

**Sustainable Development Intern Year End
Report for the Academic Year 2010 – 2011**



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Submitted on April 30th, 2011 by Katrina Kroeze

To begin I would like to thank the Harvey family for the opportunity to be this year's Sustainable Development Intern (SDI) and for allowing me to take an active role in Sustainable Development at Bishop's University. The Elizabeth Harvey Memorial Internship funding provides a one of a kind opportunity to a passionate student interested in improving campus life through sustainable actions. Bishop's University is a leading campus for sustainable actions. At Bishop's the student voice is always heard and often students bring innovative ideas and projects to our school.

Throughout the year as intern, I participated in many new activities including the hiring of a student audit position, participated in the sustainable education committee as a student representative, and presented a workshop at the Colloque Quebecois des Campus Durables.

I would also like to thank Paige Johnson, Ross Horrelet, and the other members of the SRC. Over the summer Paige worked extremely hard with Adam Bond to open a Sustainable Development Office. The space was well used throughout this year and will continue to be used in the following years. Elizabeth Robichaud was so kind in letting Ross and I speak at the Academic Orientation to the incoming class about what is going on at the University. This initiative worked very well I hope will continue next year. Throughout the year the SRC has been very supportive in all the sustainable initiatives taking place.

Finally, I would like to thank Michel Caron for being a great supervisor. You allowed me to be creative and bring forth many ideas to the SDAG committee which were well received. My communications and leadership skills have increased tenfold because of the opportunity to be intern this year.

Table of Contents

Summary of committees.....	Page 3
Sustainable Development Office.....	Page 4
Student Audit Position.....	Page 5
Education in Sustainable Development.....	Page 5
Residence Ecofloor.....	Page 6
Communications.....	Page 7
Approved Projects.....	Page 8
Incomplete Projects.....	Page 11
Other Initiatives.....	Page 12
Recommendations.....	Page 16
Appendix I.....	Page 18

SDLU

The Sustainable Development and Land Use committee had a change of structure this year with Drew Leyburn as the new chair. The meetings were modified to have Drew present via webcam at the meetings which was a nice way for him to see the members. My role on the committee was to report the student activities and the SDAG committee activities. The committee has spoken at length about making changes/upgrades to the Environmental Policy but did not make concrete plans for this year on how to accomplish that goal. The following intern will most likely be more involved in achieving that goal once the campus master plan is completed over the summer. Adam Bond after his internship over the last summer requested that a plaque of the Talloires Declaration should be displayed in the Library. Drew said that the plaque was an appropriate way to demonstrate Bishop's commitment to the declaration. The plaque still needs to be exhibited.

SDAG

The committee this year was successful in accomplishing many great initiatives. The most notable initiative is the progress for a sustainable foods campaign. Sodexo and the committee worked together in establishing some ground rules on what local means for the

campus and how many suppliers are already local. Sodexo plans to continue working with SDAG in increasing the communication of the campaign to students.

At the last SDAG meeting Dave, a local organic farmer, presented the idea of having a large community garden on the land of Mitchell Farm and establishing a partnership with Sodexo/Bishop's for the sale of the crops. Michel will work with Dave to have a trial over the summer months. The trend for organic foods is increasing and I believe that it is important for the sustainability intern to take an active role next year to increase dialogue between Sodexo and Dave to see what the logistics and legalities are to have the sale of the crops in dining locations.

Finally, SDAG created a logo (Appendix I) to better represent the committee. The logo was created by Tegan Maharaj in early October of 2010. The SDAG committee was very pleased with the logo but it was not well used. I suggest that the intern try to better incorporate the logo in the weekly meeting minutes and other documents that represent the SDAG committee.

Bishop's University Environmental Club (BUEC)

Gabrielle Massicotte, a fourth year Environmental Studies student led the BUEC this year to much success. She led many initiatives including an Energy Efficiency debate, Car Free Day, Idiot Cycle viewing, Sustainable Foods Campaign, Snowshoe project, and the Cooking Handbook.

