

# University of British-Columbia 'Ecotrek' EPC

Address ([Map](#)): 2329 West Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T1Z4 Canada  
 Sector: Educational Delivery Type: Energy Performance Contract  
 MCW Office: Vancouver Status: Complete  
 Sub Categories: College & University



Project Initiated In:  
**2003**

Project Cost:  
**\$37,800,000**

Scope of Project:  
**277 Buildings - 6.8 Million Square Feet**

Annual Energy Savings :  
**\$4,000,000**

Annual GHG Emissions Reductions:  
**11,032 Tonnes eCO2**

## Project Description

The University of British-Columbia is one of the largest Universities in Canada. It maintains two campuses: the 400 hectare UBC Vancouver campus, and the 209 hectare UBC Okanagan campus.

In partnership with UBC, MCW implemented what was, at the time, the largest single-phase energy management project ever undertaken by a Canadian university at its Vancouver campus. The project, named 'ecotrek', demonstrates MCW's capability to successfully deliver an Energy Performance Contract to an institution with a large, diverse facility portfolio spread out across a sizeable, interconnected campus.

## Project Highlights:

- Major improvements to the Central Steam Plant and Distribution System in order to reduce GHG emissions created from steam production by boilers that were utilizing 40 year old technology
- The replacement of steam absorption chillers with high-efficiency electric chillers - a measure made possible due to advantageous electricity rates and the low carbon intensity of electricity in B.C.
- Expanding the Building Management System to nearly 4 mil sq. ft. of the campus heating and ventilation systems.
- Metering utilities (electricity, steam, and water) in most of the academic buildings.
- Installing low water consuming plumbing fixtures to save \$600,000 per year, or enough water to meet the needs of 11,785 people.
- Greenhouse Gas emissions reduction equivalent to taking 2,500 vehicles off the road.
- National First Prize for the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) Quality & Productivity Awards

- **UBC President Martha Piper** called *ecotrek* “a roadmap for other universities, schools, hospitals and institutions seeking a cost-recoverable way to reduce their energy consumption.”