



Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) Final Report and Recommendations 2018-2019

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Throughout the 2018-2019 academic year, the Bishop's University community has proven once again that it truly cares about Sustainable development on its campus and around, although was highlighted the fact that there is still a long way to go for our beautiful campus to be an example in the field of Sustainability in higher education. Education is a powerful tool of change and Bishop's University community has the power to continue fostering sustainable development in order to preserve this year's journey by the many projects implemented as well as the green initiatives promoted.

SDSI Final Report and Recommendations 2018-2019:

Section 1: Overview

- Overview of activities during the 2018-2019 academic year

Section 2: Bishop's University Community Fridge

- Raising awareness about Food Waste on campus
- Ted Talk
- Recommendations

Section 3: Recyclemania

- Operation
- Recommendations

Section 4: Green Levy Fund

- Applications
- Recommendations

Section 5: Fairtrade Campus

- Application Status
- Recommendations

Section 6: Awareness Building

- Global Awareness Week
- Eco-week events
- Social Media Strategy
- Blog posts & social media
- Recommendations

Section 7 : Éco-Entreprise Québec

Section 8 : Summer Action plan

- STARS

Section 1: Overview

Overview of activities during the 2018-2019 academic year

During the 2018-2019 year, the Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) worked on different projects, some were in collaboration with other sustainable actors on campus, such as the Student Representative Council (SRC) or the SRC environmental representative, as well as the Bishop's University Environmental Club and different faculty members from the University.

An important part of the mandate of the SDSI is to be the main liaison between the students ideas and opinions and the faculty and the administration, participating in the Environmental Club, as well as Agro-Bishop's and collaborating with departments in Bishop's. I believe I honored this task the best I could by trying to implement long term sustainable initiatives on our campus in addition to looking further to make our campus the most sustainable possible. I represented the student community several times within the Sustainable Development Action Group. This report will include the difference tasks I worked on throughout the year, such as the Bishop's University Community Fridge, Recyclemania, the Green Levy Fund, the Fairtrade Campus recognition, Awareness building through different activities, the Eco-Entreprise Quebec declaration, the STARS program and some other initiatives.

Section 2: Bishop's University Community Fridge

Raising Awareness about Food Waste on campus:

As a result of a Green Levy Fund project, approved last year, this September was launched the BU Community Fridge in the SUB. Before being hired as the SDSI for this current year, Camie Lamarche (the investigator of the Green Levy project) had already approached me to take care of the BU community fridge as she knows this falls under my main interests of food security. Thus, this was one of my main missions this year. We launched it officially in September with the help of BonApp and gave apples thanks to a donation made by the local Member of Parliament, Marie-Claude Bibeau.

The goal of this project is to reduce the amount of vegetables, fruits and kitchen herbs that goes to waste on campus. In Canada, 40% of the food we produce is wasted, and households like

yours and mine generate almost half of this amount. In Quebec, we each toss about 180 kg of food per year, with two-thirds of that being fruits and vegetables. This project was created to benefit the students, by building a culture committed to wasting less and doing more to make Bishop's a more sustainable campus. This grassroots approach to combating food waste offers an alternative to throwing away excess food, and encourages members of our community to donate the food that they will otherwise not use. During the whole academic year, I took care of the maintenance of the fridge as well as the promotion. I shared initiatives on campus on how to reduce food waste and reached the Bishop's Community by the means of the BU community fridge Facebook page. I contacted the Campus Dining Committee to talk about food waste and I also contacted Gaetan Vivier to partner with Sodexo as Dewhurst Dining hall was targeted as the place that could potentially generate the most food waste on our campus. Gaetan accepted to be part of the project even if Sodexo already does its part to reduce waste, for example using less beautiful fruits to make recipes

Ted Talk:

This fall, Bishop's launched its call for its annual Up 4 debate weekend, an annual weekend held at Bishop's University, that gathers staff faculty and students from Bishop's, Acadia, Mount Allison, and St. Francis Xavier University for a debate competition, a Donald Lecture, a Business case competition as well as series of TedXBishopsU talks. This year theme for the Ted talks was : Engaging Young People in Advancing Human Rights, which motivated me to apply. I presented a talk called : " Tackling Food Insecurity by Engaging Young People Via a Liberal Education". I believe this was an opportunity that really stimulated the interaction with the fridge on campus.

