



Sustainable Development Student Intern Report 2013-2014

Sustainable Development Student Intern



Final Report and Recommendations
2013-2014

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Bishop's University has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development through supporting student and university projects that promote an environmentally and socially conscious community. Bishop's utilizes its local resources to enrich the quality of education, its natural green spaces and campus life.

This year those dedicated to sustainable development concentrated their efforts in both the campus and the Lennoxville community. Student volunteers directed the waste management of several events, organized and executed the BU Sustainability Week, and promoted sustainable recreation.

Our enthusiasm has paid off as Bishop's officially received the Carbon Care Certification from Enviro-Access. Our next steps are to put measures in place to decrease our green house gas emissions. This report identifies current accomplishments and future endeavors for the 2013-2014 school year.

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Sustainable Development Action Group

This year we focused on creating conscientious campus users. We are accomplishing this through employing a number of small projects that promote environmentally responsible behaviour.

- **Improve waste management options on campus**
 - *Goal:* Remove all waste vesicles from inside classrooms and instead create centralized, well labeled recycling, compost, and garbage bins for the corridors. This will provide more waste disposal options for the user.
 - *Status:* We completed a garbage inventory of BWH. This has provided us with data which suggests that classroom users will leave the same if not less waste on the desks when no garbage bin is present in the classroom. Labeled garbage bins that resemble the new, sleek, gray recycling bins have been ordered and will be installed throughout the summer. BWH will be the first classroom to be "bin free".
 - *Next Steps:* Monitor BWH to see if removing garbage bins from all classrooms is viable.
- **Update residence washers and dryers**
 - *Goal:* Progressively replace broken down washers and dryers in residence buildings with new energy and water efficient machines. This will significantly reduce water and energy consumption.

- *Status:* We are collaborating with Deb Langford from the Residence Life Team to see if this is an economically feasible idea.
- *Next Steps:* Follow up with Deb, and begin to identify which washers and dryers may need to be replaced.

Re-useable Beer Mugs for the Gait

- *Goal:* Acquire reusable beer mugs that can be used at the Gait, thus reducing plastic cup waste.
- *Status:* 2014-2015 Frosh packages may include the beer mugs, thus initiating the plastic cup to reusable beer mug movement.
- *Next Steps:* Inquire at UdS how the use of a mug at the bar was organized and accomplished.

Sustainable Awareness

Bishop's University Sustainable Teach -In

This year sustainability week was renamed *Bishop's University Sustainable Teach-In* due to the collaboration with the education department. Students within the education department have been engaging in studies regarding sustainability and education. Together we were able to acquire the documentary *Inorganic We Trust*, which explored the myths and facts about organic food. This was followed up with a Q&A period with Professor Bardati and his wife, whom are local farmers and they direct the Lennoxville Farmers Market.

BUST week had a theme for each day, which included interactive activities and information relating to the theme (Fig 1. BUST Schedule)

Next Steps:

- Planning of activities should be delegated to various members of the organizing committee to ensure ample time and effort is put into each event.
- Promotion of BUST week should take place at least 2 weeks in advance and should include face to face interaction with students.
- Eco-Floor and Leadership Floor should be involved in the process to build their leadership skills in organizing and executing events on campus.



Fig 1: BUST Schedule

Research Week

Research week is a time for students and faculty to present their high level academic research accumulated throughout the year through various activities. This year I was invited to participate in a round table discussion called Inquiring into Sustainability: Where Economics, Environmental Studies and Education Intersect:

"Round table chaired by Dr. Avril Aitken featuring the work of Dr. Terry Eyland, Dr. Darren Bardai and students Adam Young and Angela Lanza. Since the signing of the Talloires Declaration on in 2009, Bishop's has sought to enhance sustainable practices on campus and has integrated this as a goal in the new Strategic Plan. During this same period, faculty and students in Environmental Studies and Geography, Education, and Economics have engaged in sustainability-focused inquiry around questions of policy and practice at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Participants will exchange on their research results and perspectives. They will consider the ways that their diverse research inquiries might contribute to how a culture of sustainability spanning all aspects of Bishop's life can be fostered"

Each participant prepared a 5 minute power point presentation to present their discussion. My presentation focused on the small steps Bishop's has taken to influence more sustainably conscious individuals. This was an excellent way to learn and promote sustainability and all its different aspects found within Bishop's University.