Sustainable Development Office

Paige Johnson, SRC President, was very helpful over the summer months working with Adam Bond in creating an office space to be used for students interested in sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Office (SDO) was ready and open for use in September 2010. Keys to the office were given to the Sustainable Development Intern, the SRC Environmental Officer, the EcoFloor RA, and President of the Environmental Club.

A schedule for office hours was made by the key holders in hopes to have the office open as often as possible during the day in case students seeking information on sustainable policies, initiatives, and opportunities would be able to have their questions

answered. The Bishop's University Environmental Club (BUEC) also made good use of the office space for their weekly meetings.

Thank you to the SRC for this space as the office represents another leap in increasing sustainable awareness on Bishop's University campus.

Student Audit Position

The Sustainability Audit is an important tool to Bishop's University. The audit is used to assess Bishop's progression towards sustainable development. Every three years since the late 1990s a sustainable audit has taken place. Previously the audit was conducted by Dr. Daren Bardati and in 2008 by Daphne D. Fisher.

This year the sustainable audit was decided to be conducted by a student with the supervision of Michel Caron. Duties and responsibilities of the student would be to conduct a sustainable audit through the integration of four Environmental Studies and Geography courses. The coordination of communication between the various professors participating in the audit was important to get a fluid dissemination of the information from the students between courses for the completion of the audit.

Initially, it was also going to be the responsibility of the student audit to become familiar with the Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC) and the requirements for the Campus Certification. However, there has been movement away from the Campus Certification as the certification is not being used by many Universities in Quebec. In the future if the SYC Campus Certification becomes more recognizable, it may be of interest for Bishop's to participate in the certification to see where the University is ranked in terms of sustainable development.

Three applications for the audit were received by the end of October. Interviews for the audit position were conducted at the beginning of the month of November by Heidi Webber, Adam Bond, and I. Amanda Hamel was the successful candidate taking on the position for the academic year and continuing her duties during the summer months.

Sustainable Education Committee & Education in Sustainable Development Project

According to the Talloires Declaration and the Bishop's University Environmental Policy sustainable development should be integrated within the curriculum. The Ministère

de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec (MELS) and seven post-secondary education institutions (UdeS, BU, Champlain College, Cégeps de Granby, Sherbrooke, Drummondville, and Victoriaville) were selected to partner in the formation of an Education in Sustainable Development Project. The project funding hired two ESD consultants to oversee the project. An initial meeting with the two consultants was arranged at Bishop's in August 2010 with Adam Bond and Prof. Keith Baxter. During the fall semester Adam and I met with Dr. Childs to discuss the formation of a Bishop's committee who would be responsible for leading the project on our campus.

In the winter semester a faculty-based committee was established with the mandate to create a plan for cross departmental sustainable concepts to be taught within the curriculum. The committee met twice and was led by Vice Principal Dr. Michael Childs. At the first meeting the two consultants on Education in Sustainable Development (ESD) were present to discuss what the other Universities and Cégeps in the project were doing. At the second meeting the committee discussed how each member could go back to their respective departments to evaluate which courses already existed.

Prof. Keith Baxter has created a Liberal Arts Concentration in Ecology which would be composed of existing courses across various departments that contain a substantial amount of sustainability within the course.

The committee did not reconvene before the end of the semester but does plan on meeting again to gather the information from each department and to submit an action plan outlining where the university wants education in sustainable development within the curriculum.

Residence EcoFloor in Paterson Hall

The year 2010-11 was the inaugural year of the Eco-Floor. Lauri Lidstone served as the RA during the fall semester, while Nick Zoghbi took on the role in the winter. Residents arrived a day early for the retreat, where they brainstormed for ideas, painted a large mural, and got to know each other better. Many events were held throughout the year, encompassing a wide range of diverse environmental interests. In September, they held a bike ride to North Hatley to visit the farmer's market. In November, Lauri organized a

vintage shopping trip in Sherbrooke. Nick took over and continued organizing events until April.

Soup and a speaker was an event held twice a semester, where a speaker was invited to come share their thoughts about a particular topic, while the residents feasted on soup and other goodies. Floor dinners were held almost every Sunday night, hosted by a different resident each time. Those were in particular very well appreciated, as it allowed floor mates to get together on a regular basis.