MAPLE
LEAGUE
of UNIVERSITIES

AN EXTRAORDINARY
WAY OF LEARNING

TED^xBishopsU

x = independently organized TED event

Engaging Young People in Advancing Human Rights

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9

2-4:30 p.m. | BANDEEN HALL



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvV_oUJktEo

Recommendations:

My first recommendation regarding the fridge would be for the next SDSI to continue promoting it the most he or she can, with events, partnerships or social media. The apples event during the fall semester contributed successfully in making people more aware about this recent initiative and organizing a similar event would be a good idea. To meet again with the Sodexo team to ensure a partnership between the fridge and Dewies really early in the fall semester is also important as well as continuing to update the Facebook page with food in the fridge or food waste reduction tips. To increase promotion of the fridge, one recommendation I would furthermore have would be to promote waste-free events. Many faculty and administration still are not aware of the fridge even after two semesters of promotion, thus a lot of food is still wasted after conferences or meetings and this is something that could easily be avoided. The fridge could easily grow bigger with more volunteers working on it, that is how the Free go from Université de Sherbrooke was able to secure a partnership with 'le Marché Végétarien'. The only grocery store in Lenoxville is Provigo and I already talked to them this year. They have their own plan to reduce food waste and are not willing to donate. Next year, the SDSI could approach 'Marche 5eme saison'. I tried to work with the Campus Dining Committee with no result and I

believe this is something that could also be pushed further next year to try to have regular meetings with them every semester. This could bring more visibility to the Fridge and offer new partnership possibilities. My final recommendation would be to meet with Agro-Bishop to explore the possibility of a partnership between the new greenhouse on campus and the new program of Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture courses being offered as both a Bachelor of Arts degree or Bachelor of Science with integrated internships at local farms and the fridge.

Section 3: Recyclemania

Operation:

When I first started my mandate as SDSI, I wondered how I could reduce paper waste on our campus. I was very glad to find the RecycleMania competition, which gathers many different American universities and colleges and some from Canada too. This competition is a partnership between the National Wildlife Federation and Recyclemania in order to promote waste reduction and recycling activities on campuses and surrounding communities.

The Recyclemania competition began on February 3, 2019. The competition was preceded by two pre-season weeks from January 20 to February 2nd to train schools to begin tracking weights. On January 24th, I participated to the Recyclemania Rules and Tracking Requirements webinar with all other participating schools. After meeting with Jean Vaillancourt, the Facility Manager from Building and Grounds, who was very useful to track the numbers of waste and recycling as well as compost on campus, I coordinated with him to get the numbers weekly and report them directly in the Recyclemania website. In the last weeks, after Recyclemania ended and I finished reporting data for the whole 8 weeks competition period, I have read different documents made available to prepare a guide for next year: Learn from your peers (2018 RecycleMania case studies), the Behavior Change Strategy Guide and the Student Leader Guide.

I produced a report with the whole Recyclemania process and will do an Action plan for the next SDSI as this year was more seen as a ‘Test’ as we really started from nothing.

<https://recyclemania.org/about-recyclemania/>

This summer we will start getting prepared for next year's competition, by following a training that will lead us to achieve the Recyclemania Badge, which helps to find how to get better involved in the competition and find ways to reduce waste on your campus.

<http://www.nwfecoleaders.org/RMbadge/>

Recommendations:

Gather a team of volunteers in advance and plan ahead the activities targeted. This is where my action plan should be helpful, but this year, as it was our first participation, this is the part that was lacking. Recyclemania is a great opportunity, but to be effective and have an impact on our community, it needs a team of volunteers that are reliable and that will ensure the promotion and reporting of activities during the 8 weeks of the competition. The University is full of people who show interest towards the environment (SRC, Environmental Club, Agro-Bishop's, ESG department) so this should be feasible if done in advance. It could be easy to get inspired by other Recyclemania participants initiatives to see how they promote the competition on their campuses.

