherization and Energy Assistance Programs.](#)"





COASTLINES – CAMERA – ACTION

HOW COMMUNITY SCIENCE HAS MONITORED AND INFORMED SOLUTIONS TO BEACH EROSION

In 2016, North Cove, Washington was home to one of the fastest-eroding coastlines in the world. When residents were told that there was no money to invest in saving their coastline, David Cottrell (a cranberry farmer and commissioner of Pacific County Drainage District No. 1) began looking for other solutions.

Cottrell and his partner Connie Allen, alongside their neighbors, created a community-led activist organization called Wash Away No More. Together with the Willapa Erosion Control Action Now (WECAN) community forum, founded by the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe (SBIT), North Cove residents obtained grants to create a two kilometer stretch of dynamic revetment* in December 2018. This work not only held, but actually built back parts of the lost shoreline. By 2024, a total of 1.1 miles of shoreline along the north entrance to Willapa Bay had been restored.

Together with SBIT, WECAN, and Wash Away No More, UW oceanography and public health researchers applied for an EarthLab Innovation Grant in 2023. The goal was to build on the community's initial success by combining science, engineering, art, and photography with community input. The team used their funding to provide space for community voices to shape future research that could help protect their coastline, and upgrade existing photo stations using CoastSnap, a scientific tool that measures beach changes from photos. Since the photo station relaunch, North Cove residents have submitted more than 700 photos via MyCoast, revealing subtler storm-by-storm pattern changes that would have been impossible for traditional seasonal shoreline monitoring to detect.

By thoughtfully enhancing community-based monitoring systems, this project created direct opportunities for community voices to be heard so that local solutions can be backed by both science and lived experience. In winter 2025, this team was awarded an additional two years of funding from Washington Sea Grant to continue growing their body of work.

***Dynamic revetment** is an affordable way to protect beaches from erosion. It's a pile of different sized rocks and sometimes dead trees placed along the shore. Unlike a solid concrete seawall that stays in one place, these rocks move with nature by absorbing and scattering wave energy. This means the waves have less power to wash sand away from the beach, and sometimes the water is calm enough to actually add sand back to the beach.

Curious to learn more? You can read our full story on this project by [clicking here](#) or following the QR code below:



Above (left to right): David Cottrell wearing a "Wash Away No More" jacket, created as part of their fundraising for their grassroots campaign; Connie Allen and David Cottrell walking in his family's cranberry bogs; Connie Allen monitoring erosion at the beach by taking a photo through a hole in a photo station along the shoreline. Photos taken by Mike Siegel for The Seattle Times.



"The gathering of five years of accumulated photos has broadened our view of how simple quick acts by many can provide important tools for analysis. The focus groups and participation in shaping the visual representations of beach change has fostered community pride. Not only does it increase our knowledge of the beach we love, but our residents also relish the thought that other small coastal towns can benefit from our participation."

Connie Allen, Community Lead for Coastlines - Camera - Action

Right: Photo station overlooking the North Cove beach at the end of Sea Mobile Road to help community scientists monitor coastline erosion. The metal silhouettes represent the likeness of North Cove residents. (Mike Siegel / The Seattle Times.)





TRAINING AND MENTORING

TOMORROW'S CLIMATE LEADERS



STUDENT EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

WHERE INTERNS' IDEAS SHAPE REAL-WORLD CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

A [2024 Lancet study](#) found that 85% of young Americans are worried about climate change, with nearly 40% reporting that this anxiety impacts their day-to-day mental health. But [research also shows](#) that when we allow ourselves to name our anxieties, we reduce their power and become braver in the process. At EarthLab's Summer Internship Program, students are given the space to transform their passion for climate into concrete action.

In addition to competitive site placements, interns gather for four hours per week to participate in EarthLab-specific cohort programming. Together, interns expand their knowledge around climate and environmental justice, spend time in community with each other, and learn from their peers from different majors and lived experiences, as well as build career development skills they can take with them into the future.

Conversations across campus have shown that our internship model's core elements – consistent mentorship, peer connections, and authentic opportunities to engage in climate justice work – offer some of the most meaningful experiences for students during their time at UW. Across the last four years, our roughly 5% acceptance rate tells us that we've tapped into something that students genuinely want. But it also means that we're only reaching a fraction of interested students, and supporting more students requires more resources.

In the meantime, thoughtful partnerships are part of our growth strategy. Together with the [Program on the Environment](#), we co-sponsor an environmental justice seminar open to undergraduate UW students in any major. Alongside guest speakers and community organizers, students get to explore firsthand how grassroots coalitions shape policy and drive lasting, equitable climate solutions.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS:



"I would recommend the EarthLab internship program to anybody interested. The breadth of perspective, hands-on learning, guest speakers, diversity, is something I have never experienced before in other professional endeavors. This program was uplifting, stimulating, challenging, and truly gave me insight on the kind of learner and team member I am."

