



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

Winter 2024

Provided by
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Section 1: Overview of Activities

1.1. Educational kiosks

The team of interns from the Sustainable Development (SD) Office is often called upon to hold educational kiosks in various public places such as the SUB in order to raise awareness about environmental issues among the Bishop's community. This is why we contributed to create educational material (research, posters, social media publications) and ran educational kiosks throughout our internship. This winter, the kiosks were on the following subjects: winter cycling (International Winter Cycling Day), public transport (buses for all), FairTrade (on Valentine's Day and before Easter), local flowers and the impact of the floral industry around the world, women and climate change, reusable menstrual products, waste management (Global Recycling Day), and more!

1.2. Eco-Week

Eco-Week is co-organized by the SD Office and students from various programs and clubs. We coordinated meetings with the people involved to create a schedule of varied activities involving educational kiosks, a mini market promoting local and sustainable purchases, competitions, conferences, and much more. [Here](#) is this year's schedule.

1.3. No Cup Day and New Mug Lending System

During Eco-Week occurred the No Cup Day, a day where no single-used cups are distributed on campus. As interns, we helped a group of students who mobilized for that day (see section 1.11.) and more generally coordinated communications and awareness around that special day but we also organized the collection of old reusable mugs among the Bishop's community in order to render them available in all cafeteria for the occasion. Afterwards, we started using these mugs for Hot Chocolate Wednesdays as well as other events carried or supported by the SD Office. We also worked on launching a very simple lending system where student clubs and associations and other groups at Bishop's could borrow a set number of these mugs for their events. A total of three groups were provided mugs for the months of March and April.

1.4. CSA Baskets

We also worked with the volunteers to run the drop-off point for winter and summer vegetable baskets from Bio Locaux and Hôtes Épinettes. This took place every Thursday from 11:30 to 1:30. This involved welcoming the farmers and helping them distribute vegetables to subscribers.

[Picture of the drop point](#)

1.5. Planification for Bishop's new community garden

This winter we worked a lot on planning Bishop's new community garden. We looked for suppliers and materials, made plans of the garden and the containers, calculated the quantity of soil required, shopped for materials, collected orders, built garden boxes, laid the geotextile, and filled the final containers with soil. We also worked to create communications to invite the community to register, hosted two info sessions and managed registrations.

[Pictures of info sessions](#)

1.6. Implementation of compost collection in the residences

We went door-to-door in the residences to distribute compost bins and educative resources to students. Now, all rooms have a compost bin that was added to their lease and pamphlets were rendered accessible around the residence buildings to answer any questions the students may have at any time.

[Picture of the door-to-door](#)

1.7. Data collection for Eco-Enterprises Québec

As part of reporting to Eco-Enterprises Québec, we contacted all Bishop's departments to collect data on the printing and packaging they produced over the past year. We also created a guide to ease the process for the next interns responsible for this task in the next years.

1.8. Management of the Green Team

In order to reduce residual materials and increase education on proper sorting, a Green Team was created to raise awareness in the cafeteria during peak hours and during events that generate waste, such as the Winter Fest and the solar eclipse on April 8th. This team of students is managed by the interns (schedule, work schedule, training, team spirit, etc.).

[Picture of the Green Team](#)

1.9. Management and development of the Community Fridge

We worked to ensure the Community Fridge was as full as possible by collecting donations for nearby businesses. If the initial goal of the Community Fridge was to reduce food waste, we noticed it also tackles some students' food insecurity. This is why we worked towards finding new donors to add to our weekly tour and initiated contact with Moisson Estrie to distribute their surpluses through the Fridge. In the end, the Community Fridge allows us to save a lot of food from landfills and feed the population of Bishop's!

Two birds with one stone!

1.10. Management of the glass recycling special collection

Once a week, glass is collected from the main generators on campus (Gait, conferences, Centennial Theatre) and taken to voluntary drop-off points in the city of Sherbrooke.

1.11. Support of ESG students with special term projects

This winter, the office collaborated with students from the AGR333 course who had to work on a real environmental issue on campus. Meetings, field support and several research studies took place to help these students who have carried out great projects, some of which might lead to research grants to continue and carry out projects!

