

A photograph of two young women with long hair, smiling and peeling corn cobs at an outdoor event. The woman on the left wears a red and blue plaid shirt and sunglasses, while the woman on the right wears a black jacket and glasses. They are surrounded by various corn cobs, some in husks and some shucked, on a table. In the background, there are green plants and a red flag.

2024

The EMBARK logo features a stylized green leaf icon above the word "EMBARK" in a white, sans-serif, all-caps font.

EMBARK

# Annual General Report



WHOSE  
LAND ARE  
WE ON?

# Land Acknowledgement

Embark Sustainability wholeheartedly acknowledges that we are located on the unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səliilíwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), kwikwə́łwəm (Kwkwetlem), qíćə́y (Katzie), Qayqayt, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, and Tsawwassen Nations.

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw refers to Burnaby Mountain as Lhukw'lhukw'áytən, "where the bark gets peeled in spring." The name is derived from the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw word for arbutus, lhulhukw'ay, which comes from lhukw' (peel), and means "always peeling". When we recognize place names like Lhukw'lhukw'áytən we are acknowledging the original histories that have been here since time immemorial, prior to the colonization of these spaces.

These unceded lands were never surrendered, transferred or relinquished in any way and, as such, the land remains sovereign Indigenous territory over which the Canadian and British Columbian governments have no legal or moral authority to govern. It is our responsibility to ensure that the work of Embark is an effort of decolonization and works in congruence with the values and interests of host nations.



# **Embark** is a resource hub empowering SFU students on their sustainability journeys through dialogue and transformative action.

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## **OUR VISION**

A just, equitable, and sustainable future for all students.



## **OUR MISSION**

To create a hub that empowers and resources SFU students and allies in their sustainability journeys. We serve transformative communities by centring anti-oppression, decolonization, and equity in impactful programming, events, and initiatives. Through this work, we spark dialogue and drive action to dismantle oppressive frameworks within institutions and our interconnected climate and food systems.



## **OUR COMMUNITY**

Embark serves all students enrolled in an SFU undergraduate or graduate degree program. SFU community members and Embark Sustainability supporters can register to become an impact partner.

# Our

**2003**

## SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS COALITION

Three undergraduate students establish the Sustainable Campus Coalition (SCC) with a mission to form an SFU Sustainability Advisory Committee that would ensure sustainability is at the heart of decision-making at the university.

**2006**

## SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Simon Fraser University creates the Sustainability Advisory Committee. SCC changes its name to Sustainable SFU (SSFU) to continue and further its work after achieving its original mission.

**2009**

## REGISTERED NON- PROFIT

SSFU registers as a non-profit organization to increase accountability and capacity to support student sustainability initiatives.

**2013**

## LEARNING GARDEN

SSFU undergoes rapid growth including but not limited to creating the Burnaby Learning Garden, launching new student grants, and regularly offering events and programming to its membership.



# History

## 2015 EMBARK REBRAND

SSFU rebrands and changes its name to Embark Sustainability, focusing on the society's role in empowering students to lead sustainable change at SFU and beyond.

## 2017 THEORY OF CHANGE

Embark creates a strategic plan to guide the development of future events, initiatives and programming. This theory of change model is refreshed every three years to reflect Embark's dynamic commitment to students, sustainability, and anti-oppression.

## 2021 EMBARK STUDIO

Thanks to the tireless efforts of student organizers leading the Save our Spaces campaign, Embark was welcomed to join other constituency and affiliated groups in the Student Union Building. Embark moves into the Embark Studio, out of which it runs student centred programming and events.

## 2023 BIG CELEBRATIONS

Embark Sustainability celebrates 20 years as a student society while the Burnaby Learning Garden marks its 10 year anniversary.