– EarthLab Student Intern, from Summer 2024 Evaluation

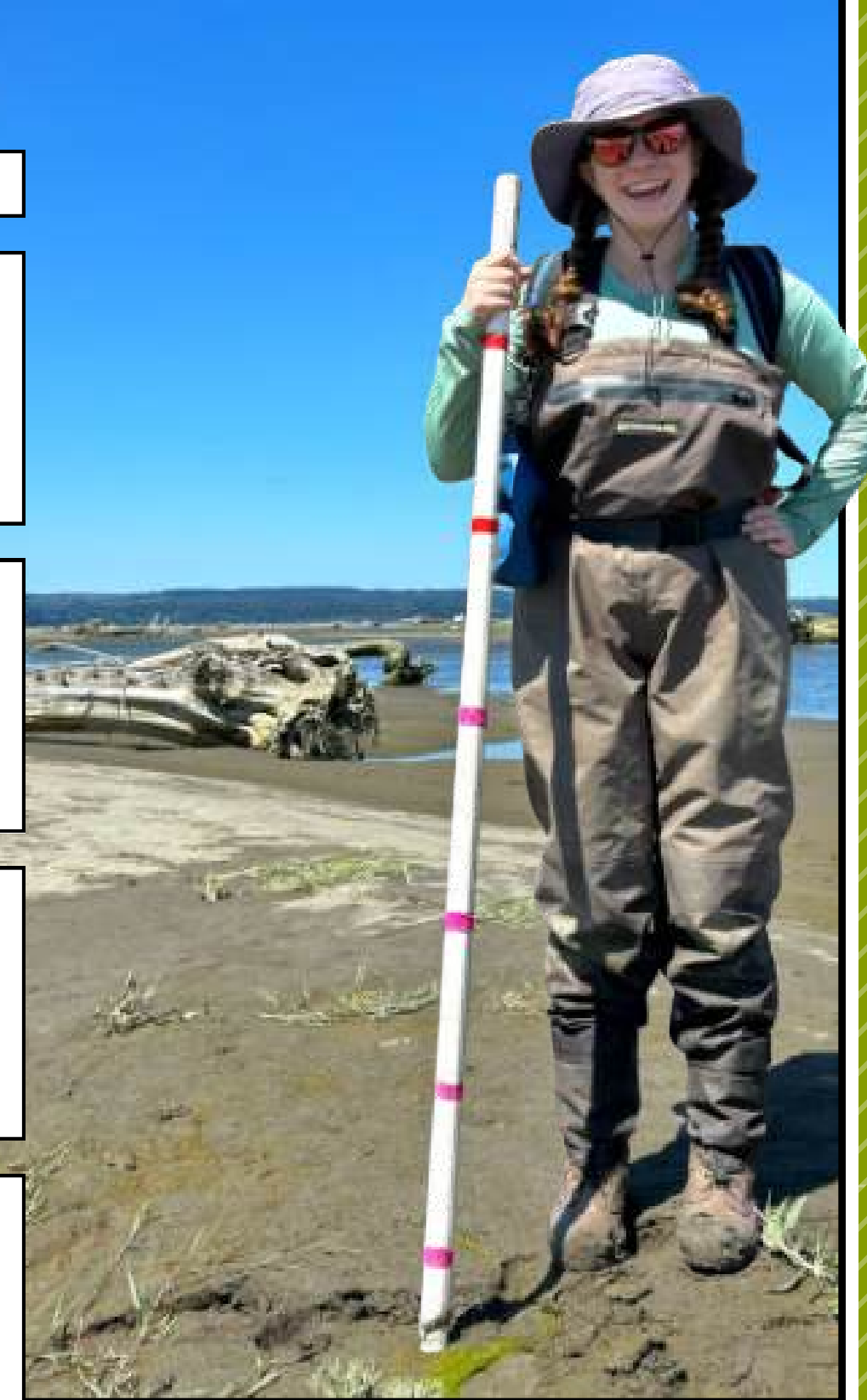
For summer 2025, we had:

296
applicants

49
majors
represented

14
undergraduate
interns

9
partner sites



Above: EarthLab Summer 2024 intern McKenna Sweet doing field work for her internship with The Nature Conservancy.

SUPPORT AN INTERN!

This work is largely made possible through generous donations from people like you. If you would like to help us keep this program going, please consider donating to EarthLab.





NEXTGEN NARRATIVES

STORIES OF CLIMATE ACTION BY STUDENTS, FOR STUDENTS

We surveyed our 17 summer 2024 interns, and results showed...

100%
of interns would recommend the EarthLab Internship Program to their peers.

97.6%
of interns found sharing meals at the start of cohort meetings a meaningful way to connect.

Being part of one of the world's top ten universities means that we hear a lot about how today's students are tomorrow's leaders. But what's left unsaid in this saying is that current college students have lived through more climate disasters than any other generation in history. Their leadership tomorrow will be shaped by experiences we're only beginning to understand today.

That's exactly why we created NextGen Narratives.

