School Mission

The Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies aspires to lead the world toward a sustainable future with cutting-edge research, teaching, and public engagement on society's evolving and urgent environmental challenges.

Our mission is grounded in seven fundamental values:

**Excellence** We promote and engage in pathbreaking science, policy, and business models that build on a fundamental commitment to analytic rigor, data, intellectual integrity, and excellence.

**Leadership** We attract outstanding students nationally and internationally and offer a pioneering curriculum that defines the knowledge and skills needed to be a twenty-first-century environmental leader in a range of professions.

**Sustainability** We generate knowledge that will advance thinking and understanding across the various dimensions of sustainability.

**Community** We offer a community that finds strength in its collegiality, diversity, independence, and commitment to excellence and lifelong learning.

**Diversity** We celebrate our differences and identify pathways to a sustainable future that respects diverse values including equity, liberty, and civil discourse.

**Collaboration** We foster collaborative learning, professional skill development, and problem solving—and we strengthen our scholarship, teaching, policy work, and outreach through partnerships across the university and beyond.

**Responsibility** We encourage environmental stewardship and responsible behavior on campus and beyond.

In pursuit of our mission, we:

- Build on more than a century of work bringing science-based strategies, ethical considerations, and conservation practices to natural resource management.
- Approach problems on a systems basis and from interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Integrate theory and practice—and provide innovative solutions to society's most pressing environmental problems.
- Address environmental challenges at multiple scales from local to global and multiple settings from urban to rural and from managed to wild—including working lands and landscapes.
- Draw on the depth of resources at Yale and the network of alumni that extends across the world.
- Create opportunities for research and policy application as well as professional development through a structure of faculty-led centers and programs.
- Provide a neutral forum to convene conversations on difficult issues that are critical to progress on sustainability.
- Bring special focus on the most significant threats to a sustainable future including climate change, the corresponding need for clean energy, and the increasing stresses on our natural resources.