# Meet the Team



## Board of Directors

**Anne Tran**  
Chair

**Shabnam Raufi**  
Secretary

**Zahila Rehman**  
JEDDI Officer

**Ellen Watters**  
Governance Officer

**Hailey Tran**  
Treasurer

**Heidi Kwok**  
Director-at-Large



## Staff

**Marie Haddad**  
Director of Engagement

**Jamie Hill**  
Director of Development

**Pablo Vimos**  
Gardens Manager

**Kaitlyn Jung**  
Communications Manager

## Coordinators

**Rebecca Ballard**  
Climate Equity  
Coordinator

**Simran Sarai**  
Food Justice  
Coordinator







# Volunteers

## **BURNABY LEARNING GARDEN COHORTS**

Alyna De Guzman

Alysha Mah

Annelise Jensen

Ayscha Azami

Den Arias

Dorsa Moazami

Ena Kim

Farah Messan

Fernanda Sauvage

Jasleen Dhani

Jasmine Grewal

Lea Aldenhoven

Maria Sharifi

Marie Haddad

Maryam Shahzadeh

Mercy La Bossiere

Nour

Olivia Huynh

Paola Quiros

Rachael Quak

Raymond Ho

Rebecca Clark

Rebecca Ballard

Tarveen Kaur

Tavia Azad

## **FOOD JUSTICE FACILITATORS**

Adanna Nduagu

Amy Sang

Jordyn Carss

Kai Tinker

Marie Haddad

Noah Jozic

Stella Hunka

Sude Guvendik

Zahila Rehman

## **FOOD RESCUE DISTRIBUTORS**

Deeya Parekh

Jessica Jandu

Lacey Swamy

Mitchell Han

Mohammad Omidvar

Purity Onoyemeakpo

Rubena Ashoori

Sena Isik

Sijia Qiu

Sofia Shulepova

Vinisha

## **CLIMATE EQUITY FACILITATORS**

Atena Abbaspourbenis

Daphne Banogon

Elijah Lacap

Fernanda Sauvage

Heidi Kwok

Jessica Moh

Nehal Dhadral

Polina Shuba

Rameesa Rahman



# Theory of

Our approach to sustainability can be broken down into three areas: **Food Justice**

## Food Justice

Food justice seeks to address and dismantle barriers to equitable food access, advocating for communities' rights to control their own food systems and access culturally relevant, affordable, and sustainable food.

### Our Mission

To create a hub that empowers SFU students and allies on their sustainability journeys. We serve communities by centring decolonization, and through programming, events, and education, this work, we spark dialogue to dismantle oppressive institutions and our interlocking food systems.

## Short Term

Students recognize the intersecting and structural inequities embedded in colonial food systems

## Medium Term

Students honour and learn from Indigenous and marginalized groups, build relationships in community and with the land, and centre food sovereignty

## Long Term

Students advocate and take action for just and community-centred food systems on and off campus, whilst uncovering their personal and cultural connections

## Ultimate Vision

### Our Vision

A just, equitable, and sustainable food system



# f Change

can be broken down into two focus areas: **Climate Justice** and **Climate Equity**.

## Mission

Empowers and resources students in their sustainability journey through transformative learning, centering anti-oppression, and equity in impactful programs and initiatives. Through dialogue and drive action to create positive frameworks within interconnected climate and systems.

## Climate Equity

Systemically marginalized communities face frontline impacts of the climate crisis. Climate equity is a framework for mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis that works to alleviate the burden of impact on racialized and marginalized communities, bridging climate justice, racial equity, and many intersecting liberation movements.

### Short Term

Students recognize the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized communities

### Medium Term

Students honour and learn from Indigenous and marginalized groups, build relationships in community and with the land, and centre marginalized lived experiences

## Climate Goal

## Vision

A sustainable, and future for all.

### Long Term

Students advocate and take action for just climate solutions and sovereign Indigenous stewardship of lands and waters



# A Letter from

Reflecting back on 2024, Embark has had a pivotal year marked by various new initiatives and organizational changes, with some taking shape in 2025. In response to rising cost of living, increased demand for food banks, political decisions affecting climate policies, and the growing prevalence of weather extremities, we remain more determined than ever to address student food insecurity and provide quality programming for knowledge-sharing and skill development.

