

# Sustainable Development Action Plan 2023-24 Report

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# Presentation content

2023-24 activities supporting the SD Action Plan and SD Working Groups :

- Sustainable Transportation
- Waste Management
- Tree Care & Biodiversity
- Awareness activities

## Annexes

- 2020-24 Sustainable Development Plan - Goals
- Progress updates on 2023-24 SD Plan Objectives



# Sustainable Development Plan

## 2020- 2024

### Priorities:

- 1) Operate Bishop's University in an increasingly ecological and responsible manner
- 2) Engage the Bishop's community in efforts to improve the University's sustainability
- 3) Instill curiosity about sustainable development through academic programs and research, and
- 4) Promote the well-being of our community through sustainable development initiatives.

\*Presented to the Board of Governors on April 30, 2021



# Sustainable Transportation – 2023-24 Actions

- Revision of the Expense Reimbursement Policy for staff: including rates for active transportation to local meetings and carpooling amounts for business travel – implemented!
- Discussions with STS to
  - increase safety at bus stops on *Bus route #2*
  - data collection about future project of universal bus pass – the STS has analyzed our documents and will present suggested changes in June 2024
  - Increased service on bus line 11
- Student Services – Société de Transport de Sherbrooke (STS) pilot project that provides \$30 monthly bus passes for students – offered to 50 students for Fall 2023 and Winter 2024
- Installation of new bike racks according to 3-year plan – phase 3 of this project will be completed in Summer 2024

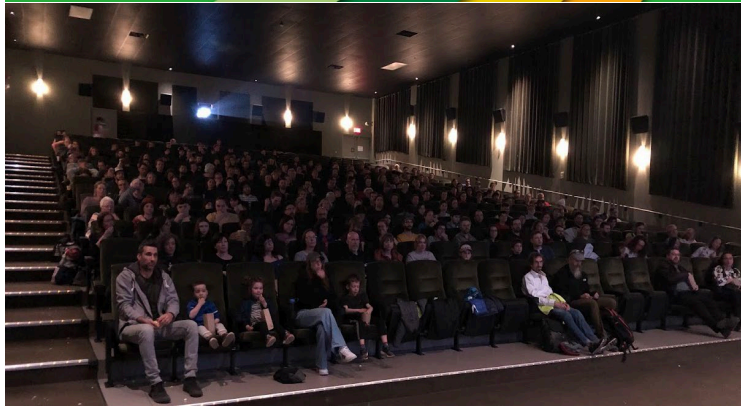
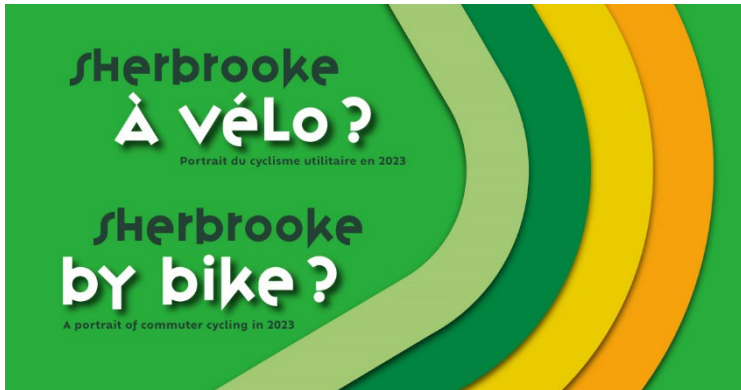


# Sustainable Transportation – 2023-24 Actions

- Improve accessibility Gaiter Gears self-service bike
  - Now accessible and free for all staff, faculty and students
  - Increase the number of bikes: repurpose abandoned bikes (B&G and Security collect them)
- The SD Office now has an e-bike for employees to try before buying one (launch in May 2024)



- Bike Month - May 2024
  - Bike repair workshops, e-bike trial, draws for the community.
  - *Sherbrooke à vélo ?* (Sherbrooke by bike?) a documentary created by the Cégep de Sherbrooke, UdS and BU was premiered on May 1<sup>st</sup> at La Maison du Cinéma in Sherbrooke. Thanks to PRESE for the grant to produce the documentary.