Overall, the Eco-Floor was a great success. There were several residents who rarely participated, but almost everyone else enjoyed being part of the Eco-Floor. Some were more interested in learning about sustainable living, while others were more into the idea of living in a community with similar-minded people. While everyone joined for different reasons, this is exactly why the Eco-Floor worked. It was a diverse group of people (mostly) all interested in being part of something great. The transition between the two RAs was rather smooth, and the activities organized reflected that diversity of students found on the floor.

A slight expansion is expected in the short-term, as the community begins to expand. There is also a desire to bridge the gap between the floor and the different sustainable clubs and committees on and off campus, such as BUEC, SDAG, and Tierra del Fuego. In the long term future, one would ideally imagine the Eco-Floor move into one of the houses on campus currently for faculty. Such housing style would allow for a more close-knit community, while allowing for more common spaces, especially for cooking and eating together.

Both Lauri and Nick have enjoyed being the RAs of the Eco-Floor during their respective semesters, and are really thankful for their experiences.

Communications & Social Media

Although Bishop's campus is very small, it is not always easy to get the attention of the students and to have them actively participate in events. There are always a certain few who actively want to partake. Communications via social media outlets such as facebook and email are often not successful.

This year I created a facebook page called “Everything Sustainable @BU!”. The page was made in hopes to attract attention in a positive light on the sustainable activities. I used the page to create and promote events such as the Sustainability Fair and the Green Levy. It would be good for the intern to continue using this method of communications and try to increase its use by posting such things as the Sustainable Development Office hours, events, and other interesting sustainable topics that increase awareness.

Green Levy Proposals

SYC Sustainable Campuses Conference

Money Alloted: \$448.54

On October 3rd, 2010 four Bishop’s University students travelled to Queen’s University to attend the SYC’s 12th Annual National Sustainable Campuses Conference. The conference gave the students a chance to interact with individuals from across the country involved. The conference consisted of large group discussions and small workshops on topics ranging from media connections to the business aspect of sustainability. The most popular topics of discussion were on community gardens, greening campuses and bottled water.

One requirement for funding by the Green Levy for the students attendance at the conference was for the students to return to Bishop’s and present what they learnt in their environmental studies and geography class, the environmental club, and write an article for the Campus. An article was published in the first issue of the winter semester.

The following is the link to the article published in The Campus:

<http://thebucampus.ca/2011/01/sustainable-inspiration/>

ItsOneHumanity – Global Visual Petition Project for Climate Justice

Total Budget Requested: \$2,778.45

Total Amount Allotted: \$1,619.75

Elliott Verrault is a 4th year business students at Bishop’s who is the founder and CEO of It’s One Humanity. He approached SDAG requesting funds for travel and conferences. The IOH Global Visual Petition Project for Climate Justice was born out of the

desire to raise awareness on the issue of climate change and sustainability. The project takes on a particular focus on the international negotiation process that takes place at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and tries to engage other young students at Bishop's and internationally to have their voice heard on this platform as well.

SDAG agreed to fund Elliott \$1,619.75 which was the budget outlined for the UNFCCC conference travel and stay expenses. The money was granted under the agreed terms of returning back to Bishop's to present a follow up presentation. At the end of March, Elliott presented to a group of 15 students at Paterson Hall explaining his trip, his organization, and what is next for his NGO.

Bishop's University Snowshoe Project

Money Allotted: \$1,200

Money Used: \$ 1,116.83

Gabrielle Massicotte, President of the Bishop's University Environmental Club (BUEC) submitted a proposal to the SDAG committee in January 2011 for the purchase of snowshoes and poles. Snowshoeing is an easy sport to learn, very inexpensive, and is a great way to get some outdoor exercise during the winter months. Gabrielle came up with the idea for snowshoes from her exchange to a university in Montana where the school had an extensive amount of rentals for all kinds of outdoor sports. As Bishop's already has Gaiter Gears for the spring/summer months, snowshoes are a good alternative activity in the winter time. To show that there would be interested by the students Gabrielle conducted a survey asking students how much they would be willing to pay for the rental.