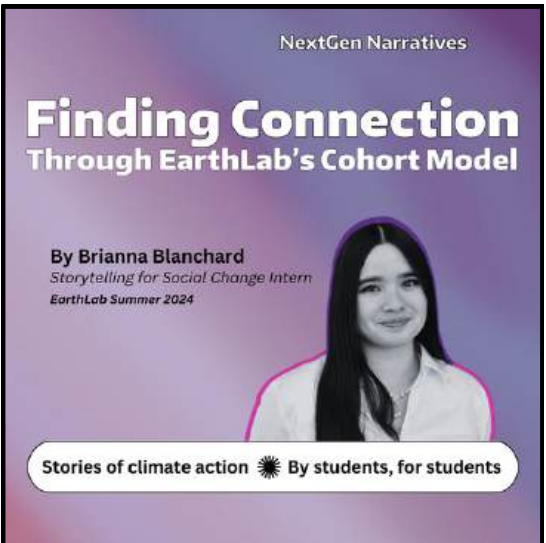
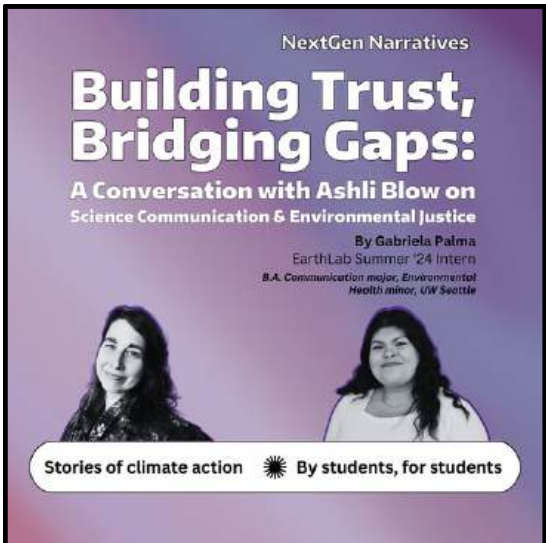
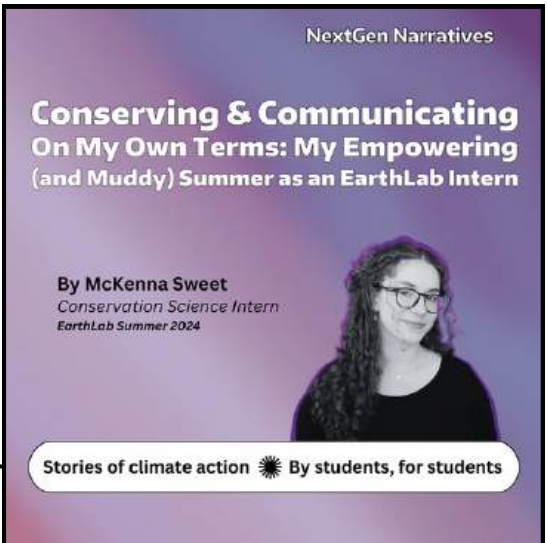
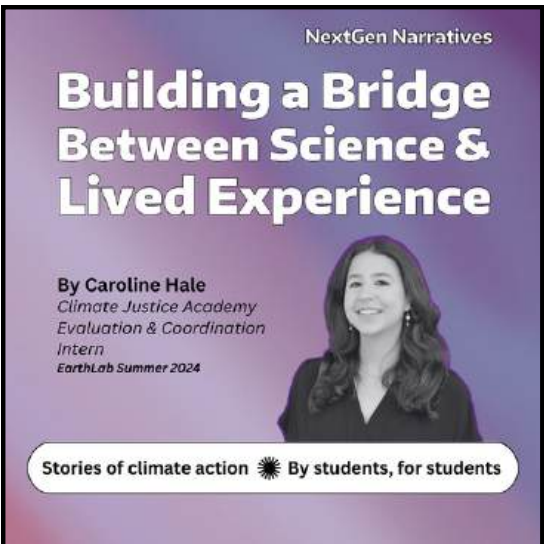
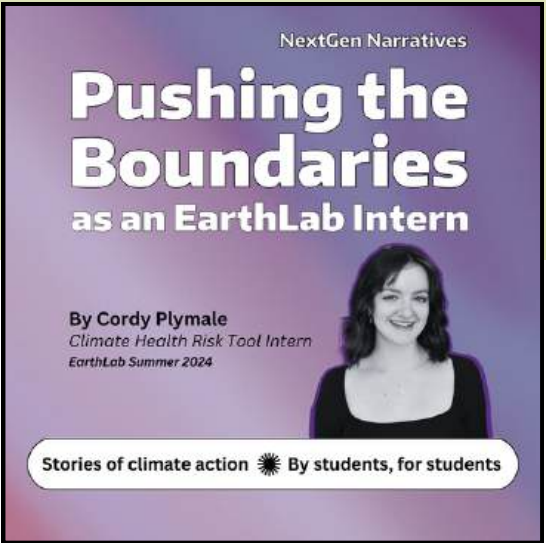
Written by and for UW students, this EarthLab blog series is a platform to explore what equitable climate action and hope can look like. Because although climate change impacts all of us, it doesn't impact everyone equally. A student from Eastern Washington has a different story than one from Seattle. A sociology major brings perspectives to the climate conversation that a computer science major might not have otherwise considered, and vice versa.

The process is straightforward: students pitch us story ideas that excite them — whether it's a climate issue they've thought about for years or questions keeping them up at night. We pair them with a professional editor who helps them develop their voice and articulate their perspective for publication on both the EarthLab and College of the Environment websites, giving them both a meaningful platform to share their work and a valuable portfolio piece for future opportunities.

Through NextGen Narratives, we're building a collection of voices that reflects the full complexity of how the next generation sees our shared future, with students starring as the experts of their own experiences. Their work reaches our more than 23,000 newsletter subscribers, amplifying the voices of the next generation beyond campus.

Last year, five EarthLab summer interns shared their stories. Click on the stories or use the QR code to read more.







EXPANDING WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & ACTION



OUR SHARED SERVICES MODEL

AN INTERCONNECTED ECOSYSTEM

With nearly half of Washington state covered by forests, it's hard not to stare up in wonder at the Douglas fir trees, western red cedars, and ponderosa pines around us. What goes unnoticed are the tree roots that live beneath our feet – communicating to each other through an intricate underground network of soil fungi called mycelium. In healthy forests, this network pools its resources (like water, nutrients, and carbon) to share with neighboring trees so that the forest can collectively thrive.

At EarthLab, our shared services model serves as the central network supporting and connecting our community of individual research centers into a more prosperous ecosystem. Like mycelium threading through forest soil, our team of 13 professional staff connects over 130 employees and researchers to the resources they need across the UW. By streamlining human resources, finance, grants, networking, fundraising, events, and communications, EarthLab affiliated researchers can focus on changing lives and livelihoods through their cutting edge science.