With that goal in mind, the board began the year with strategically adjusting Embark's mission, values, and Theory of Change, to ensure our work continues to be relevant to the evolving needs of the SFU community.

Key priorities include amplifying marginalized voices in our events, strengthening connections with other campus groups, and orienting the Embark Studio into a welcoming resource hub and open space where students can drop in, connect with fellow peers, and discuss food justice and climate equity. To stay informed of student affairs and how we can better serve our membership, we now dedicate one board member to be at SFSS Council.

Throughout the year, we have also expanded our team by implementing a Co-Director model, providing more student job opportunities, and reinstating board positions previously unfilled in 2023, including JEDDI officer, Governance officer, and Director-at-Large roles.

“

**Being in community has helped support the resilience of those at Embark who are doing hard work of learning and engaging others with sustainability, so that everyone can find how sustainability resonates within.**

”



# our Chair

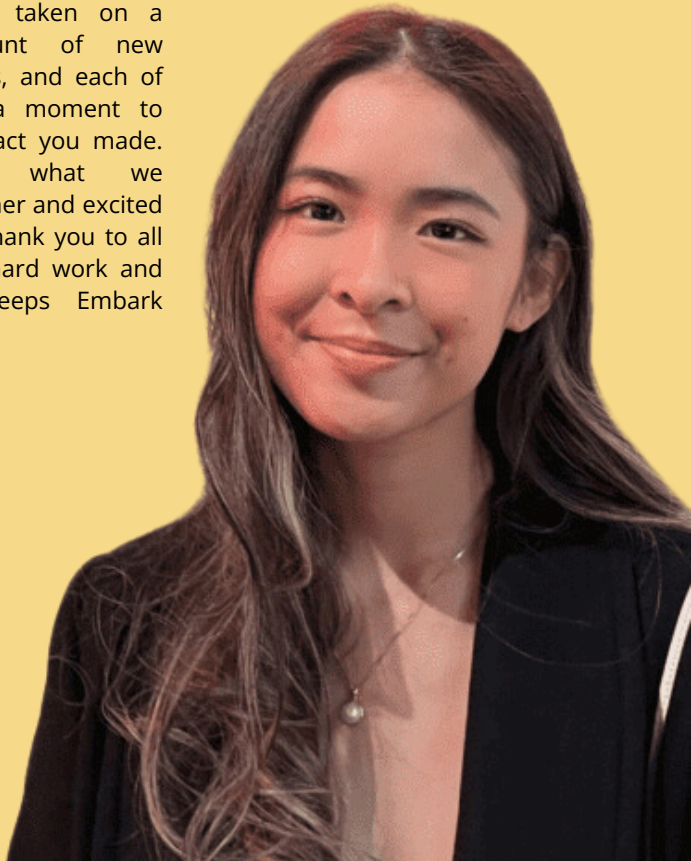
With a larger board, committees are back to support improvement in our policies and commitment to anti-oppressive practices.

Though there will always be rising challenges to navigate, I am confident that Embark Sustainability will continue to thrive thanks to our passionate and dedicated team of Board Directors, staff members, coordinators, and volunteers. The Embark team has taken on a tremendous amount of new initiatives and ideas, and each of you should take a moment to appreciate the impact you made. I'm proud of what we accomplished together and excited for what's ahead. Thank you to all involved, it's your hard work and dedication that keeps Embark moving forward.

Cheers,



**Anne Tran**  
Board Chair





# A Letter from our

Amid a global climate crisis, the urgency for meaningful and collective action at Embark has never been greater. This year, we reflected deeply on the foundation of Embark—a foundation built on the labour and vision of Black and Indigenous students who successfully organized and fought to carve out dedicated space for groups like ours at Simon Fraser University. Their efforts continuously remind us of our affirmed purpose: to ensure that future generations of students inherit not just a space, but a future—an equitable future shaped by their voices and dreams. To have a transformative impact on our community, Embark must transcend the conventional scope of a nonprofit, rooting our efforts in the strength of community, the wisdom of the past, and the pursuit of a just world for us all.