[Food habits and vegetarian options at Bishop's No Cup Day](#)

1.12. Recommendations for Exam Care and Welcoming Packages

Although this comes from a good intention, the SRC and student services distribute individually packaged, single-use items to students in several contexts, especially when it comes to the Exam Care and Welcoming Packages. We made several recommendations to increase the ecological aspect of these initiatives and these recommendations were supported by several student clubs that are members of the SRC. Unfortunately, they could not be applied by the stakeholders and we hope that they will continue to try to apply them in the future.

1.13. Creation of various communication tools

Environmental education in the 21st century is done through social media! Although this was not our area of expertise, we created many educational and promotional publications to be posted online on the office's Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as posters and pamphlets on topics mentioned in section 1.1, using a communication plan we created. A great success was the brochure on local flowers which will be distributed to all 2024 graduates: [Local Flower Pamphlet](#).

1.14. National FairTrade Conference

We attended this winter 2024's National FairTrade Conference and represented Bishop's University. Many conferences, workshops and networking opportunities with other key actors of FairTrade procurement and promotion in post-secondary institutions across Canada!

[Picture at the Conference](#)

1.15. Local flowers for Convocation

As previously mentioned, we worked on educational material on the cut flower industry for Valentine's Day, but also for the local flowers initiative run by the office and Doolittle's Co-op for 2024's Convocation. We contributed to promote this initiative by helping with the website used to order the said flowers.

1.16. Collaboration with the Art Lab's and Sports Centre's camps

We collaborated with the people responsible for the Art Lab's March Break camp for 5 to 12 year-old children to include sustainability-related content in the program. It resulted in a 2-hour workshop on soil life and health and the facilitation of a discussion on waste management after an activity in the Forest Lab. We then worked on activity ideas for both the Art Lab's and the Sports Centre's summer camps, the collaboration with the latter being established for the very first time this year!

Section 2: Recommendations

1.1. Green Levy

As mentioned by the previous interns, The Green Levy has been offered for years now and aims to provide students with funds dedicated to initiating sustainable projects on campus. The Green Levy has very few applications every year and it is unfortunate. The SRC needs to put more effort into advertising this opportunity for students to get funding. Also, the criteria for selecting the projects should be clear to avoid, for example, financing single-use items that are not sustainable. We would recommend that the Green Levy be more advertised on social media by the school's social media pages in the future. Also, during the selection meetings, there should be a section of time allotted for a presentation from the applicants. The applicants should also be there to answer any questions and comments about the project.

1.2. Student Body Governance

Through our internship, we became concerned about the ability of students to bring ideas that are different than that of the SRC executive and we wonder if there is a place for them to be heard. Sustainability should be a priority and an opportunity for change and innovation, but it is rather seen as a barrier.

Also, we think the Environmental Sustainability Representative's position should be filled before the summer for the following year to make their collaboration with the SD office more fluent.

Finally, Bishop's is the only post-secondary school in the area that does not give access to a reduced-price universal bus pass to their students - meaning they do not include the bus pass into student fees just like it did for the access to the Sports Centre and the Gait. Many students think a universal bus pass for students is a priority for both access to and promotion of sustainable transportation, but the student body was not consulted when a deal opportunity with the Société de transport de Sherbrooke (STS) was on the table. This particular case reinforced our concerns about the state of student democracy at Bishop's, especially when it comes to sustainability initiatives.

Section 3: Learning, Thank You and Acknowledgements

We want to personally thank the generous donors of the Sustainable Development Student Interns position on campus. Your donations do not go unnoticed and have inflicted tremendous amounts of positive change on campus. We have accomplished so many individual victories and educated students on environmental awareness and concern. Our main learning, which was also our main difficulty, was to understand how institutions work and how to bring change in it. The bureaucracy and the different steps we have to take to make change are sometimes discouraging. We hope that one day, sustainability will be an integral part of Bishop's culture and guide every decision for future generations rather than consists of one department amongst others.

We thank you for allowing us to have this opportunity. It would not have been possible without you.

Best,

Frédérique LeBlanc Piette and Mélodie Anderson