



Sustainable Development Student Intern Report 2014-2015

Sustainable Development Student Intern Final Report and Recommendations 2014-2015



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Bishop's University has made great strides in sustainable development stewardship among the student community this year. Students from all fields of study have been creating innovative projects, participating in sustainability conferences and sharing their ideas. The Green Levy fund has been able to support these groups and individuals, and thus has attracted even more people to the sustainable development possibilities it can provide.

This year we explored and expanded upon the definition of "sustainability" to demonstrate its purpose in everyday life. We are trying to foster the importance of "community" in sustainable development, whilst examining how culture, the environment and society can interact with one another to create positive sustainable systems here at Bishop's University. Asking questions like "how do we break social norms?" or "how can we make sustainable development a social norm?"

We must continue to look to our peers, mentors and surroundings to find new ways to reach out to the Bishop's community and spread sustainable development awareness and interest.

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Orientation Week 2014-2015 (August 30-September 7)

This year the SDSI and two other students acted as “Green Judges” to promote and award sustainable stewardship among orientation week participants. The SDSI participated in the leader and judge training days during which they presented a power point regarding sustainable initiatives at Bishop’s, how to be an eco-conscious Orientation Group and how to promote a sustainable behavior at Bishop’s. During Orientation Week the SDSI and head of the Bio Club (Holly Barton) organized the “Tour de Lenn”, which consisted of using Gaiter Gear bikes to tour around Lennoxville showcasing various hot spots like the Champlain Pathway, Uplands, the Lion, Townshippers Association and Espace 100 Noms. There were more people interested than bicycles provided! Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. At the end of Orientation Week one group was awarded the “Green Team Award” and received a handmade trophy and free 8hour use of the Gaiter Gear bikes.

Future Considerations: SDSI and Environmental Officer should be more present in the planning of Orientation week to ensure that a sustainable perspective is implemented. More Bike tours are needed as only 2 were possible, but 4 would be ideal. Future bike tours to North Hatley and Sherbrooke could be promoted for future dates after Orientation Week to promote sustainable, local recreation and appreciation of our surroundings.



Figure 1: Tour de Lenn bike excursion



Figure 2: Green Team trophy

Mobility Week (September 15-19)

The Sherbrooke Transportation Society sends us hundreds of free bus passes which I put at various popular locations on campus. It is advertised via Facebook and the Daily Dish. Many people were very responsive this year and greatly appreciated the break from paying a high cost for the bus. It also got students who normally would not travel from BU to explore Sherbrooke.

Future Considerations: Create a strategic campaign leading up to mobility that promotes interesting locations in Sherbrooke to visit, perhaps collaborate with local restaurants so that those who use the bus pass can get a certain % off. Following mobility week would be an ideal time to survey students to find out their needs and wants for bus passes for BU students.

Garbage Cans (Winter 2015)

There are now gray metal garbage which are the same design as the recycling bins installed along the campus corridors of the buildings. This means there is equal access to both recycling and garbage which will hopefully eliminate the behavior of tossing everything into the old open lidded black garbage bins.

Future Considerations: The Art Club is interested in painting the recycling bins to make them more visible. This is a possible project that could be funded by the Green Levy. This would

bring greater awareness to proper recycling and waste management.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference describe the Sustainable Development Action Group and the Sustainable Development Student Intern and their mandate and duties. This year we changed it so that SDAG is now a sub-group of the SRC and no longer under the Sustainable Development Committee at Bishop's. The official voting members consist almost entirely of student representatives, except for the Director of Buildings & Grounds (remains a voting member for further input and suggestions).

The official voting members include:

- The Bishop's University Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) (Chair);
- The SRC's Environmental Officer (Vice-Chair);
- Student Affairs Representative;
- President of the BU Environment Club (BUEC);
- The Director of Buildings and Grounds;
- The SRC Director of Finance and Operations
- The Clean Community Team Manager
- Representative of Enactus

Eco-Week 2015

This year Eco-Week promoted making small sustainable changes in one's daily life routines. For several days the SUB was set up a number of tables to share homemade local goodies with the passers-by, a "tree of cans" to which people can write what sustainability means to them and other information regarding the environment. Activities of the week included:

- Selling of house plants to promote a healthy living space
- Selling of soaps: locally made by a student to help promote homemade products and knowing what is in what you use
- Tierra del Fuego: sold plants, re-used fashioned jewelry and dried fruits
- Eco-trivia night: an evening of trivia focusing on sustainable initiatives at Bishop's and shocking facts about what's in our daily household products and fun facts about the environment
- The Vanishing of the Bees: promoting the importance of insects in our agriculture and life
- The Dishwasher at happy hour: a power point regarding facts about the dishwasher

School supply drive: collection and redistribution

Kaitlyn Sjonnesen set up a number of collection sites on campus for old school supplies such as pencils, eraser, binders, extra papers and notebooks. There are around 5 full boxes of supplies that will be provided in the new school year free of charge. This is helping to create a community of sharing and reusing among the students.

Club Heads Meeting & The Green Levy

The SDSI and a member of SDAG (Tabitha Hartropp) presented a number of ideas and suggestions to make club events more efficient and sustainable, as well as how to make use of the Green Levy fund. The presentation was very well received! Many applications and questions regarding the Green Levy Fund were received in the following weeks.

Future Considerations: The presentation should be done once a semester at the Club Heads meeting, and information should be included in the Club Head booklet regarding sustainable event planning suggestions and the Green Levy.



Green Levy Projects 2014-2015

The Green Levy provided for many projects that spanned the various aspects of sustainability this year. Continued promotion of the fund and its uses should be implemented in the following years. In order for it to be efficient and sustainable fund money should be granted upon proof of receipts to ensure the funds are well spent.