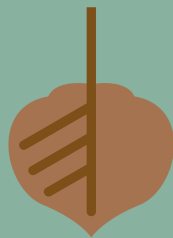
There's no better group to engage with these concepts than students. Embark exists to amplify student voices, empowering marginalized communities on campus and providing space for rest, growth, and support for those undertaking the tireless work of challenging oppressive systems.

Students have done more than just inspire us—they nourish and sustain us. From the laughter that spills into the halls at the end of a Community Kitchen, the giddy excitement of gardeners sharing their first harvest, to moments of mentorship from one campus organizer to another over lunch in the Studio, students are what bring Embark meaning.

The heart of this year has been reciprocity. From turning inwards to create a highly collaborative co-director model to building newfound initiatives like RADROSH with SFPIRG, we were constantly exploring what it means to stand in solidarity across liberation movements in ways that are impactful, genuine, and rooted in collective care.

The relationships we have had the privilege to build this year have been marked with generosity and grace from our neighbours, supporting us to address the intersectional needs of communities and holding us accountable to show up in meaningful, concrete ways here forward.





# Co-Directors

“

To have a transformative impact on our community, Embark must transcend the conventional scope of a nonprofit, rooting our efforts in the strength of community, the wisdom of the past, and the pursuit of a just world for us all.

”

We are excited to see what the future holds and what might grow from these roots with time, care, and action.

Sincerely,

**Marie Haddad**

Director of Engagement

**Jamie Hill**

Director of Development





# Program Highlights

## Community Kitchens

A collaborative effort with the SFSS Womens' Centre, our Community Kitchens are a way for students to connect with culture, heritage, justice, and one another over shared meals. From asking what it means to cook in a digital age, to creating communities of care within our movements for liberation, to exploring food sovereignty from farm to fork, Community Kitchens have been a space for joy, grief, reflection and learning this year. A huge thanks to all our collaborators for your support in making these gatherings meaningful spaces for care, growth, and community!

## Beyond Screens

Exploring online recipe sharing and cultural cuisine in the digital age. Facilitated by: Daniel Kuziw & Rini Liu | Collaboration with SFU Reclaim Tech.

## Joy of Adaptation

Discovering how a community of care can adapt to fit people's differing needs, abilities and circumstances.

Facilitated by: Brianna Price & Paola Quirós-Cruz | Collaboration with SFU DNA, SFU SVSPO.



## Hanami

A Japanese celebration of cherry blossoms and a healthy harvest, infusing the unique flavours of sakura into desserts and more. Facilitated by Ella Oriye Tani.



## Busy but Nourished

Exploring how simple, budget-friendly meals can fit easily into student schedules. Facilitated by Brittany Buskiewicz.



## The Story of Food

An evening where culinary creativity met cultural celebration. Collaboration with Greater Vancouver Food Bank as part of ConnectFest.



## Thinking Farm to Fork

An immersive journey into the rights of farmers and food growers. Facilitated by: Sarah Wiese.



## Nourishing Palestinian Resistance

An evening for care, grief, and rest in the movement for Palestinian liberation. Facilitated by a Palestinian SFU community member.



# Healing in the Kitchen: Celebrating the Black Community

A celebration centering SFU's Black community and uplifting one another through the power of food. Facilitated by: Tricia-Kay Williams & Paola Quirós-Cruz | Collaboration with SFU SVSPO & SFU Health and Counselling.



## একসাথে খাওয়া দাওয়া | Akshate Khawa Dawa | Together We Eat

An evening of intergenerational cooking exploring the influence of food in Bengali culture and immense political relevance of food. Facilitated by: Aindrila ঐন্দ্ৰিলা & Rea রিয়া Chatterjee. Collaboration with SFPIRG as part of RAD FROSH.

## Savouring the Seasons Sustainably

Exploring the importance of eating in season.  
Facilitated by: Stella Hunk.



