



Propelled by the spirit of innovation and collaboration, the Institute and our campus are positioned to develop innovative solutions to the environmental, social and economic challenges facing North Carolina and the world.

The Institute for the Environment supports a world-renowned environmental community spanning the Carolina campus. Through leading innovative research, educating the next generation of leaders and engaging our communities, the Institute is dedicated to solving the most pressing environmental challenges in North Carolina and beyond.

Research

The Institute provides an epicenter for interdisciplinary collaboration through its centers and other strategic partnerships in areas such as air quality, water resources and hydrology, energy and natural disaster hazards. These partnerships

foster innovative research, knowledge-sharing and discovery for Carolina's faculty, students and other collaborators.

The Institute's funding for research projects comes from a number of sources, including federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NASA. In addition to these federal agencies, the Institute receives funding for research from state agencies and private sector businesses such as Duke Energy and Wells Fargo, as well as other foundations. A few examples of the Institute's research projects include:

- Partnering with the local governments and water utilities in the Triangle region to ensure long term water supplies for the growing area through the use of innovative financial and engineering mechanisms.
- Collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service to develop computer models that can predict the frequency, location and smoke hazard of wildfires in the Southeast.
- Working with the NC Department of Environmental Quality and other partners to revise and improve the state's river basin restoration process.



Education

A hallmark of the Institute's educational programs is the hands-on experiential education that provides students with life-changing opportunities to study at one of six field sites throughout North Carolina and around the world. The field sites in North Carolina are located in Morehead City, the Outer Banks, the Triangle, and Macon County.

The Institute also works in partnership with other programs on- and off-campus to ensure our graduates are competitive in North Carolina's job market.

Impact

The Institute leverages UNC's extensive research capabilities with expertise in science education and communication, community engagement and putting environmental knowledge into action in local communities, classrooms, government agencies and businesses across the state. Programs like our lead poisoning prevention workshops help communities reduce exposure and risk and improve the public health of our state.

Our collaborative efforts also result in events like the NC Clean Tech Summit, a rapidly growing, annual event that convenes industry, governmental, academic and student leaders for two days of discussion, problem-solving and networking. The summit is conducted in partnership with Kenan-Flagler Business School and private sector partners such as Duke Energy, Southern Company and Wells Fargo. To see a highlight video, visit: ie.unc.edu/cleantech.

Discover more!

ie.unc.edu

Or, contact us

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The Institute's Board of Visitors, comprised of members with extensive experience in natural resources, business and leadership, advises and guides the work of the Institute. Its involvement is critical to building partnerships to ensure the Institute's work makes an impact across North Carolina and beyond.