Traditional Medicines Workshop: \$300.00

Organizers: Bishop's Indigenous Cultural Alliance

Candida Rice and Calvin Jacobs from the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre in Kahnawake, Qc are two members from the Traditional Medicines Unit called Tekanonhkwashteranéken (Two Medicines Working Side by Side). They provided a 2 hour workshop to interact with some traditional medicines, understand their uses and an introduction to some Mohawk (Kanienkehaka) culture. This workshop was well received by the many participants that filled Cleghorn. It provided an alternative form of medicine which can be found right in our Bishop's surroundings. It also taught values regarding foraging for the plants and harvesting them sustainably, along with the idea that medicine goes beyond taking pills or plants but is also connected to your lifestyle.

GAIT Dishwasher: \$6113.04

Organizers: SRC Representatives

The purchase of an eco-certified dishwasher and glasses eliminates the use of approximately 1000 plastic cups at happy hour, and reduces spending (sales at happy hour average at \$4000. Average drink price is \$4. Each cup costs approximately \$0.10, therefore. The Gait would save \$100 per happy hour). It also eliminates plastic cup use at smaller events, such as divisional wine & cheeses. The implementation of dishwasher and glasses promotes awareness around the importance of re-usability to the students, clients and staff of the GAIT. To ensure that sustainable innovations continue to occur at the GAIT, the SRC Environmental Officer will be a part of the introductory training sessions for the GAIT staff to promote the importance of sustainability.

Future Considerations: Ensure that greater advertising and awareness to the students about the sustainable reasons regarding the dishwasher are implemented.

CASA Culture Show: \$1355.00

Organizers: CASA members

The purpose of having this project was to spread awareness of the history of African & Caribbean culture and the influences upon them by other parts of the world. It provided students with an outlet to display

their talents and be educated about other cultures and their traditions. Food from all over the world was prepared by volunteers and artwork was displayed with the help of the BU Art Club. There was a collaboration with Breaking The Silence, which shows how our purchases of electronic gadgets greatly affects people worldwide, in this case Congo, and the mismanagement strife that accompanies the extraction of natural resources.

Future Considerations: Ensure the sustainable measures are put in their application are satisfied before funds are granted.

Sustainable Sociology Club Soiree: \$50.70

Organizers: BU Sociology Society

One of the missions of the BU Sociology Society is to foster discussion of social issues and to produce social change. Sustainability is an issue that has been one of the club's focuses this year, as they recognize that society and our environment are interconnected and inseparable. They used biodegradable cups, plates, and napkins at their yearend formal. It aided in demonstrating the necessity of eco-friendly initiatives within the Sociology Department and the Bishop's community.

Future Projects

BU Sustainable Solutions Workshop for Students

The Sustainable Development at BU Workshop goals are to provide an environment for open discussion and brainstorming to create solutions for Bishop's sustainable challenges. Throughout the 1-2 day workshop students would collaborate with professors and community members a question is posed such as "how to make Bishop's waste free in 15 years", the idea is broken down, creative solutions are thought of from various angles and viable implementation plans are presented.

Some considerations for the workshop include:

- How would we reach out to people?
- Groups of people should be organized based on their areas of interest and keep variation at the tables.
- Invite the manager of Estrie Aide to participate
- Invite people on campus - Head of Purchasing for Sodexo and the University, Custodial Head, Director of B&G
- Adams Dining Hall - provide food and have discussion
- Get the SRC on board
- Find out what the students want to tackle
- See if professors have an event plan template to formulate the plan
- Formulate a plan to get funding from SDAG

BU Knitting Club & Sustainability

The Knitting club helped with Eco Week this year through knitting coffee sleeves with the BU Environment Club to be sold during the bazar in the SUB. They are interested in being involved in future sustainable projects such as:

- Tutorials and workshops for students
- Winter scarf workshop as Christmas gifts
- Winter knitting for the community in need

Making BU Fairtrade Certified

Becoming Fairtrade certified will further demonstrate Bishop's dedication to sustainability through its purchasing choices. As consumers we must be more aware of how our purchases affect lives internationally. This certification represents our want to promote environmental, labour and developmental standards. One of the steps to start the process is the formation of a committee of representatives to communicate with Fairtrade which includes:

- Purchasing manager for the university
- Purchasing manager for the SRC
- Student Representative
- Professor

Design the difference

This project consists of exploring society and clothing . A series of workshops and discussions will be organized to make the community more aware of clothings impact culturally and environmentally, along with providing sustainable solutions.

- Local clothing shops
- Second hand stores
- Knowing which brands that produce clothes that are harmful to the environment
- Learning of fabrics, dyes and cleaners and their impacts: Dale Lang (Angela's family friend who gives lectures on fabrics and their harmful additives)
- How to organize clothing shares among friends
- Slavery workshop: how your clothing is influenced by slavery
- The gender of clothing
- BU style watch: promoting a healthy sense of style and self among the students
- Photo shoots: gender bender, mockery of photo shoots, body confidence: collaborate with the gender equity club
- Animal cruelty: how things are made
- Workshops: how to sew on buttons, make a patch, knit some gloves
- Micro financing: invest 25\$ into small businesses
- Cultural fashion

Sustainabase

Tabitha's Canada wide sustainable development resource for universities. It will act both as a forum to post project protocols and ask questions or make comments, as well as an event sharing database. The computer science club had originally been keen on the project but lost interest.

Future goals: Speak to computer science professors to see if it can be used as an ongoing experiential learning project. Learning how to create and run a successful website, ensuring that routine maintenance is applied and is continually being innovated.