We've transformed from a novel experiment into essential infrastructure, serving as the underground network that keeps environmental research thriving when surface conditions grow harsh. With federal funding for climate resilience being drastically cut, uniquely symbiotic relationships like the EarthLab shared services model are more important than ever.

Supporting EarthLab means that you are effectively supporting a network of over 130 researchers and staff at a public institution that conducts more federally sponsored research than any other public university in the United States. Every dollar invested in our work amplifies research capacity across the different research centers we support, creating the collaborative foundation needed to address our most pressing climate challenges. Because when we work together, there's so much more that we can do, and so much more that we stand to gain.

During FY 2025, EarthLab facilitated and supported:

130+

researchers, grantee recipients, faculty, and staff

23

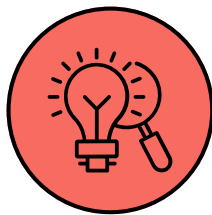
proposals submitted for continuing research

45+

gatherings and events at UW and in community



Right: UW students on a field trip to the Olympic Peninsula; close up on tree bark with moss.



Q&A WITH EARTHLAB GRANTS MANAGER BECCA HART

THE PROFOUND RIPPLE EFFECT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ACROSS CLIMATE RESILIENCE RESEARCH DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

Federal funding for climate research has been cut dramatically since the beginning of this calendar year, and the federal landscape continues to be precarious. In the face of this uncertainty, grants manager Becca Hart and the entire EarthLab finance and administration team has stepped into a critical role in our shared services network — helping researchers rapidly pivot, find new resources, and keep vital environmental justice work alive.

We spoke with Becca about the impact of federal funding cuts on her work with member organizations and why administrative support has profound ripple effects across climate resilience efforts, especially during difficult times. A short excerpt from the interview is available below:

How have EarthLab member organizations been impacted by federal funding cuts? And what does it look like to lose federal funding?

Two of our member organizations have lost federal funding since February 2025. When a team loses federal funding, they receive an email notifying them that their award is being terminated. This means the work has to stop immediately. The impact of losing funding then goes out in ripples. One member organization had to lay off two positions, which was really difficult to see and had the most immediate impact. Sadly, the termination also ended funding for our partners and collaborators, creating a setback to them continuing this work.

How are you and the researchers you support responding to federal funding cuts?

In the case of one member organization, just a couple weeks after their award was terminated they found another opportunity that could support components of their work. They only had one week or so to submit the proposal, so it was a bit of a “drop everything” moment to get it completed.

While they got the scientific aspects of the proposal together, my role was to get all of the administrative pieces together so the proposal could get in as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Curious to learn more?

You can read our full conversation with Becca by clicking here or using the QR code to the right.



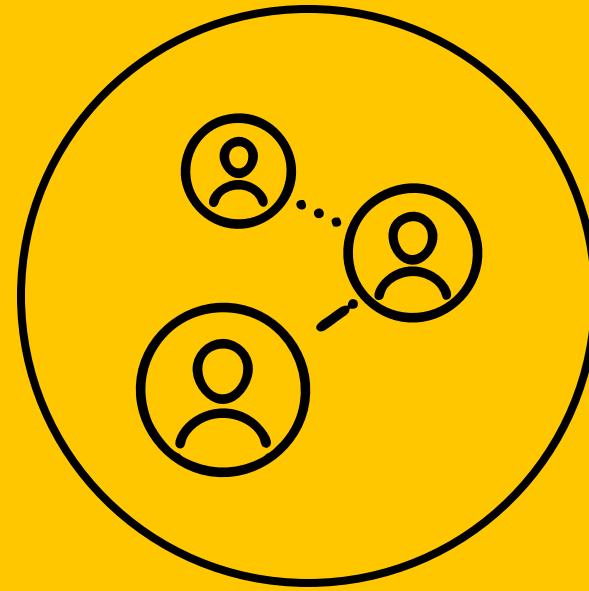
“My role is to be the bridge, or the shield, or the filter — depending on the day — between researchers and the bureaucracy of the UW, state and federal governments.”

– Becca Hart
EarthLab grants manager

DID YOU KNOW?



On average, our administrative team helps save researchers anywhere from between one and two months of work each year, just on submitting grant proposals alone. That’s hundreds of hours of time back for scientists to focus on the work they do best.



CREATING CONNECTIONS

AT UW AND IN COMMUNITY



OUR CONNECTIONS ARE OUR FOUNDATION

EARTHLAB'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CROSS-BOUNDARY PARTNERSHIPS

In the last year, funding cuts, changes in capacity among community partners, and shifting attitudes toward climate work have stressed our efforts to engage with the UW and community. Yet these very pressures have revealed something powerful: when institutions retreat, relationships become our strongest foundation. In the face of these pressures, we've found connection by supporting work among students, staff, and faculty at the University of Washington.

Undergraduate passion for this work continues to surge. In the last year, we met with more than thirty groups across the UW, from the Campus Sustainability Fund to the Puget Sound Institute, and worked with a consultant to better understand how our summer internship program could serve both student learning and community needs beyond campus.

UW staff and faculty continue to show up for climate justice work. EarthLab and the nine member organizations under our organizational umbrella brought together more than 4,000 academics, students, policymakers and community partners in events tackling everything from ocean chemistry changes to wildfire response to the impacts of climate change on health.

By acting as a convener, organizer, facilitator, and participant, we've discovered that our role isn't always to lead. Sometimes, it's simply to make space. When budget cuts and staffing reductions could easily fragment our community, gathering people with shared purpose has created its own momentum.

Right now, we're finding hope among our brilliant and imaginative community members who refuse to let constraints define what's possible. Making space for creative climate solutions with other people is one of our most powerful assets. The work continues, and so do we.