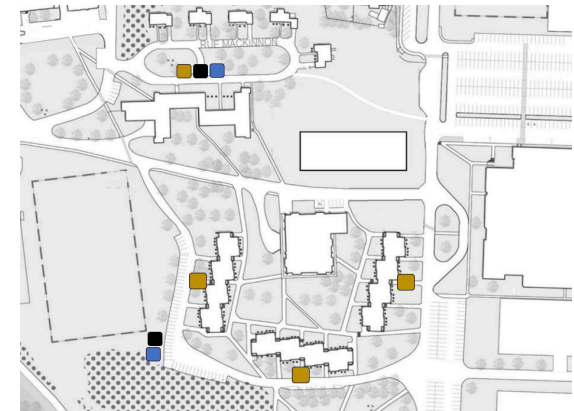
# Sustainable Transportation – Upcoming Fall 2024

- Sustainable Transportation Week, September 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Continue to encourage and educate the BU community about sustainable alternatives to single passenger vehicle mode
- Subsidized STS bus pass program for Bishop's students – solely funded from Bishop's campus parking revenue
  - 100 passes for Fall and Winter semesters in 2024-25
- Review the data collected in the 'Postal code analysis' project by two Environment, Agriculture and Geography students to continue improving actions regarding Sustainable Transportation (e.g. : carpooling, negotiation with public transportation, etc.).



# Waste Management – 2023-24 Actions

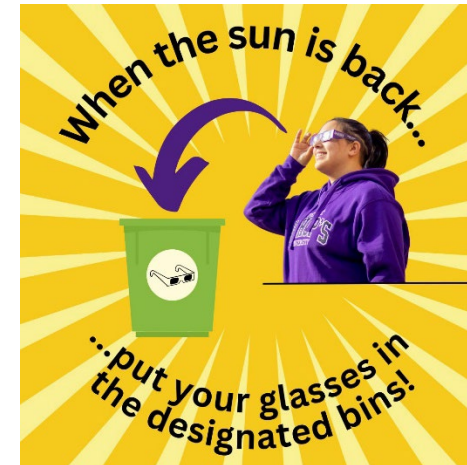
- The Green Team was present at sport events and community events (e.g.: weekly Wednesday hot chocolate kiosk, conferences)
- Green event guide – Conferences' Department
- Community fridge - we lost our main donor (local grocery store)
- Compost was implemented in the Residences
- Thrift shop is now managed by the Community Cupboard which collects donations at the end of April