## Bridging Food Connections

An evening diving into community food distribution through traditional meals often prepared at the gurdwara. Facilitated by: Simran Sarai.



# Climate Equity Events

This year we explored intentional and innovative approaches to climate action, centring solutions that address the climate crisis while alleviating the burden of impact on racialized and marginalized communities. Our opportunities to connect with climate equity varied, from dialogue to reflection to advocacy, giving students opportunities to support a just future across their unique paths of action towards systemic change.

## A Dialogue on BC Climate Policies with Policy Makers

A panel featuring policy experts sharing their ideas for a just transition and strategies for creating a more equitable future. Collaboration with SFU Student Energy.

## Beyond COP 28: Student Visions for a Sustainable Future

An evening where COP 28 UBC and SFU student delegates shared perspectives on climate action in British Columbia and across the globe, including expectations for COP 29. Collaboration with the Climate Action Secretariat, SFU Sustainability, UBC Sustainability Hub and UBC Climate Hub.



# Climate Career Night: Land-Centred Livelihoods

Welcomed organizers and experts from Dogwood, West Coast Environmental Law, David Suzuki Foundation and more to share their insights into Land Back, Indigenous sovereignty and their personal career journeys. Collaboration with the UBC Centre for Climate Justice.

## Climate Strike Art Build

A chance for students to get creative and gather together to make signs and posters before heading to the Global Climate Strike. Collaboration with SFPIRG for RAD FROSH.

## Penning for Palestine

A climate workshop that brought together students, activists, and community members to write letters emphasizing the intersection of the fight for a just climate and the end of occupation and apartheid in Palestine and beyond. Facilitated by: Parsa Alirezaei & Ally Soriano. Collaboration with SFU CCMS & SFU350.

## Equitable Transitions

An important discussion on the role of equitable, sustainable energy access in tackling climate change. Collaboration with SFU Student Energy.







# Learning Gardens

Each term, members of our Learning Garden Cohorts gathered under the guidance of our Gardens Manager, Pablo Vimos, who supported them to embrace the fun of food growing while exploring organic gardening techniques and reflecting on food justice.

Cultivating their own plot, our gardeners could take time away from student stressors and work the soil in each other's company, all the while learning to advocate for just, community-centred food systems on and off campus. Gardening and food growing were also focal points of many gatherings, celebrations, and workshops throughout the seasons.

## Summer Solstice Chill and Paint

An afternoon celebrating the summer season all while decorating the picnic bench in the SUB Learning Garden, bringing creativity and community into the garden.

## Balm and Salve Making

A workshop about preserving the nourishing qualities of plant life and reducing our reliance on big-box skincare by learning to safely make balms and salves with minimal supplies.

## Sprouting Solutions

A workshop exploring the power of tiny greens and how to grow microgreens for the benefit of both health and the environment.

## Gardener's Guide

A weekly segment through CJSF 90.1 FM Radio to support gardeners across the SFU community. Tune in for up-to-date advice on gardening throughout the growing season!

## Pop-Up Food Distribution

A sharing table offering freshly harvested organic produce from the Embark SUB Learning Garden, connecting students and community members with the bounty of our summer harvest.







# Food Rescue

Each week, Food Rescue was a chance for our Food Rescue Distributors to have an insightful conversation about food justice before collecting produce from Nester's Market to distribute to students on Burnaby campus. Regulars shared how incredibly important it was for them to access fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables, and distributors shared that this program left them feeling hopeful and fulfilled in ways they'd yet to experience.