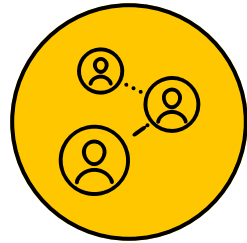


Above: Opening remarks from the 2025 NW Nature and Health Symposium, hosted at wəḥabʔaltxʷ – Intellectual House.



"We first connected with EarthLab so that our Collaborative Leadership Program could benefit from the outstanding undergrads who want to be part of their summer internship program. We had such a good experience, we signed up for another summer, and kept our intern as a student assistant for the school year. Now — because of their talent, creativity, and dedication — we have pulled the Earthlab team into the next phase of our program, helping us engage emerging and seasoned leaders into dialogues about our shared future."

– Michael Kern, Director of Special Projects, [Puget Sound Institute](#)



WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRES

AN EVENT HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

In the wake of the devastating Los Angeles wildfires in January 2025, the Center for Health and the Global Environment (CHanGE, an EarthLab member organization, wanted to host an event connecting L.A. area experts with practitioners across Washington state to share lessons learned and ideas for future work. However, with a small team and a changing landscape around community engagement due to federal budget cuts, it was unclear how this need could be met.

Working alongside CHanGE, the UW Center for Disaster Resilient Communities and the Population Health Initiative, the EarthLab communications staff turned this vision into reality. We helped hone the vision and target audience for the event, curated an expert speaker lineup, crafted marketing materials, and orchestrated the flow of the event. Our collaborative effort culminated in a successful two-hour hybrid event in May, bringing together more than 50 participants online and in-person.

The event featured four speakers - two wildfire experts from California, and two from Washington - and was moderated by Bradley Kramer, a public health expert from King County. The audience included policymakers at the local, county and state level, UW students and faculty, and community members.

The first half of the event was dedicated to a panel discussion, with topics ranging from the challenges inherent to collecting wildfire data to how to keep people safe in an emergency. The second half of the event invited panelists and audience members to discuss how the university community could increase resilience to wildfire preparedness and health impacts.

Events like these promote knowledge sharing and idea generation across academics and practitioners and are critical for developing solutions to climate-related disasters. Yet, community events are threatened due to budget cuts and decreased staff capacity. By curating these opportunities for discussion, we create the fertile conditions that allow solutions to flourish and grow.



Above: UW students conducting research at the Big Hollow fire site.

Curious to learn more?

You can read a former EarthLab summer intern's full story on this event by following the QR code to the right or [clicking here](#).



“

“In the aftermath of a disaster, there’s not time to develop relationships, ideas and trust. Events like these are essential to creating a foundation that will allow us to collaborate to address scientific challenges when events like these occur in Washington.”

– Nicole Errett, wildfire panel expert and director at the [Center for Disaster Resilient Communities](#)

For this single event, we helped bring together

4

different centers and initiatives at the University of Washington

5

experts in public health, environmental science, medicine, and psychology

50+

policymakers, students, faculty and community members

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

A SNAPSHOT OF LAST YEAR'S...

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ADVISORY BODIES

CORE STAFF

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

MEET OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

LAST YEAR, WE PROVIDED SUPPORT TO THESE NINE ORGANIZATIONS DOING THEIR OWN AMAZING ENVIRONMENTAL WORK

Center for Health and the Global Environment

Bringing expertise and resources to partnerships around the world to prioritize health in climate change mitigation and adaptation and to incorporate climate resilience into all health sector activities.

Climate Impacts Group

Working in partnership to support equitable climate adaptation in the Northwest and beyond.

Doris Duke Conservation Scholars

Supporting emerging conservation leaders to develop unique perspectives and skill sets by drawing connections between conservation, individual and community identities, biodiversity and environmental justice.

Future Rivers

Training the next generation of culturally aware freshwater sustainability scientists for a globally competitive workforce.

Center for Nature and Health

Illuminating the connections between nature and human well-being through scientific investigation, we equip students and collaborate with decision makers and communities to inform policies and programs for equitable engagement and sustainable relationships with nature.

Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Center

Establishing social equity at the center of ocean governance.

Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center

Supporting sound resource management in the face of changing conditions by advancing understanding of the impacts of climate change and variability on fish, wildlife, water, land and people.

Washington State Climate Office

Supporting the use and application of climate information by the public, local and state decision makers, communities, tribes, and other organizations in Washington State, with a focus on equitably supporting access and use of this information.

Washington Ocean Acidification Center

Serving Washington state by leading priority areas of ocean acidification research.



MEET OUR ADVISORS

THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE WHO GUIDE US – YOU MAKE OUR WORK BETTER AND OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT STRONGER

Advisory Council

Sally Jewell, Chair
Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior

Trish Millines Dziko
Executive Director, Technology Access Foundation

Chip Giller
Founder, Grist

Chloe Harford
Advisor & Founding Fellow, Climate Vine

Kate Janeway, JD, MPA
Executive Coach

Phil Rigdon (Yakama)
Superintendent of Natural Resources, Yakama Nation

Chukundi Salisbury
Manager of Sustainability and Environmental Engagement Unit, City of Seattle

Jamie Stroble
Director of Climate Action & Resilience, The Nature Conservancy

Diani Taylor
Taylor Shellfish Farms

Joel Thornton
Interim Dean, College of the Environment

Bob Whitener
The Whitener Group

Advisory Board of Deans

Nancy Allbritton
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Joel Baker
Chair, School of Engineering & Technology, UW Tacoma

