Who We Are

Mission
The Nelson Institute advances education, research, decision-making, and public engagement. We foster the next generation of leaders in sustainability and engage in scholarship to protect and preserve the environment. We are an interdisciplinary community of knowledge and practice: artists and engineers, historians and chemists, sociologists and climate scientists, ecologists and hydrologists.

Vision
We will be leaders in helping stem the tide of global species extinction, reversing runaway climate change, and adapting to a changing planet. We will address these challenges by bringing justice, equity, and inclusivity to the forefront of environmental problem-solving.

Institutional Values
Excellence | Collaboration | Diversity | Belonging
What We’re Doing

Strategic Directions and Investments

Community
Establish the Nelson Institute as an inclusive, cohesive, and purpose-centered community.

Partnerships
Launch and maintain extensive, successful, and widespread community, government, and corporate partnerships.

Inclusivity
Create an inclusive environment where all members of our diverse Nelson community feel valued, respected, supported, and celebrated.

Education and Student Experience
Provide superlative interdisciplinary teaching and learning, experience, and training for Nelson students.

Research
Generate high-impact scholarship — supported by external grants and gifts — with relevance and value to the public and external stakeholders.

Visibility
Enhance and focus Nelson’s brand and identity.

Read the full plan — and check our progress — at nelson.wisc.edu/stratplan