Over...  
**945**kgs  
of food rescued

Over...  
**1.7k**  
meals provided

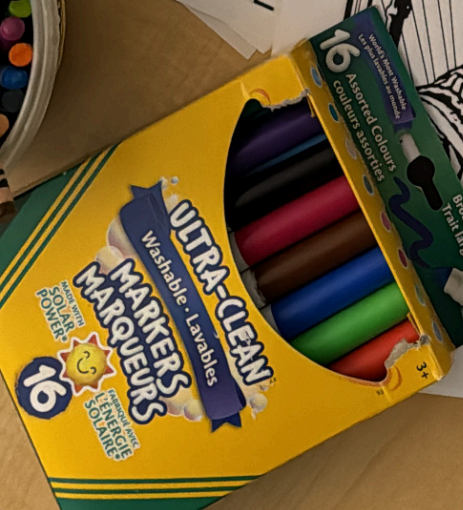


“ Overall, volunteering with Embark has been a positive and enlightening experience. I will be adopting the lessons I learnt to my community and personal life as well. Working with community has opened my eyes to the diverse perspectives of others. I love the idea of taking what you want from the food table, there's no bureaucracy or hurdles to get to food. It's lovely. ”

Purity Onoyemeakpo  
Food Rescue Distributor









# Liberation Summer Organizers' Bootcamp

A summer session of bonding and solidarity, our second-annual Liberation Summer Organizers' Bootcamp was a two-day intensive series of workshops that supported current and future organizers to explore their role in social movements, discover joy, prioritize rest, and strategize their organizing efforts. A huge thanks to our collaborators SFPIRG and Organizing for Change for bringing this dream to life with us!

## RAD FROSH & Eviction to Empowerment

We teamed up with SFPIRG for RAD FROSH, a month-long series for students concerned about the state of the world and keen to transform it. The event lineup included a campus tour, poetry night, movie screening, art build, community kitchen, and an orientation that shared the history of organizing efforts at SFU. One history that felt deeply meaningful for us to explore was the Rotunda Save Our Spaces campaign, the efforts of which are the reason Embark, SFPIRG and others have dedicated space in the Student Union Building. Eviction to Empowerment: Save Our Spaces Campaign Discussion invited back past organizers from the Save Our Spaces Campaign to share their knowledge and pass along their insights to current students about how to organize in university settings. Our thanks to Annie Bhuiyan, Balqees Jama, and Magnus Thyvold for helping us to deepen our understanding of our histories.



## Course Collaborations

In spring and fall semesters we had the opportunity to collaborate with students of IAT 235: Information Design. Students developed user-centred digital resources based on Embark's existing materials. *Find Your Climate Community*, initially developed by a student-led advocacy and education team at Embark, now lives on our website as a choose your own adventure interactive quiz thanks to the amazing students of IAT 235!











## Student Collectives

Our student-led collectives deepen their understanding of climate and food justice topics while collaborating with one another to share their learnings with the SFU community at large. Collectives meet once a week under the guidance of a student coordinator to share knowledge, connect with each other, and develop initiatives, events, and resources from ideation to execution. This year our Climate Equity and Food Justice collectives supported climate workshops, community kitchens, and large scale events they took from ideation to execution:

### Seeds of Sovereignty

An event exploring Indigenous cultures, cuisines, and the fight to decolonize our food systems. Led by our Food Justice Collective in collaboration with the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Association.

### Building Resilience

An evening exploring climate action across systems and drawing inspiration from the ecological resilience around us. Led by our Climate Equity Collective and featuring Indigenous Ethnobotanist T'uy't'ananat Cease Wyss.



# The year in Numbers



**2090**

Members  
Engaged

**54**

Volunteers

**945**

kg food  
distributed

**1700**

Meals  
Provided

**25**

Garden  
Graduates

**2.4K**

kg CO2  
reduced

**25**

Events



# Get Involved

## JOIN OUR TEAM

Have we won you over yet? Each semester brings new opportunities to get involved with climate equity, food justice and more. Follow our social media or subscribe to our newsletter for the latest updates and we look forward to having you on board.



## IMPACT PARTNERS

Wondering what happens after graduation? Keep connected to our growing community of changemakers. Become an associate member to maintain access to all our programming and events post-grad.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Get the full digital experience! We have so much happening on our social media. Follow us to keep connected and learn what we're up to each semester.



Embark Sustainability / @embarksustainability





# EMBARK

Embark is a student-led non-profit  
that empowers students to lead  
sustainable change at SFU.