Anind Dey
Dean, iSchool

Hilary Godwin
Dean, School of Public Health

Dianne Harris
Dean of Arts & Sciences

Frank Hodge
Orin & Janet Smith Dean, Foster School of Business

Jodi Sandfort
Dean, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance

Brinda Sarathy
Dean, School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW Bothell

Michael Spencer
Ballmer Endowed Dean, School of Social Work

Joel Thornton
Interim Dean, College of the Environment

Mia Tuan
Dean, School of Education

Ken Yocom
Dean, College of Built Environments



Faculty Steering Committee

Kyle Armour
Interim Director, Program on Climate Change

Philip Bell
Professor, College of Education

Gregory Bratman
Director, Center for Nature and Health

Emily Cox Pahnke
Associate Professor, Foster School of Business

Kyle Crowder
Blumstein-Jordon Professor, Department of Sociology

Sara Curran
Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

Susan Dickerson-Lange
Director, Climate Impacts Group

Derek Fulwiler
Chief Strategy Officer, UW Population Health Initiative

Martha Groom
Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW Bothell

Jeremy Hess, MD
Director, Center for Health and the Global Environment

Vikram Iyer
Assistant Professor, Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

Michelle Johnson-Jennings
Professor, School of Social Work

Peter Kahn
Professor, Department of Psychology, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Terrie Klinger
Co-Director, Washington Ocean Acidification Center

Josh Lawler
Professor, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Clarita Lefthand-Begay
Assistant Professor, iSchool

Jan Newton
Co-Director, Washington Ocean Acidification Center

Bart Nijssen
Department Chair, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Julian Olden
Professor, Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

Daniel Schwartz
Director, Clean Energy Institute

Kate Simonen
Professor, College of Built Environments

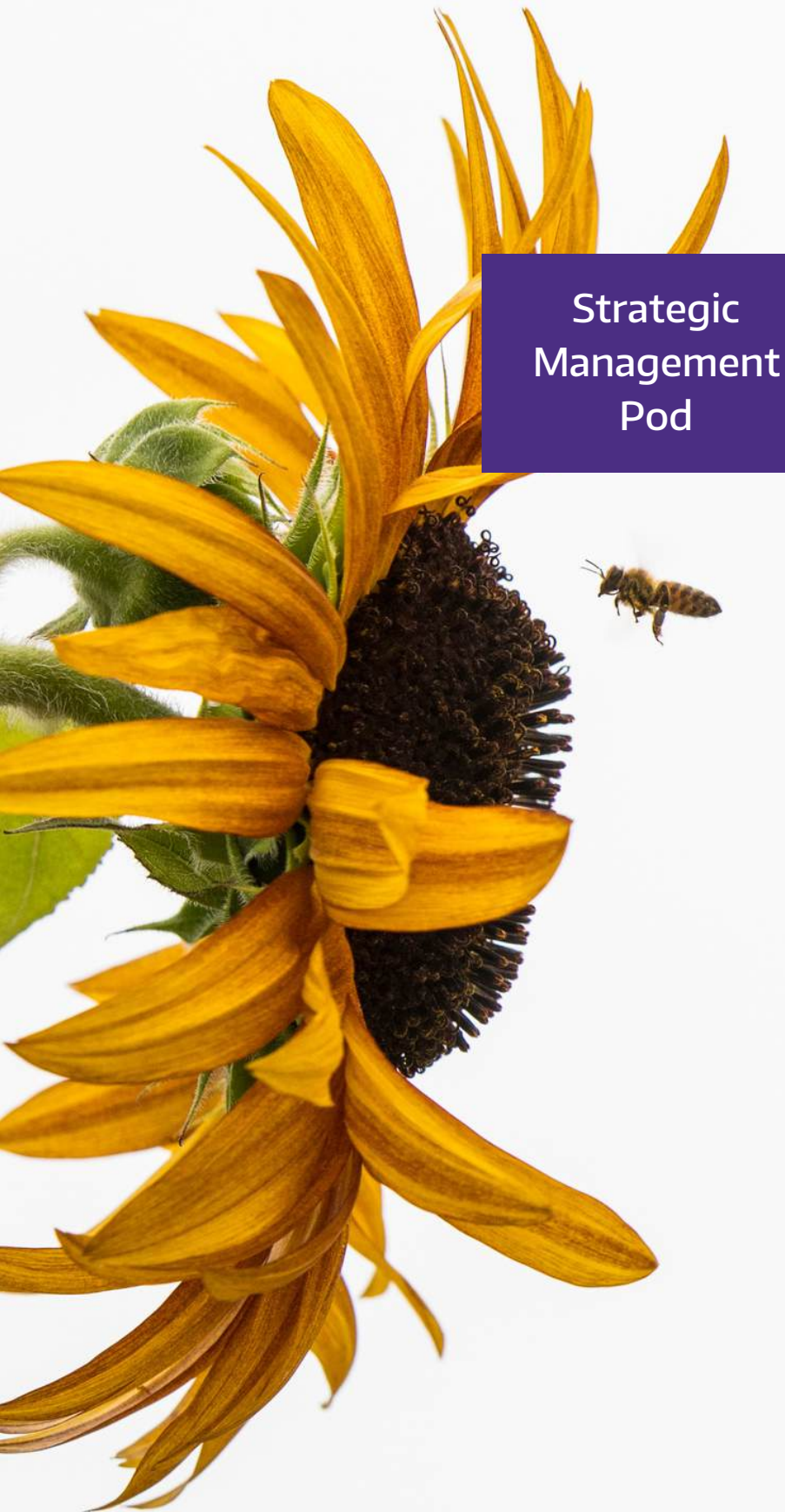
Cory Struthers
Assistant Professor, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance

View past members of our Advisory Council on our website [by clicking here.](#)

