

UW EI

A circular photograph showing a large fountain with multiple jets of water spraying upwards. In the background, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees, and further back, a large, snow-capped mountain peak under a clear sky. A single bird is visible in flight against the sky above the mountain.

**The University
of Washington
Earth Initiative**

UWEI Goals

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH: Enhance society's ability to understand, anticipate, and respond to complex environmental changes by encouraging interdisciplinary collaborations within and outside of the University, particularly those that focus on addressing urgent (and incipient) environmental concerns.

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION: Develop research that is distinctive, high impact, and applied by fostering a dialogue between the University and external partners, identifying and understanding how best to meet those external needs.

RECRUITING THE BEST: Attract the best and brightest environmental faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and students to the University of Washington.

Proposed Activities

The logo for UWEL (University of Wisconsin Environmental Learning) is centered under a stylized umbrella. The umbrella is light brown with a central pole and several ribs. The letters 'UWEL' are written in a bold, sans-serif font with a blue outline and a light brown fill, positioned directly below the umbrella's canopy.

UWEL

- EI Advisory and Governance boards
- EI Postdoctoral Program
- EI graduate student fellowships
- Visiting professorships
- Endowed strategic faculty hires
- Supporting faculty consortia developing new proposals for external funding
- Advanced Studies Summer Institute of Environmental Sciences and Policy
- Space for new programs
- Website
- Inventory of seminar series
- UW literature and faculty interests
- Education initiatives (e.g., topical forums)
- Specialized/targeted lectures for community

The Earth Initiative and the Center for Water & Watershed Studies

Current goals and status

UWEI:

- Making connections within the UW community
- Interconnection to the external community
- Expanding support for environmental studies
- Enhanced visibility of environmental programs to users and funders

CWWS:

- Outreach--web, Annual Review, topical reports and fact sheets
- Water-related research, seminars, and workshops
- Insufficient financial support for non-research activities

For the future:

Include CWWS in the “portfolio” of the Earth Initiative, as one of the tangible examples of a successful environmental program at UW with a strong external focus. With that visibility and support...

- Maintain the broad, water-related scope of the Center but sharpen its research efforts to achieve greater success in obtaining research grants;
- Focus on the best prospects for long-term funding of educational and outreach activities;
- Improve the opportunities for collaborative environmental research;
- Enhance our dialog with the broader professional community.