Prior to presenting the proposal she spoke with Joey Sabo, assistant director Ancillary service/Athletics about the snowshoes. Joey was very open to having snowshoes being rented directly from the Sports complex to the students. The rental cost for the shoes was \$5 for students and members and \$15 for non-members.

The procedure for rental was as followed:

A registration book will be set up to note

-The gym member's name (with an ID card)

- The time and length of rental (half-day, full day, or 2 days)
- The method of payment
- The signature of an injury responsibility waiver

SDAG agreed to fund the project by recommending that a maximum of \$1,200 was able to be used for the purchase of eight pairs of shoes each with a pair of poles. Three hundred and five dollars (\$305) were collected from the 59 rental during 7 weeks, an average of \$43.57 per week. The money collected from the rental represents 28% of the initial capital for the rental service equipment.

Week (Winter 2011)	Number of rentals	Money from Snowshoe Rental
1. Jan 24 th to Jan 30 th	7	\$35
2. Jan 31 th to Feb 6 th	13	\$65
3. Feb 7 th to Feb 13 th	9	\$45
4. Feb 14 th to Feb 20 th	2	\$10
5. Feb 21 st to Feb 27 th	7	\$35
6. Mar 28 th to Mar 6 th	8	\$40
7. Mar 7 th to Mar 13 th	13	\$65
TOTAL	59	\$295

The snowshoes will continue to be rented by the Sportsplex with the revenue from the rentals put back into the Green Levy (snowshoe fund) for repair, maintenance, and purchase of new shoes and poles.

Lennoxville Cooking Handbook

Money Requested: \$125

Money Allotted: \$125

The BUEC was working hard to put together a cooking handbook to promote their sustainable foods campaign. The Lennoxville Cooking Handbook focuses on local, healthy, easy, and tasty recipes that are practical for students – meals that can be prepared in a

hurry, or made in batches in advance and kept in the fridge or freezer. All recipes will include nutrition facts, as well as healthy/environmentally friendly alternatives and an explanation of these things. The cookbook will also provide a list of local providers for everything from locally raised meat to locally grown spices, fruits, and vegetables, as well as what vegetables are in season when and how to make best use of them.

Tegan Maharaj from the Environmental Club presented the project to SDAG requesting \$125 for the print and advertising cost of the book. The cost of the print of one cookbook was sourced for approximately \$3.50 and would be sold to the public for \$5. The cooking handbook was a successful project and the sustainable foods campaign will continue in the following academic year.

Gaiter Gears

Money Allotted: \$1,000

Total: \$1, 863.15

This is a continued Green Levy project from the academic year 2009-2010. Nicolas Zoghbi had success in the first season of the bike sharing project and requested funding for the purchase of brand new bicycles including two children's bicycles. The bicycles purchased last year were second hand and not in the greatest condition for rental. With the purchase of the new bikes, Nicolas and the Gaiter Gears team hope that the rental of the bikes from Paterson Hall will continue to increase and display Bishop's university as a promoter of sustainable transportation.

Incomplete Proposals

Plant Initiative – Chris Gill

Chris Gill, a first year Bishop's University student presented to SDAG a project for the sale of air purifying plants. The idea was for students to be responsible for the growth of the plant and strategically place the plants on campus. The plants would also be sold to faculty and administration to beautify their offices. The money from the Green Levy would be for the initial costs of purchasing the small plants and for the advertising costs. The revenues from the sale would keep the business a float.

Problems with the project are that students are not often present on campus during the spring/summer months which is when the plants would need the most attention. Also, he did not have a place for the growth of the plants. SDAG recommended to Chris that he seek the BUEC for help with the initiative and approach B&G custodians to make an arrangement for placement of the plants. Chris left with SDAGs recommendations and did not return back to complete his project.