View past members of our Faculty Steering Committee on our website [by clicking here.](#)

MEET THE EARTHLAB CORE STAFF

THE PEOPLE AND WORK PODS THAT MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE



Strategic Management Pod



Phil Levin
Interim Executive
Director

Advancement & Operations



**Jessica Peyla
Nagtalon**
Executive Assistant



**Athena
Bertolino**
EarthLab Special
Projects Lead



**Kearstin
Williams**
Associate Director of
Advancement



María Anguiano
Assistant Director for
Finance &
Administration

Finance & Administration Pod



Becca Ray Hart
Grants & Financial
Manager



Cristina Urrutia
Grants & Finance
Manager



Olivia Brune
Finance &
Administrative
Assistant



**Anastasia
Ramey**
Manager of EarthLab
Programs

Programs Pod



Amy Oakley
Innovation Grants
Program Lead



Lissan Tibebe
Student Program
Lead



**Constance
McBarron**
Communications &
Engagement Manager

Communications & Engagement Pod



Allie Long
Communications
Lead



Tess Wrobleski
Project Specialist



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

“SHOW ME THE MONEY”

At EarthLab, we believe that financial transparency is a cornerstone of building trust – with our partners, researchers, community, and you.

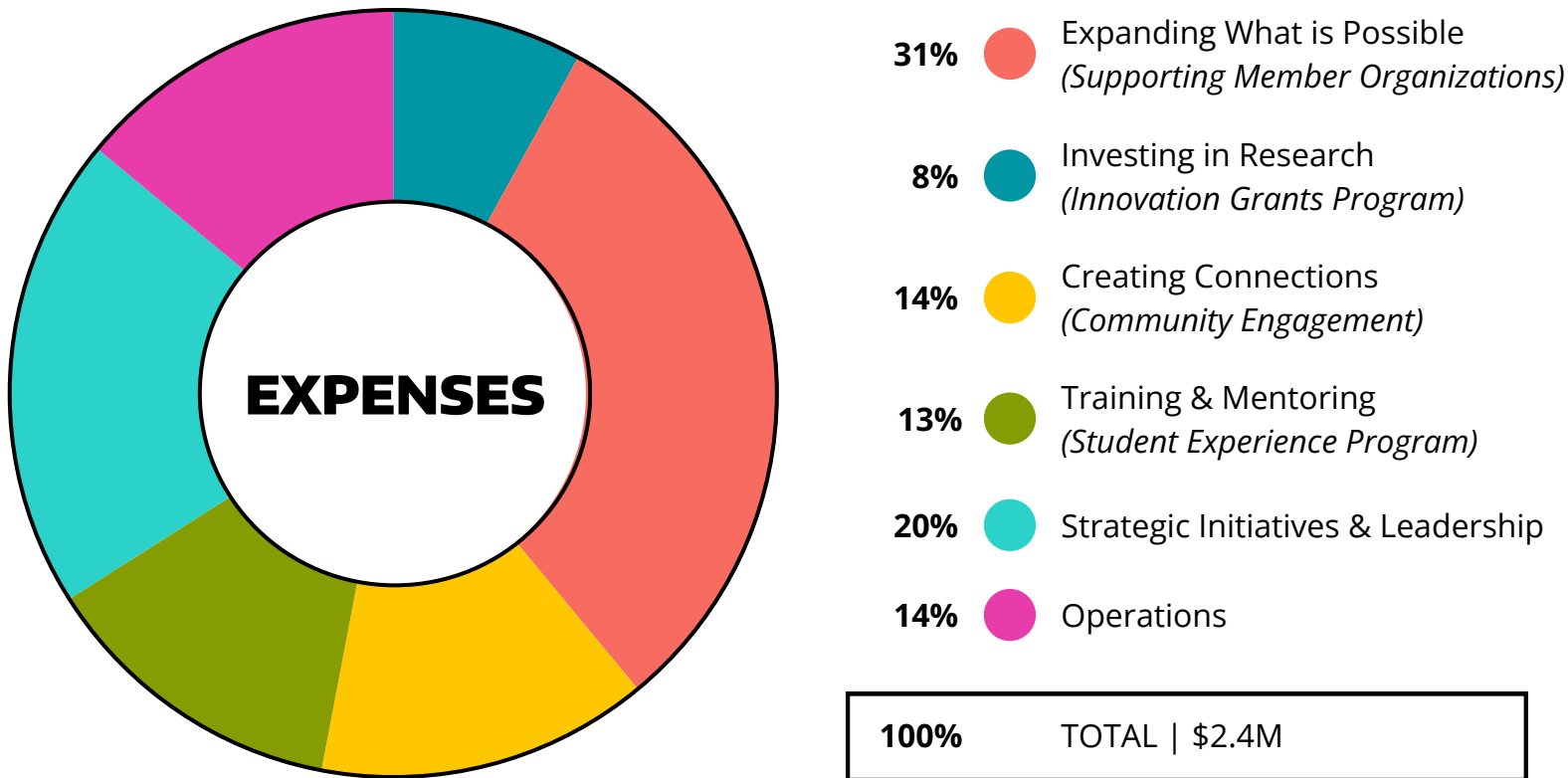
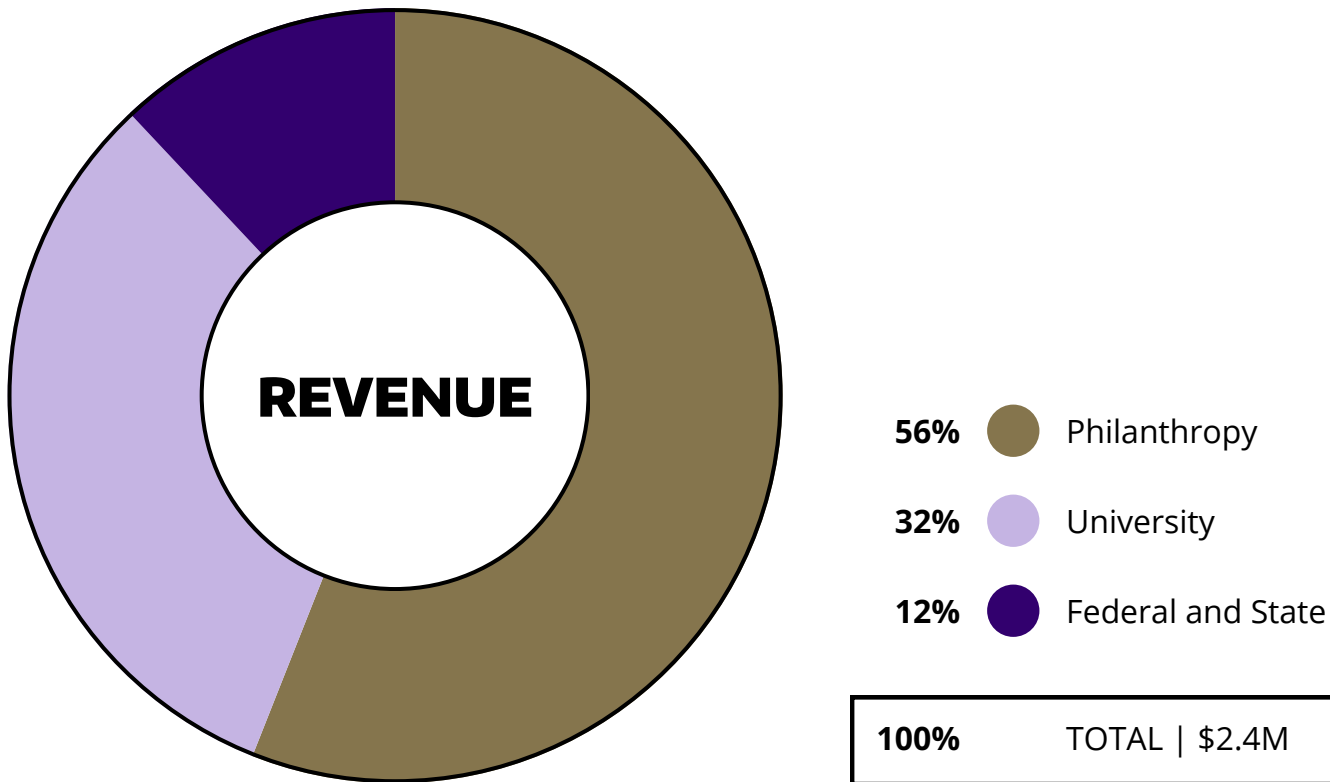
At the University of Washington, the 2025 fiscal year ran in accordance with the state, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Below, you'll find a breakdown of where our money flowed across our four action areas and beyond, reflecting our accountability to the communities we serve and our commitment to earning your continued trust.