Section 4: Green Levy Fund

Applications:

Part of the SDSI mandate is to prepare the agenda and write the minutes for every Sustainable Development Action Group Committee meeting, which is the committee in charge of reviewing and voting on Green Levy Fund application. When I received Green Levy applications, I took the time to review them. I read the request and made sure it was complete before calling a SDAG meeting. At each SDAG meetings, I would chair the committee and then follow-up on the projects as well as send the minutes to every member of the committee. In the 2018-2019 year, we have received four (4) different Green Levy applications. At our first meeting on November 1st, we reviewed the application submitted by the Gait for the purchase of Biodegradable cups and Reusable Bar Glasses. The application was first approved on the condition of them using a local company as a supplier as, when they first applied, the supplier was from Alberta. The

committee considered that it would emit too much greenhouse gases due to transportation. When they proved to us that they complied with this criteria, we accepted their project. In the end, the money granted to this project was divided as follows: The 16oz cold cups and 1 oz compostable cups were purchased from Ecolo Boutique for a total of \$ 244.81. The 9.5 oz and 15 oz glasses were purchased from Tout Pour Boire for \$1170.60. The total for this project is \$1415.41.

Moreover, we reviewed the application received from Encounter Student Ministers. They requested \$700 to compensate for the difference of costs between Styrofoam and compostable dishware. ESM is a Bishop's club that serves free dinners for students in need and their request was aimed to achieve a more sustainable way by buying plates, bowls and cups that are compostable. After this meeting, the SDAG committee asked for a review of their budget, as we were not sure that all the numbers they provided added up. We had other questions such as how many people do they feed on a weekly basis, how much of their food goes to waste after dinner and how much bowls and cups does their budget actually buy. I simply required a more detailed budget from them. The committee would review their application again after submission of the new budget.

At our second meeting on January 29th, we reviewed the new budget submitted by Encounter Student Ministers and voted to approve the project. During the same meeting, we reapproved the Gait project that had already moved forward by ordering the cups from Ecolo-Boutique, a local store, that delivered the cups for free. We also reviewed another project during that meeting that did not receive any funding from us this year. Bishop's Bees, even though they have been a great success since their beginnings in 2015, the criteria required for their project to be accepted were not met. We required that they provided proof that their accounting was in order and another project proposal as what they were asking for was a loan of \$ 1200 to purchase 140 water bottles sold at Doolittles, but they did not even ask Doolittles if they could do so or the Bookstore if they had the permission to use the Bishop's logo on their bottles. Our suggestion was to start first of all to have a cash flow and to keep proof of consistency in their financial statements and then to come up with a project that we could finance, but something more feasible is recommended.

At our final meeting on April 9th, we reviewed the project “ La Tasse”. The amount requested for the implementation of this project is \$ 5000 for 1000 mugs that would be put into circulation on our campus. The project consists in reusable mugs from “ La tasse” that are distributed in the institutions or participant stores. For example in Sherbrooke, the city will finance participants, the coffee shop Kapeeh confirmed they would participate, which is also why Bishop’s believed it would be a good idea to participate as well and encourage reduction of coffee cups waste in our community. The consumers that want to take part in this project, buy their cup for 5\$ and get it refunded when it is returned in any member of the network where the cup would then be washed and put back into circulation for any other person who would want to buy a mug for 5\$. On campus, the main provider would be Sodexo, but Doolittles and the new COOP bookstore would be willing to participate too. Sodexo is willing, for example, to charge a \$ 0,25 fee for disposable cups that could be reinvested to maintain the inventory of cups on campus.

Once we voted unanimously on projects and they were approved, I sent approval letters, for which there was a template already made by the last SDSI. Finally, I wrote an end of year report to SRC and submitted to the SRC Secretary General regarding our yearly committee activities. Other topics discussed during our meetings were the new SDAG logo that is now a more modern version (we voted among three logos proposed by Bishop’s graphic designer), then the Fairtrade campus certification that will be submitted soon and afterwards the carpooling project that is being studied by Bruno Courtemanche on campus.



Recommendations:

Once again, the problematic that came back was that people did not submit rigorous and detailed enough budget for us to be able to review the applications directly. Simon Lizotte from Bishop's Bees contacted me this spring semester to talk about a project regarding planting flowers and cleaning around the greenhouse that is behind Patterson. He might contact the next SDSI regarding this or submit an application. The Project "La Tasse" that was approved this spring will probably be put in circulation this fall. I highly encourage the new SDSI to promote this new project.