L.E.D. Screens – Nicolas Venditti

Nicolas Venditti, manager of the Gait and Bishop's student, presented an initiative for the placement of L.E.D. screens on campus. The reason for the screens is that advertising on campus is often limited and inefficient. Print advertising is the most popular method of advertising on campus but are often expensive and wasteful. L.E.D is an environmentally friendly technology that can be used to replace the waste generated from paper advertising.

SDAG recommended that Nick seek more support from the executive committee and other important individuals such as David McBride and Jackie Bailey. Nick was granted by SDAG a maximum of \$6,000 with multiple conditions. The conditions were not met by the end of the academic year and Nick will continue to work on the project. It is recommended that Nick return to SDAG in the fall.

Other Initiatives

“Think Global, Drink Local” Bottled water free Campaign

Frosh Academic Orientation

This year all incoming students in their frosh orientation packs received a reusable water bottle. The bottle was partly funded by the Green Levy, the SRC, and Residence and Conferences. The reusable water bottle was one way in which to continue the education for the students. In addition to the reusable water bottles, during the Frosh Academic Orientation, Ross (SRC Environmental Officer) and I spoke to the incoming class. The opportunity to speak to the students was extremely important to clearly let the students

know what happened the previous year when students voted in the referendum to remove bottled water on campus.

Students were very receptive and proud to know that Bishop's was the first University in Quebec to remove bottled water on campus. During this time we also spoke about the Green Levy and student initiatives that were taking place on campus.

News Release

A news release was sent out to the public on October 7th, 2010. The News Release was written up by Craig Leroux with help from myself and David McBride. Much effort was imputed into the news release to make sure that all the appropriate details were addressed. The release made Bishop's University the first Quebec University to remove the sale of single use bottled water on campus. Following the news release I received a lot of positive feedback from the Lennoxville community as well as other universities interested in becoming bottled water free.

Continued Education

Continuing education is important for the future students of Bishop's University as incoming students did not participate in the "Think Global, Drink Local" campaign. The University has committed to being a single-use plastic bottle free campus and needs to uphold the commitment by keeping students educated.

Regional Conference in Quebec

On Saturday March 19th, 2011 I was asked by the SYC and the organizers of the Regional Conference in Quebec on Sustainable development to present a workshop on removing bottled water on campus. I was honoured to be asked to speak and prepared a workshop on how to prepare for such a large campaign while keeping in mind all of the stakeholders that needs to be addressed along the way. At the workshop there were approximately 25 individuals from Sherbrooke University, Concordia, UQAM, and other Cegeps. The workshop was well received and I have been since in contact with various individuals helping them with their process for removing bottled water on campus.

What's next for the bottled water campaign?

There still needs to be continuing education on the impacts of bottled water. The purpose of the "Think Global, Drink Local" campaign was to focus on the environmental impacts on bottled water and their implications in sustainable development. This education needs to be continuously reminded and taught to the students, faculty, and administration at Bishop's.

Following education on bottled water there are still 18L bottles of water that are located in various locations. These dispensers are mainly focused in administration and faculty hallways accessible to them. These 18L dispensers need to be replaced with easily accessible faucets to fill cups.

Recycling and Composting

Every year there is always an issue concerning accessibility and visibility to recycling bins. In the Gaiter Grill the layout was re-arranged this year to help monitor incoming/outgoing purchases. A gray backsplash wall was used as a divider to the food and the disposal unit. I created 3 posters as interim to purchasing new units for composting in the Gaiter Grill that were posted on the gray backsplash right above the disposal unit.

The SDAG committee worked hard this year to order new composting/garbage/recycling bins to be placed in Tim Hortons and the Gaiter Grill. The units would be strategically placed in the dining locations to make it very easy for students to place what goes where in the right location. The units have been purchased but need to be placed in the appropriate locations. September 2011 will be the beginning of their use. The SDAG committee will have to monitor how well the units are working. It would also be wise to get the environmental club on board early on to stand during the lunch hour busy time to help students in the awareness of the units and the placement of items in the correct location.

There is now composting at the Bus Stop. Jean Vaillancourt, director of custodial services, placed a composting bin in a clear location in the Bus Stop area. The composting bins are currently the responsibility of the attendant working for Sodexo who at the end of their shift are to remove the compostable bag from the bin for the following day.

Composting at the Bus Stop should be used as a model to see if it is successful. In the future

other composting bins of similar size could potentially be set up in locations like the library.

The Ecofloor is the only residence floor in which the apartments compost. These students are part of a group of students who show interest in living a sustainable lifestyle. Paterson is the only residence that has a kitchen in which the students can benefit from composting bins. Not are however not enough students that have signed up in Paterson to compost. These students should be encouraged during orientation week when they move into residence to compost for the year.

AMARESCO – Geothermal Heating

Michel Caron made a call for tenders (6 companies were available and put into a competition). AMARESCO was the winner of the competition and is a large company that is from Montreal. All of their engineering (design) was completed in Montreal. Bishop`s has signed a contract.

Initial contract was made for the term of April 2010 – March 2011. It is a natural gas process in which there has been the elimination of steam – 70% already removed. Next phase: Geothermal – In 2011 the soccer field between Abbott and the Arena will be used for the geothermal technology. The total cost of the project is 7.8 million dollars and is fully subsidised by MELS, Hydro Quebec, and a couple other sources.

AMARESCO set up in the SUB to give information to students, administration, and faculty, and did a presentation at Bandeen Hall during the fall semester. The presentation at Bandeen was not very successful, as there were only five persons present, but was very informative.

The project after two years assumes that the Greenhouse gases emission will have been reduced by 60% and the total energy consumption will be reduced by 30% (Increase in use of electricity but still a large reduction in natural gas energy consumption).

Sustainability Fair

In the fall semester following SRC Club days I organized a Sustainability Fair. The purpose of the fair was to focus on clubs, activities and projects that are on campus. The

fair showcased the environmental club, social ecology club, Tierra del Fuego, Gaiter Gears, and bottled water information.

The fair took place in the student union building on Thursday October 7th between 10am-4pm. The event was successful in attracting interested students to become more active in the sustainable projects on campus. It was also way to promote the Green Levy and encourage students to submit projects.

I would recommend to the following intern to continue the sustainability fair and to extend it to once per semester. It is a great way to attract attention of the student body and promote the many projects that we have on campus.

Recommendations

Green Levy

- **Green Levy should have deadlines.** This year because it was the first year that we had an official application form, I decided that there was no need for deadlines. I believe however that students respond better to deadlines and that at the first SDAG meeting the committee should establish two dates (one per semester) for due dates.
- **Campaigns need to have support prior to receiving funding.** Green Levy is student money and therefore all projects should have proof of the students support to ensure the success of the project.

Communications

- **Intern should speak during academic orientation at frosh.** This year Ross and I spoke to all incoming students about the Green Levy and other initiatives on campus. It was a successful way to increase awareness.
- **Make proper use of social media.** This year I created a Facebook page called "Everything Sustainable @ BU!". The page was a means to promote events and post relevant information concerning sustainable development. Communications is difficult and needs to be carefully and properly used to grasp the students' attention.
- **SDAG logo should be used more often.** An SDAG logo was created but not used. I suggest that the logo be incorporated on all documents that represent the committee including the meeting minutes.

- **Campus articles increase awareness.** As communications is a challenge it is important to make use of the Campus as an alternative means of getting the word out.
- **Intern should establish relationships right away.** The intern as the link between students and administration and faculty should meet with club heads at the beginning of the semester. A meeting early on will help the students feel comfortable in communicating activities and initiatives throughout the year.

Networking

- **Ecofloor members should be more knowledgeable of the activities taking place.** As it was the first year of the Ecofloor and the members were adjusting to being away at university, not many members actively participated in the environmental club or other activities.
- **The relationship between the intern and Tierra del Fuego should be re-established.** The relationship between Tierra and environmental actions did not strengthen as intended initially this year. Hopefully next year the intern will be able to re-establish the relationship to create a better partnership for environmental activities.
- **Have fun.** Networking is a great way to establish long lasting relationships. The intern has the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people who have similar passions about sustainable development. Cherish those relationships and enjoy being intern.

Appendix I – SDAG Logo