SUPPORT OUR WORK!

Over half of our operational funding comes from the philanthropic support of private donors like you. If you believe in our mission and want to see us do more, please consider donating to EarthLab by following the QR code to the right:



EarthLab Core Budget
Fiscal Year 2025



GOING FORWARD

(PSST...THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN)

The examples shared in this year’s report are just a glimpse into the broader impact and countless stories yet to be told. As we look into the future, we are continually envisioning new ways for EarthLab’s impact to grow and evolve.

To the right, you’ll find specific examples of how additional support would expand our impact.

We extend our deepest gratitude to you: our partners, supporters, and the diverse stakeholders who have contributed to our journey so far. Together, we stand ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We are inspired by our collective potential to create a more sustainable, just, and equitable future for generations to come.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

We invite you to help us shape the future together in ways that are meaningful to you. You can do this by following us, sharing our work, or donating with the following QR code:



INVESTING IN RESEARCH CO-CREATED WITH COMMUNITY

There isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution to building relationships and funding high-risk high-reward projects. Additional funding could help us say “yes” more often to more community-centered projects farther into the future, allowing us to support a wider variety of early- to late-stage research projects with even higher potential for impact.



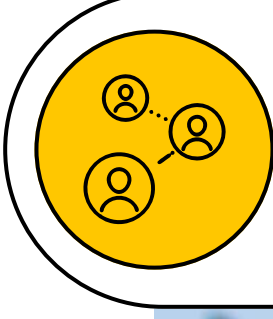
TRAINING & MENTORING TOMORROW’S CLIMATE LEADERS

Our Student Experience Program empowers students to lead the future climate workforce with deep expertise in environmental justice and collaborative solutions across sectors. Additional funding could help us scale our proven, paid internship model to serve a greater number of students and welcome additional internship site partners into the program.



EXPANDING WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & ACTION

We’ve built the underground network that supports individual research centers in order to thrive — now it’s time to visibly grow. Additional funding would generate new research centers and collaborative initiatives where disciplines could collide: imagine ocean sciences meeting nature-based solutions, creating new climate solutions rooted in science, innovation, and justice.



CREATING CONNECTIONS AT UW AND IN COMMUNITY

Truly collaborative climate solutions require time to build both relationships and a shared sense of trust. With additional funding, we could dedicate more of our time to bridging university expertise and community priorities by listening, connecting, and ensuring our programs fulfill real needs beyond campus.



STAY IN TOUCH





EARTHLAB

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON