

WINTER 2026

chirp



Sign Up for
Quarterly Releases

The Sustainability Office
Newsletter



APRIL 2026

**EARTH
MONTH**

TRANSFORMING LIVES

**OUR POWER
OUR PLANET**

Earth Month 2026

Earth Month is happening now! Throughout the month of April, join the Sustainability Office for a series of informative talks, hands-on habitat restoration, an Earth Market, a Zero Waste Fair, yoga classes, and much more! This year's theme is Transforming Lives: Our Power, Our Planet and connects our community with action that supports the health and vibrancy of our planet.

All events are free and open to students, faculty, staff, and community members. Check out a few of the events below:

Sustainability Film Fest:

April 14, 11:30 AM – 2 PM, Cafeteria

Grab some free popcorn and enjoy viewing "Fashion Reimagined" and "Earth's Greatest Enemy" with a director Q&A after.

Target 2030: How to Reach BC's Emissions Targets:

April 20, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM, D106

Join the Sustainability Office for a discussion on achieving 60% Greenhouse Gas Reduction by 2030. Washington State has set reduction targets leading to Net Zero in 2050. The Bellevue College 2024 Climate Action Plan is one of the roadmaps to get there. We will be doing a deep dive into what steps the college needs to take over the next 3 years to achieve this goal.

History and the Present Day Environmental Movement:

April 21, 9:30 AM - 11:20 AM, D106

Join BC's own Brian Casserly for an overview of the environmental movement in the US. Then hear from Joshua Wright with the Legacy Forest Defense Coalition about his current work and ways to get involved.

AI/Data Center Talk with Neal Anderson:

April 28, 9:30 AM - 10:20 AM, C130

Join Neal Andersen of 350 Seattle and the Sierra Club for a talk on the rise of data center construction in Washington State, how it impacts our energy and water resources, and how lawmakers have worked to address this in the 2026 legislative session.



WOHESC Recap

Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) at the University of Washington in Seattle was an engaging event. This year's theme was Still We Rise, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and community partners who are all committed to advancing sustainability and climate justice across higher education.

The Sustainability Office brought 6 Bellevue College students, along with our 6 office members, and were inspired by both the student presenters—who will rise to be our future leaders—as well as established leaders in the field.

One of those leaders was Amy Bowers Cordalis, a powerful Yurok tribal attorney who spoke about her work in a really moving way. She shared both her professional knowledge and, without losing faith in honoring what her ancestors fought for, has been part of the largest dam removal project in U.S. history. (Watch the video here.)

There were also many fun resources shared, including recommended books and games that tickle the minds of curious and thoughtful people.

Interesting Games:

- We All Take from the River
- Wingspan (Stonemaier Games)
- Ecologies
- Climate Call
- Coopoly: The Game of Cooperatives
- Cards Against Urbanity
- Daybreak
- Community Garden
- Forbidden Island

Interesting Reads:

- The Nature of Our Times
- The Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators
- A Toolkit for Curious People





Housing Donation Room

Housing residents can shop our donation room in the second floor east lounge, where a variety of free items can be found. Stop by with items to donate or explore what's been donated by others. All items are free; donations should be clean and in good condition. Dangerous or illegal items, large furniture, opened food (perishable or unperishable) and broken items are not accepted in the donation room.

New Tap to Pay on Public Transit

Tap to Pay has officially launched on public transit across the Puget Sound region. This new feature allows riders to simply tap most contactless credit and debit cards, whether they're physical cards or in a digital wallet.

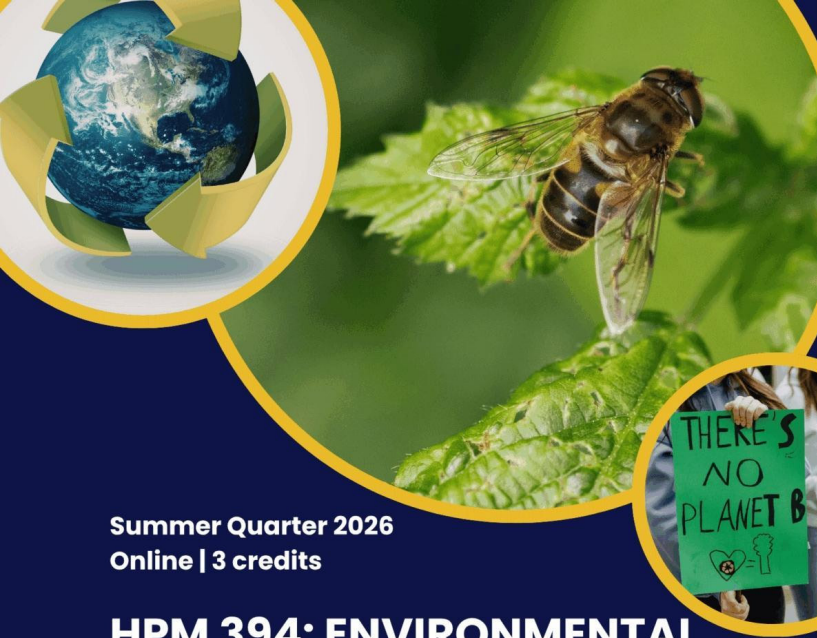
ORCA cards are still most cost-effective for many riders across the region, especially those enrolled in free or reduced-fare programs such as ORCA LIFT, Senior RRFP, Disabled RRFP, Youth, and those with the BC student or employee ORCA card. If interested in an ORCA card, students should visit Student Financial Services in U107 and employees should email the

