



*2023-2028 Strategic Plan*

# **SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL & FOREST SCIENCES**



COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON





Students in SEFS Associate Professor Anthony Dichiara's lab experiment with paper-based sensors and sustainable materials.

## Vision, Mission, and Values of SEFS

Our vision is to inspire and provide equitable solutions to pressing challenges in forests and other socio-environmental systems.

From the molecular to the global, SEFS engages the natural sciences, social sciences, and engineering to support stewardship of natural resources. Through our cutting-edge research, visionary teaching, and inclusive engagement, we work to improve the long-term sustainability and resilience of ecological and socio-environmental systems.

**Our underlying values are:**

- *Excellence and innovation in discovery and learning;*
- *Inclusion and collaboration in community;*
- *Equity and justice in diversity;*
- *Mentoring and empathy in leadership.*

## Overall Strategic Goals of SEFS

- » Foster inclusive environmental research and education, increase diversity of people working within the fields we teach, and develop equitable and sustainable stewardship.
- » Deliver high-quality, internationally recognized undergraduate and graduate teaching and mentoring that prepare students to succeed in the world and in the workplace.
- » Enhance excellence, funding, and impact of our research, and take advantage of transdisciplinary opportunities.
- » Provide the information and solutions to pressing problems to diverse external constituencies to extend and support the impact of our research and education programs.



## Teaching and Mentoring Program Goals

- » Deliver an inclusive, rigorous, evolving, and sustainable portfolio of undergraduate and graduate educational programs that attract and train a diverse student body to become leaders in environmental science, natural resource management, and sustainability.
- » Align teaching resources and modes to successfully serve our undergraduate students, deliver both general and specialized graduate courses, and increase environmental literacy of students throughout the University.
- » Deliver a set of engineering programs and integrated curricular options that bridge ecological systems and sustainability, building on bioresource sciences and engineering.
- » Support students in achieving their academic and career goals.



## Research Goals

- » Balance the portfolio of successful proposals submitted for external funding.
- » Establish and build on, and provide support for new and long-term research collaborations with agencies, tribes, communities, and other partners.
- » Provide support for new and existing collaborations in transdisciplinary research. Increase the visibility, accessibility, and impact of our research.



## Outreach/Engagement Goals

- » Foster a SEFS culture supportive of outreach and engagement activities.
- » Understand the needs of our partners and engage in just, reciprocal, and equitable activities.
- » Increase external resources (including through extramural grants, philanthropic gifts, and revenue) for outreach and engagement activities.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals

- » Increase and sustain diversity on multiple dimensions—such as race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, and socio-economic status—of students, faculty and staff.
- » Develop structures, programs, and/or plans to support retention and thriving of all faculty, staff, and students in SEFS, with particular attention to the needs of members of minoritized communities (including through scholarships, mentor/mentee relationships, and community building).
- » Increase and sustain representation of Indigenous people at all levels within SEFS, support intergovernmental relations at the departmental and College level, and incorporate Indigenous management and traditional ecological knowledges in curriculum, research, and field work.
- » Incorporate integrated attention to DEI and environmental justice content into our classes, seminars, trainings, and readings.