Bishop's Carbon Care Certificate Press Release

Bishop's University has officially become Quebec's first Carbon Care Certified campus. A press release this past winter showcased the Bishop's Geothermal Energy System and the Carbon Care Certificate to interested students, faculty and important city members. The Carbon Care certification signifies Bishop's University's commitment to developing and improving their sustainability all throughout campus activities and facilities. The press release is available at: <http://www.ubishops.ca/about-bu/bu-news/details.html?>

tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=441&cHash=1a0d2cf170a7e1fc19cb6c22344ffbf9

SYC Quebec University' Gathering

The Sierra Youth Coalition has provided great support to universities interested in promoting sustainability. I was invited to a RIDE meeting in Montreal, which included university representatives throughout Quebec. We shared our sustainable accomplishments and future projects, as well as our respective challenges. I learned that Bishop's is truly a progressive university when it comes to sustainable initiatives. This meeting is a great way to network and collect different ideas. I would suggest that future SDSI's continue to engage in activities with the SYC.



Volunteer Green Team

The Canada Games has helped us become more aware of our waste management practices during large events. We have put these new waste organization skills to good use this year at the *Townshippers Appreciation Day* and the *BU Winterfest*. Through speaking with the organizers and vendors of the events we ensured that waste was kept to a minimum and when possible compostable or recyclable materials were used.

- *Townshippers Appreciation Day* took place at Bishop's College School (BCS) during autumn. A team of BU students from various departments and BCS students acted as the 'Green Team' for the event. We collected waste from vendors and participants and organized them into compost, garbage and recycling. We successfully completed the event with only one bin of garbage!
- *BU Winterfest* took place in the quad. A team of BU students acted as the 'Green Team' and ensured that the waste disposal sites were being used properly and helped clean up at the end of the event. We successfully completed the event with only one bag of garbage!

Volunteers and event participants came away with more knowledge on proper waste disposal. Waste management teams and the disposal sites used at the Canada Games should be employed at more campus events such as football games, homecoming, recruitment and orientation.

Sustainability and the SRC

The SDSI works closely with the Environmental Officer. Together the pair leads the SDAG, promotes sustainable awareness and directs various projects. They collaborate with administration, the SRC and the student body.

- *Next Steps:*
 - The SDSI should be included in the hiring process of the SRC Environmental Officer to ensure a strong team for the year.
 - SRC should take on a larger role in promoting sustainable awareness and the Green Levy fund.
 - SRC should collaborate with Sustainability Week coordinators to help showcase what they have accomplished throughout the year.

Gaiter Gears

Gaiter Gears was very successful this year! Posters, word of mouth and the orientation week video provided ample awareness to the student body. The summer term brought in \$241.52 and the school year up to October 31st brought in \$353.14. We have also arranged for a student to maintain the bicycles rather than VeloShermont. This will reduce our maintenance costs and indirect greenhouse gases (as their business was located quite a distance away).

Green Levy Projects

This year we attempted to introduce COGO, a car-share website created by student Chris Gill. After extensive meetings we were unsuccessful as a high amount of insurance coverage was necessary in order for us to promote this service to BU students. The website was very well prepared, <http://co-go.co/>, and could be explored in the future.

This winter Adam Young explored the Education for Sustainable Development movement in Sweden through attending classes, job shadowing and surveying model schools. He gained new approaches and knowledge to incorporate environmental and sustainable curriculum's in the university's policies, the School of Education and Quebec schools locally and provincially.

Next Steps:

- To work with Terry Eyland and other interested professors in promoting the Green Levy fund in his courses at the beginning of the next school term.
- To use the funds to create incentives for more ecologically friendly club events.
- To use the funds to help clubs go on sustainable excursions.