



Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI)
Donor Letter and Brief Report

2022-2023

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SDSI Final Report and Recommendations 2022-2023

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Section 1: Overview of Activities

1.1 Environmental Club

The Bishop's University Environmental Club is an SRC Extra Club that has members from various departments across the school. The Environmental Club had a lead, a treasurer, and aids with social media and event planning. The SDSI, myself, was a member of the club, as well as a liaison between the students and staff to assure that new events were being communicated and planned and student needs were met. The club held activities this year that included Eco Tours around sustainable locations on campus, DIY Gift Wrapping at Christmas where old fabric and papers were used to wrap gifts, a Community Clean-Up in collaboration with the University of Sherbrooke, Movie Nights with other clubs and societies, and maintained a presence on social media throughout the year posting environmental topics and tips. This was the most visible, established, and engaging that the Environmental Club has been for a long time at Bishop's.

1.2 Bishop's University Community Fridge

One of the most important and influential projects that the SDSI has maintained from the past was allowing students to have free access to produce and other food via a community fridge. The community fridge project is a continuation from prior years SDSIs, but we have recently been able to increase advertising to students and offer access to food from more local providers including Provigo and Marche Sieme Saison. The bi-weekly fridge refills were posted on social media and there was an educational campaign about what the importance of the fridge is in the sense of food waste, and food security. The food was almost always gone within hours of the refill. The community fridge has positively impacted the lives of many students on campus, and this would not have been made possible without the generosity of local stores and donors.

1.3 Eco Week 2023



Eco Week, a week of environmental awareness events that Ariane and I chaired and participated in, was able to host activities such as free coffee in the mornings, a farmer's market, a thrift store, a trivia night with the Caribbean African Student Association (CASA), various kiosks, eco tours, presentations, a hike with BU Outdoors, and a recipe tasting activity with the BU Peer Support Centre.

One of the most successful days of Eco Week was the day including the mini market and the on-campus thrift store. Funds raised from the thrift store in collaboration with the BU Fashion show were donated to the Lennoxville Women's Centre, and the leftover clothing was donated to the Lennoxville Youth Centre. We were also able to offer an educational aspect about reusing clothing and about the negative environmental impacts of fast fashion. The event was a great success that raised over \$700 and educated students with the concept of second-hand clothes and helping the environment. The events were held all day and remained busy throughout.

1.4 Textbook Exchange

After second semester had started, the SD Office, Doolittle's Co-op, and the SRC decided to host a textbook exchange in order to promote the reuse and recycling of old textbooks. The textbooks that were found in the old Scott Arena were donated and were free of charge for students. Additionally, students were able to donate or offer their books for other students to purchase. This was an impactful event that saved students money, as well as promoted the second use of textbooks, rather than recycling them, promoting the creation of new books and waste, and even were encouraged to return their own books (which helps the environment significantly). During this event, we also promoted the Doolittle's Co-op buy-back book event where Doolittle's would offer money back for used textbooks in order to reuse them.

1.5 Green Team



In the 2022-2023 academic year, a Green Team was implemented. The Green Team was a team of students who would help sort waste and educate students on their waste habits during the busy lunch time. They were also present at events on campus such as Homecoming, basketball games, football games, rugby games, Winterfest, Countryfest, and more! Additionally, the Green Team would collect cans and bottles to return to Provigo for change that could be spent on future sustainable events on campus. This greatly minimized the amount of waste that was

produced at events, and also assured that waste was being allocated into the proper bins, bettering Bishop's University's waste sorting habits.

1.6 Waste Stations

Finally, on campus, waste stations were implemented in various buildings in the summer from the SD office. This year, I was in charge of emptying the waste stations and promoting them on social media to ensure that people would use them. Waste stations offered a second life of items that are typically not recyclable, like broken glasses or broken phones. This was a simple and easy way to get students to recycle waste and help the environment without even realizing.

1.7 Eco Tours

During Orientation week, Eco Tours were offered for the first time on campus. Eco tours are educational tours that offer students the chance to learn more about sustainable implementations on campus. This includes educating students on the hydrothermal energy wells, the pollination gardens, tree planting on campus, waste stations, and so much more. The SDSI's decided to film their educational eco tour and post it permanently for anyone to access at any time! The video has received over 700 views and counting.

Section 2: Recommendations

2.1 Green Levy and Organization

The Green Levy has been offered for years now and offers students finances towards initiating sustainable projects on campus. The Green Levy had only six applications during the 2022-2023 academic year and only three were accepted. I would recommend that in the future, the Green Levy be significantly more advertised on social media and through the school. I would also

recommend that the rules, examples, and funding amounts be shown to students to encourage and direct them to apply. The Green Levy also only met twice in the year, but should have met more often in order to encourage projects to begin action. Finally, during the meetings, there should be a section of time allotted for a presentation from the applicants. The applicants would also be there to answer any questions and comments of the project.

2.2 Bishop's University Environmental Club

I would recommend that the Bishop's University Environmental Club become an EAG (Environment, Agriculture and Geography) Society or Association rather than a club. The Environmental Club has only three members that regularly attend events and meetings; but with a more general title, more people would feel willing to join. It would also be beneficial to consider collaborating with the SAFS (Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems) club or the Outdoors Club in order to form a large group rather than segregate these different sections.

2.4 Tree Planting

Through the years, Bishop's has dedicated time to planting over 10,500 trees across the campus and community. This project is an amazing achievement, but I would recommend that there is more consideration of time of planting the trees, more research on locations of planting the trees, and significantly more aftercare. Since planting the trees, many have been unfortunately not thriving due to their location, many were planted in September, and they were not mulched thus weeds are taking over around their roots. I wish that this continues to occur and that more trees are planted, but that there is more care for the trees to promote survival.

Section 3: Thank You and Acknowledgements

I want to personally thank the generous donors of the Sustainable Development Student Interns position on campus. Your donations do not go unnoticed and have permitted tremendous amounts of positive change on campus. We have accomplished so many individual victories and educated students on environmental awareness and concerns.

Personally, I have learned so much from the role I have taken on at Bishop's University. I have gained first-hand knowledge on students' waste sorting habits as well as saw what the student body needed in order to better understand the Sherbrooke waste system. Your donations have also helped combat the fight against food waste and food insecurity for students on campus. This position is essential at Bishop's and provides a liaison between students, staff, and environmental concerns on campus. This job has been an engaging learning activity and so much fun in general. I truly thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity. It would not have been possible without you.

Best,

Danielle Storey