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

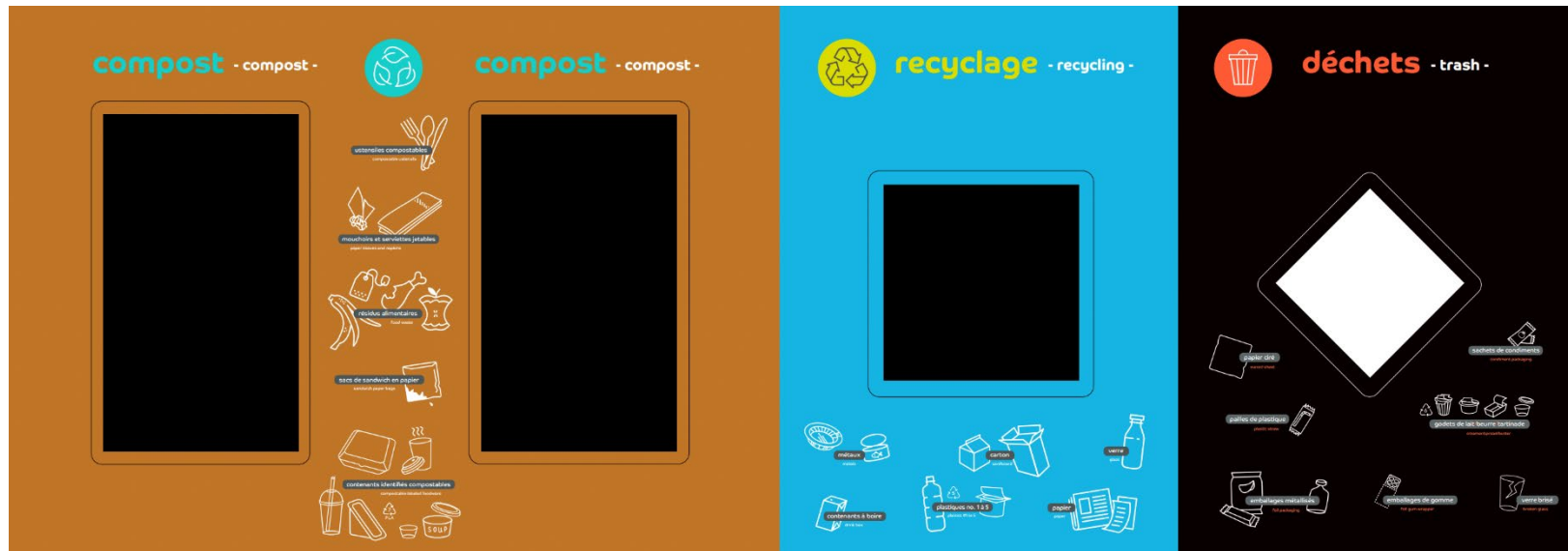
# Waste Management – 2023-24 Actions

- Collection of eclipse glasses to send them in countries where they will be reused
- New exterior 3-way-bins on campus
- No Cup Day during Eco Week
- Compostable items are used by Sodexo – work in progress



# Waste Management – upcoming

- New signage for the Purple Pod
- Installation of compost bins in hallways of academic buildings



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

# Tree Care & Biodiversity – 2023-24 Actions

- B&G:
  - In collaboration with the SAFS Club - collected maple water on campus and raised awareness about the maple industry and climate change
  - Moved trees instead of cutting them to make room for construction work
  - Built additional benches with recycled wood from trees cut down on campus
- Community Garden in construction
- Free tree distribution (With *Nature Cantons de l'Est*) May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Tree replacement and plantations (graduation, commemorative, aesthetic) – May 2024



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

# Rustic benches- B&G

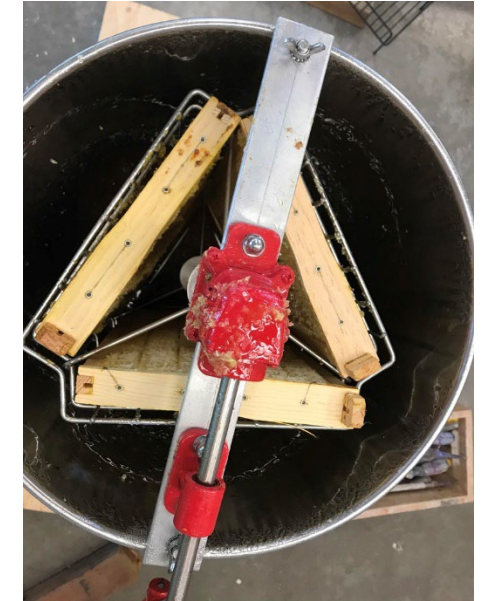


This project supports the three pillars of sustainability:

- **Environmental impact:** Gives a second life to trees that were cut down on campus for security reasons
- **Social impact:** Provides infrastructures to encourage time spent in nature on campus
- **Economic impact:** Supports local businesses

# Bishop's Bees

- Beekeeping experiential course for SDSI: maintaining hives all summer
- Treatment of bee hives for diseases
- Harvesting, extraction, potting 120 jars (250ml) of honey
- Sold jars of honey at the Campus Farmer's Market (October 2023)



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

# Tree Care & Biodiversity – Upcoming in Summer 2024

- Increase the number of pollinator islands
- Recruit students and community members as volunteers for the Bishop's Bees club
- Use dead trees to create wood chips to fertilize our trees
- Experimental project with SAFS to compost Sodexo food scraps on campus