A New Way to Commute to BC

The Crosslake Connection (2 Line) is now open, bringing light rail access from Seattle to Bellevue! It's a great way to commute to the college; just get off at the South Bellevue Station (Stop #E09-T2) and take the 226 bus to campus (Stop #72984).

Need an ORCA card? Either tap to pay at full price or get a discounted student ORCA card through BC by stopping by the Student Financial Services office in U107.





Summer Quarter 2026
Online | 3 credits

HPM 394: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE JUSTICE

About the class:

- 3 credits
- online
- practical
- discussion-based
- grounded in real-world examples

Registration starts
May 13, 2026

Contact us now

- ✉ hpm@bellevuecollege.edu
- 🌐 bellevuecollege.edu/hpm

New Sustainability Class Alert

Join HPM:394 this summer and learn about the intersections of climate justice and environmental health. Students will explore how factors like income, housing, geography, disability, age, occupation, and access to resources influence exposure to environmental risks. The course highlights how policies, planning decisions, and historical practices shape environmental health outcomes for communities. The class is online and consists of short lectures, videos, discussions, and applied examples.

Registration starts May 13th.

New Q Building Switchgear

The Sustainability Office has recently overseen completion of the replacement of the Q Building medium voltage electrical switchgear. The existing switchgear was at the end of its useful life and at risk of failure. This project moves the College closer to completion of the ongoing utility meter health project, required to meet compliance with Washington State's Clean Buildings Performance Standard.



Safe Space Heater Usage

While you might be tired of hearing about saving energy, it is one of the areas where the U.S. has made significant progress towards a more sustainable future. We are far from perfect, and have a lot of work to get there, but taking a step back can be a helpful motivation to keep fighting for a more sustainable and just future. According to a study done by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in 2022, energy efficiency initiatives since the 1980s have kept total energy consumption relatively steady. The U.S. consumed about 50 quadrillion BTUs in 1970 and currently uses about 75 quadrillion BTUs per year (end-use sector). Without energy improvements and advancements, we would need around 225 quadrillion BTUs per year - a 60% increase! Following the energy crisis in the 1970's, energy efficiency became a hot topic in the built environment (residential, commercial and manufacturing) and led to the creation of the EIA and the EPA's EnergyStar. Further state regulations have been implemented since and are increasingly more common, including Washington's Clean Buildings Performance Standards.

While it is a small piece of the pie, everyone's participation in helping improve the college is needed. As we head into spring, here are a few things to pay attention to:

HVAC systems function best in either heating or cooling mode. Spring in the PNW is famous for cool mornings and mild afternoons. At BC, we aim to keep the inside temperature between 68 and 72 in heating mode and 70 to 74 in cooling mode. If you notice your office or classroom is warmer or cooler than normal, submit a workorder ticket to have Maintenance take a look. Catching odd temperature changes early helps to eliminate unnecessary usage!

Make sure windows are closed before you leave a classroom or office! Fresh air is nice but with cool overnight temperatures, the HVAC system will run longer than it needs in order to match the set temperature.



Have a Project Idea to Implement on Campus?

The Student Environment Sustainability Fund (SESF) provides students, faculty, and staff a means to enhance Bellevue College's sustainability efforts and create positive social and environmental change on campus.

Fill out the paperwork and present to the SESF committee for the opportunity to get your project funded!

Get Started Here

Please email the Civic Engagement & Sustainability Director at agsocial@bellevuecollege.edu if you would like to be a committee member or join a meeting as an observer! The next scheduled meeting is April 20th at 2:30 PM. To be considered, proposals must be submitted by the end of day on April 17th.

More info

<https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/images/consumption-by-source-and-sector.pdf>

