**Impetus:** Solving the world’s complex environmental problems and their implications to human health will require the combined strength, skills, knowledge and innovative educational models of a wide range of researchers, educators, environmental activists, community leaders and engaged students. Climate change, water scarcity, dwindling food resources, poverty, and widespread pandemics represent daily threats to the health of many societies. Meeting this challenge will not be achieved by single disciplines employing traditional approaches. Novel research, education and service models are required to face the challenges of the 21st century and develop a new cadre of leaders, researchers and educators in a field of global sustainability and ecological health.

**Purpose:** The College of the Environment and the Global Health Department at the University of Washington have assembled a cohort of early career faculty to focus on this interface, to define and meld methodologies, to identify key links where interventions are possible or better understanding is necessary. This program seeks to create new programs in education, research and service that combine the strength of seemingly disparate disciplines to focus on multi-system level solutions.

**Methods:** Central to this program is the selection of faculty fellows consisting of 10 early career faculty members from a wide range of scientific disciplines. Senior leaders from the health, environment and natural resource fields interviewed potential candidates to select a group that represent the values of this new program. Working in partnership with a large, diverse group of faculty cutting across the UW campus and populated by representatives from several NGOs, this group of early career faculty will be tasked with the development of a series of outputs in an adaptive time schedule and framework. This process is anticipated to accomplish a number of major milestones within the first year and enable the senior leadership team to develop within the second year a jointly managed center focusing on key derivatives from this endeavor.

**Results:** Eleven faculty fellows from the Departments of Anthropology, Global Health, Industrial and Systems Engineering, and Landscape Architecture and the Schools of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Forest Resources, Medicine, Nursing, Oceanography, Law and Public Health have been selected to represent a wide diversity of research cultures, including clinical, design, management, and social and biophysical sciences, local to global experiences, and epistemologies. Regular development meetings, workshops and participating in regional and national meetings have been scheduled for the initial development of the new program. The first phase of the project will explore aspects of food and water security, the methodologies associated with their different disciplinary cultures, and identify critical interfaces between human health and environmental sustainability.

**Conclusion:** More than 7 units across the campus have contributed financial resources to allow 11 early career faculty members to be a part of this important process. Concurrent with the increasing magnitude of global environmental, social and health problems is the need to find novel and sustainable solutions. The Joint Global Health - Environment Fellowship Program at the University of Washington seeks to address this pressing challenge.