## Climate and Energy– 2023-24 Actions

- Maintained GHG Carbon Neutrality in April 2024 by purchasing 1,622 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
On February 15, 2024, to maintain carbon neutrality the University only needed to purchase 1,622 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e for \$18,710. The reduction of GHGs from 2021-22 to 2022-23 of 296 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e was mainly due to the replacement of gas heating with electric heating in several buildings.
- B&G and Ancillary services : purchase of electric vehicles and other ground equipment to replace some gas-powered equipment or vehicles
- A workshop about “Green travelling “ habits was given to the students leaving on exchange

## Food systems – 2023-24 Actions

- Winter baskets with *Bio Locaux Cantons-de-l'Est*
- Fairtrade Campus National Conference
- Fairtrade conference on campus



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

# June 2024: Local flowers for convocation

Offering locally and ecologically grown flowers during Convocation is part of Bishop's University Sustainable Development Plan (orientations 1,2 and 4). By partnering up with 2 local flower producers, Les Jardins d'Etc. (Bury, QC) and Wild Thing (Stanstead, QC) we:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to the transportation of flowers;
- Encourage a sustainable agriculture system that promotes ecological farming practices and ethical working conditions;
- Access unparalleled freshness (amazing scents, longer lasting blooms, varieties that don't tolerate long distance transport);
- Support local businesses run by women in the Eastern Townships!



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

# Awareness activities – Winter 2024



**FAIRTRADE CONFERENCE**

*From the tree to the mug.*  
**SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND NATURE IN EACH SIP OF COFFEE**  
**MARCH 26TH**  
1P.M. TO 2.30P.M.  
LLC AGORA

- LEARN ABOUT THE FAIRTRADE MOVEMENT IN COFFEE PRODUCTION AND AT BISHOP'S WITH **JULIA ROS CUÉLLAR**
- HOSTED BY BISHOP'S FAIRTRADE COMMITTEE
- **FREE FAIR TRADE HOT CHOCOLATE**

**PHD. JULIA ROS CUÉLLAR**  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW SCHOLAR - SACS  
ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY

Join this talk to learn more about what FairTrade promotes, hear the voices of coffee farmers, and how Bishop's engages with Fairtrade.



INTERESTED IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY?

**COME LEARN ABOUT GREEN LEVY FUND**

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE PROJECT ON CAMPUS?

MEET US  
IN THE SUB ON FEB. 29 FROM 11 AM TO 2PM

Join us for a **Sustainable Valentine's Day!**

Feb. 14 | 10-2 | SUB

- Local flower bouquets
- FairTrade chocolate
- Upcycled wish cards

**CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH US!**

THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT CENTER & SD OFFICE WILL HOST A KIOSK IN THE SUB FROM 10-3 WITH INFORMATION ON:

COME TALK ABOUT

- Zero waste menstrual products
- Women and climate change
- Eco-Anxiety

In the SUB from 11:30-14:30 on March 12th

## 2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

# Upcoming awareness activities – Summer 2024



**Interested in eating  
local & ecologically-grown  
produce this summer and/or fall?**

It is still time to subscribe to a  
weekly vegetable basket distributed  
directly at Bishop's by

 **LES HÔTES ÉPINETTES**



Thank you for supporting your local farmers through  
community-supported agriculture (CSA) !

**École d'été  
en écoresponsabilité**  
17 au 21 juin 2024, Sherbrooke



2023-24 Sustainable Development Action Plan update

## Upcoming – 2024 – other projects

- Update reports and data collection - Fall 2024
  - GHG report for all scopes
  - Transportation habits of the community
  - SRC, Experiential Learning (EL) and Business (WSB) departments: data collection for bus passes
- Consultation process to create the next Sustainable Development Plan 2025-2030 (the current one covers 2020-2024) – Fall 2024

# Responsible Investment

On December 15, 2023, the Board of Governors received the final report and recommendations of the ad hoc committee on Responsible Investment.

In January 2024, the University's Executive determined that the most appropriate body to oversee the implementation of these recommendations was the Sustainable Development and Built Environment (SD & BE) Committee which would review annually the implementation status at a meeting in the Fall.

