The mission of the EDS Institute is to promote a 360 degree vision of environmental issues in society by conducting and fostering activities aimed at furthering and disseminating knowledge on the environment and sustainable development.

The institute's mission builds on its role in supporting and developing multidisciplinary research as well as on innovations in education and sharing of knowledge.

The EDS Institute seeks to give academics a greater role in the area of sustainable development. It contributes to knowledge sharing and dialogue on sustainable development issues in university research and teaching through the EDS Forum, summer schools, and other events and initiatives, while encouraging researchers to get involved in other ways and on other forums.

INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION

Created in 2005 with the generous support of Hydro-Québec, EDS Institute helps pool and drive efforts to better coordinate Université Laval's environmental and sustainable development initiatives. The institute promotes research, interdisciplinary dialogue, and collaboration among stakeholders regarding relationships between natural, economic, and social systems, and the way in which those relationships inform the definition and pursuit of the common good.

The EDS Institute boasts a decentralized team of over 60 regular researchers and faculty members, some 400 students, as well as chairs and research groups from almost every Université Laval faculty, including Science and Engineering; Social Sciences; Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Geography and Geomatics; Law; Business Administration; Arts and Human Sciences; Education; Planning, Architecture, Arts, and Design; Philosophy; and Medicine.
Members of the EDS Institute include Université Laval graduate students and postdoctoral fellows supervised by member-professors. Students play an active role in activities aimed at developing a comprehensive interdisciplinary vision that addresses society’s needs. They also have an opportunity to discuss and share their work at an annual student symposium attended by students from faculties and universities across Québec. The event, which includes an art contest, is designed to promote the popularization of science, with special awards in this area. The EDS Institute also regularly provides other training opportunities—including summer schools and a special “Autumn University” session—as well as research grants.

Comments from 2012 Autumn University participants

“This training gave me a whole new perspective on science as it relates to other disciplines.”

“A great opportunity to discuss and better understand the role budding researchers play in society.”

“A unique experience to examine how our own research fits into sustainable development in the larger perspective.”

Comments from members of the organizing committee of the 9th EDS Symposium in 2013

“The student symposium allowed me to develop my leadership and project management skills and more closely examine challenges in sustainable development research.”

“Participating in the EDS Institute student symposium gives us an opportunity to develop essential qualities we need as researchers—specifically an interdisciplinary perspective on our field and the ability to explain our research to a wider audience.”

Hydro-Québec Institute for the Environment, Development, and Society (EDS Institute)
Université Laval
Pavillon des Services
2440, boul. Hochelaga
Suite 3800
Québec City (Québec) G1V 0A6
CANADA

418 656-2723
Fax: 418 656-7330
ihqeds@ihqeds.ulaval.ca
www.ihqeds.ulaval.ca

Université Laval in the heart of Québec City is one of Canada’s top research universities, with nearly 230 graduate programs.

A global leader in numerous cutting-edge disciplines, Université Laval educates tomorrow’s leaders and prepares them to face current and future challenges in every field of knowledge.

Learn more about Université Laval programs at ulaval.ca/futurestudents

The EDS Forum—the program’s signature event—aims to foster dialogue and discussion on the challenges of integrating sustainable development in university research and teaching. The purpose of the EDS Forum is not to present research findings directly, but to promote the role academics play in implementing sustainable development by drawing on the observations they have made and the insight and tools they have developed. The 2013 EDS Forum centred on the role of academics in strengthening the link between biodiversity and sustainable development, while the previous edition tackled their role in implementing sustainable development leading up to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development.