Principles and Policies for Working with Communities of Color
College of the Environment, University of Washington

As academic leads (i.e., dean, associate deans and director) of the College of the Environment at the University of Washington, we seek to build on a long history of community engagement by stewarding the culture and capacity for authentic and ethical engagement in community science. We define community science broadly as the process by which scholars and communities do science together to advance one or more community priorities. Doing science includes defining questions; designing protocols; collecting and analyzing data; and using scientific knowledge in decision-making and planning. Communities can be communities of geography, ethnicity, interest, or practice.

We are guided by these principles:

- We recognize that the opportunity to engage with and understand Indigenous knowledge as well as the wide range of knowledge held by communities of color does not convey the right to share it.
- When considering research projects that are centered within the geography of a community, and/or may be of interest to specific communities, we will seek to co-create study design and data.
- We will follow the lead and preferences of Indigenous communities and communities of color with respect to data sharing – what resolution of information, in what form, and for what audiences and purposes.

We regard the following sources as inspiration and guidance for best practices for collaboration with communities:

- The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) Code of Conduct.
- Thriving Earth Exchange, American Geophysical Union (AGU) – see Statement on Integrity in Community Science.
- The NOAA Sea Grant network vision for Traditional & Local Knowledge.
- The Kūlana Noiʻi (Research Standards) developed by the University of Hawaii in partnership with Indigenous collaborators.
- The First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP®).

1 Modified from the Statement on Integrity in Community Science, Thriving Earth Exchange, American Geophysical Union (AGU)
2 Modified from the COASST Code of Conduct.