On June 14, 2024, the Board of Governors approved the following revised recommendations:

1. In collaboration with the SEED Portfolio Management Program, report to the Board of Governors on an annual basis that the SEED Portfolio ESG score as per the MSCI ESG ratings is "A" or better.
2. Consider how the University could ally with organizations with a view to influence the transition to a low carbon economy.
3. Ask the Bishop's University Foundation to inform donors of the existing fossil fuel free investment fund.
4. In collaboration with the BUF, the BPPC and Bishop's University, report to the Board of Governors on an annual basis:
  - a) That asset managers demonstrate that they are signatories of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment (UNPRI);
  - b) On engagement and promotion activities with respect to responsible investment undertaken during the year; and
  - c) That an annual report has been published on the University Sustainable Development website.



# Sustainable Development Plan

2020- 2024









2023-24  
Progress on  
SD objectives

# Goal 1: Operate Bishop's University in an increasingly ecological and responsible manner

## Goal 1 - Operational Objectives:

- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfills
- Reduce car circulation on campus
- Become carbon neutral by 2030
- Use our financial power in a responsible manner
- Support innovative solutions

# 2023-24 Action Plan: Goal 1 - Progress






Status	Action	Date (target or completed)
	Extend the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) recycling program to laboratories and health services	Summer 2024
	Lead a yearly waste categorization activity to collect data and improve our systems	October 23, 2023
	Implement a green event checklist for SRC and the University administration	Winter - Fall 2022
	Improve the glass recycling system on campus	Winter - Fall 2022
	Assess our carbon sinks and evaluate potential for carbon-neutral goals	Fall 2022
	Communicate our Green House Gas (GHG) emission inventory and goals	April 23, 2024
	Increase the offer of FairTrade products on campus	Ongoing
	Support student projects	Ongoing

## Goal 2: Engage the Bishop's community in efforts to improve the University's sustainability

### Goal 2 - Operational Objectives:

- Create awareness to incite action
- Support grassroots projects
- Make Bishop's a sustainability leader in the community at large

# 2023-24 Action Plan: Goal 2 - Progress








Status	Action	Date (target or completed)
	Promote the Green-Levy fund	Ongoing
	Refresh the SD website page by organizing projects in themes	Winter 2024
	Influence SRC events to be more sustainable (Winterfest 2024, O-week 2024, green event checklist)	Ongoing
	Support students in the development of ecological projects (Sustainable feminine products, Meal Care, Waste management, Garden )	Ongoing
	Raise ecological awareness in the Residences (Compost bins, Ecoliving guidebook, donations)	Ongoing
	Lead yearly SD forum and Eco-Week	Winter 2024
	Meet with food service providers on a waste reduction and FairTrade action plan for 2023-2024	Winter, Spring 2024

Goal 3: Instill curiosity about sustainable development through academic programs and research

Goal 3 - Operational Objectives:

- Make visible what is invisible
- Increase sustainability literacy
- Increase sustainable development in research

# 2023-24 Action Plan: Goal 3 - Progress









Status	Action	Date (target or completed)
	Increase the opportunities for experiential learning in SD on campus	Ongoing
	Community Garden	Summer 2024
	Community Fridge	Ongoing
	Bishop's Bees	Summer 2023
	Collaborate with the Experiential Learning Department to create SD placements	Summer 2023
	Develop communication tools and platforms to promote existing SD initiatives (Campus Newspaper, Blog articles, Work Shops, Events)	
	Support the development of the SAFS program	Ongoing

# Goal 4: Promote the well-being of our community through sustainable development initiatives

## Goal 4 - Operational Objectives:

- ▶ Increase food security
- ▶ Support diversity, equity, and affordability

# 2023-24 Action Plan: Goal 4 - Progress

Status	Action	Date (target or completed)
	Carry out an inventory of local food systems (ITHQ) (Inventory: October 2021 to March 2022; Results: Summer 2022)	Summer 2023
	Obtain the FairTrade Campus designation	Fall 2022
	Create a Community Garden	Summer 2024
	Collaborate with Student Services	Ongoing
	Collaborate with University Special Advisor - EDI	TBD
	Improve collaboration with the Community Cupboard Office	Winter 2024
	Develop and increase the culture of using the Community Fridge	Ongoing
	Create a CSA vegetable basket drop point on campus	Summer 2022