Section 5: Fairtrade Campus

Application status:

Early this fall, I met with Maite Dumont from "Carrefour Solidarite Internationale", a Sherbrooke based international cooperation organization. This meeting resulted in Bishop's University applying to become a Fairtrade recognized campus. I thought there would be many benefits to this application such as an official recognition and verification of our fair trade products offered on campus, thus at the same time raising awareness in our community about fair trade. I believe that engaging toward fair trade by educating our community is a great commitment towards sustainable development. I see this application as a long-term duty towards making our campus a better place. There are three main requirements to be able to apply for the Fairtrade campus recognition. First, you need a Fairtrade committee on campus. We voted in one of our SDAG meetings and agreed that this committee would be one of the tasks added to the SDAG tasks to ensure we have a committee every year that meets when needed. This action meets the criteria that this committee needs to be made by volunteers (Environmental Club president) as well as administration (Josee Lamoureux, Manager of procurement). This committee will be able to ensure the leadership toward the Fairtrade Campus designation. Secondly, the availability of fair trade certified products in all campus catering services including catering and food services is required. This is the criteria that caused me most trouble, as I knew directly that Tim Hortons, present on our campus, would not respect this criteria. I quickly got an answer from the CSI saying that it would not be a problem to our application as Tim Hortons is a franchise within the University, with an external control. The project requires a baseline of

products availabilities everywhere on campus : all coffee is fair trade, three teas must be fair trade, and one chocolate bar must be fair trade. Finally, there is the visibility and education criteria. We must commit to organizing events as well as activities that will inform our community about the availability of fair trade products and also explain the importance of fair trade. I thought this could be organized in collaboration with Eco-Week as well as the last week of September that is fair trade week. The next SDSI could organize awareness events. When a campus receives the Fairtrade designation, it means it supports the populations of the South. The workers and farmers who grow and produce fair trade products are thus able to obtain better working conditions and better prices for the products we eat daily such as coffee, cocoa, chocolate or even our clothes. Bishop's University has the advantage, as a liberal school with such a strong school spirit, to transmit values, values of change and commitment to do better, to build leaders of tomorrow. I believe we could see much further with this Fair Trade campus designation, I see it as a way of engaging toward climate change on the long term by engaging not to buy cheap, but better, and give the means to workers to build better lives for themselves. The application procedure furthermore requires an administration Contract and 1-year plan to see the seriousness of the candidates applying. These are the main goals I targeted for us: announce our campus designation during the Fairtrade week at the end of September, promote and educate about Fairtrade campus designation and products during Global Awareness week and Eco-Week, increase the number of Fairtrade products available on campus, increase the promotion and visibility on our University social media, and finally, if we acquire the designation this year, work all next year to renew it. Once the fair trade campus products availability template is filled, the whole application will be sent for revision.



Recommendations:

I tried to seek help and partnerships with the Sodexo staff (Gaetan Vivier, Lydia Drolet), but did not get any result. This partnership will be crucial for a continuation regarding Fair Trade campus. These two resources provided by Fairtrade Canada can be very useful for promotion :

<http://fairtrade.ca/en-CA/What-is-Fairtrade/Facts-and-Figures>

<https://promo.fairtrade.ca/materials-resources/fair-trade-campus-application-form/>

Furthermore the University should pledge to increase local sustainable purchases in all areas, this would be helpful to the Fairtrade application renewal.

Section 6: Awareness building

Global Awareness:

Every year, the Bishop's politics and international studies department hosts "Global Awareness week", a one week event with conferences, speakers and events regarding one topic chosen by students. As main coordinator this year, I decided to build awareness regarding Sustainable Development on campus. Many events were organized throughout the week to be able to contribute to educating our community on different matters surrounding sustainable developments. On the Monday night, we presented the documentary WATT IF. It is the story of six entrepreneurs that reinvented how energy is produced or consumed through innovative projects around the world. It was very inspiring and we had a very good turnout of more than a hundred students to this event. Tuesday, we screened an inspiring TED talk about sustainable development and had a fun interactive board game that allowed people to learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations. We held an information session with Marie-Helene Lajoie from Carrefour Solidarité International that came to present internship opportunities around the world, with some related to Sustainable Development. Finally, we closed the week with an event organized with the debate club with very interesting debates between both faculty members and students on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Eco-week:

From February 4th to February 8th 2019, another edition of Eco-Week was held on the Bishop's University Campus. Organized in partnership by the Environmental Club and the Sustainable Development Student Intern, this year's events had great success and we also used this opportunity to promote Recyclemania. We hosted two morning of Bring your own mug, which are always very appreciated by students. When they bring their mug, they can get free tea or hot chocolate. At the same time, it informs people on the impacts of disposable cups. On the Monday night, we held a documentary screening of the documentary Blue planet, a British-American production. We decided to present this documentary out of the tons of documentaries about the environment today as we believe it was very comprehensive and covered well the history of our planet. The focus of the documentary is the world's ocean, but it explores as well the concept of evolution, the food chain, survival of the fittest and the future of mankind, plus it features stunning underwater images. On the Tuesday night, we held an environmental Trivia night, which was a fun way to bring our community together and learn facts about the environment and climate change at the same time and tricks as how to become more sustainable at home. On Wednesday, we held a soap-making workshop. This is a new trend we see in environmental actions that we can do at home. The Do it yourself movement is growing due to the aim of reducing waste in your bathroom with packaging-free products and this was a great event appreciated by all. Finally, we ended the week with a do-it-yourself beeswax food wrap workshop with Bishop's Bees.

Recommendations:

As the Environmental Club often hosts Bring your Own mug, that could be an easy opportunity of promoting the Green Levy project "La tasse" . As fast fashion is an issue known more and more to be harmful to the environment, I think a documentary screening on that matter as well as a clothing exchange or thrift shop (the money raised could go toward an environmental organization) would be interesting to explore. The Bishop's outdoor club is also always interesting to partner with for events.

Social Media Strategy

This fall, I met with the Communication Officer, Stephanie Chicoine, and we talked about the social media strategy the Sustainable Development Student Intern could use during its mandate throughout Bishop's social media to promote sustainability. We decided to target important activities or moments for sustainable development. The calendar part of this strategy will be available for the next SDSI to be able to reach the Communication Officer and promote these events. The first event of the year is Orientation Week where there are now green judges and green initiatives. For example, what we did this year is that green judges would give points to teams bringing food in the BU Community Fridge. The final week of September is Fairtrade week, depending on the status of our application, this could be the week dedicated to announce our designation. In October, there is Global Awareness week that is always promoted by the Politics and International Studies department but could receive more visibility to educate our community to sustainable development. Green Levy projects do not really receive recognition as well, but have a great impact on sustainable development on campus. The next Green Levy that would deserve to be promoted through social media is the "La Tasse" project. In February is held Eco-week that gathers more students of our community when promoted on Bishop's social media, the SDSI could even do a takeover of Bishop's Instagram.

April 22nd is "Earth Day". This year for example I worked with Stephanie to write a blog post and it was shared on every Bishop's social media. April 27th is "Food Waste Day". In this context, a blog post could be written or something on the BU fridge community Facebook page. Once again, depending on where the process is, May is fair trade month, even though there is less activity on campus, students and faculty still look at their social media and this can be a great way to promote fair trade in any case. May is as well the "Mois du Vélo", which would make the project Gaiter Gears interesting to promote. This is the message we shared on every Bishop's platform in both languages: "*Gaiter Gears is back! We invite students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and our extended #Ubishops family to swing by Residence Services located in Paterson Hall to rent out a bike, a lock, and a purple helmet.*" Other initiatives worth promotion are our geothermal energy during winter, in late spring the farmer markets baskets that could also be promoted through the fridge and our snowshoes in the winter as well. Our campus is full of resources ready to help us do our part for the environment, this social media calendar and framework can only help sensitize our community to them.

Recommendations:

My recommendations toward the next Sustainable Development Student Intern would be to update the social media calendar. I believe this to be a useful resource, do not hesitate to reach out to others to increase visibility, the communication officer was very helpful to me throughout the year. The new SDSI should definitely contact me so I transfer the BU fridge community Facebook page and try to continue growing the visibility of it!

Section 8 : Éco-Entreprise Québec

Part of the Sustainable Development Student Intern tasks is to fill out the EEQ declaration. This year, I was initiated a bit to it by sorting the different promotional papers we produce here at Bishop's as this is part of the EEQ task, but the main job will be done this summer. The declaration has to be submitted by early fall, which means I will end my SDSI mandate with this.

Josee Lamoureux will start by sending an email to the staff saying it is that time of the year but I will then have to meet people or call them to be able to collect the samples and then go weigh them in the Porter's Office to finally fill the Excel file of the declaration. We have to submit the EEQ declaration in order to finance the costs of effective and efficient municipal waste collection services. This had a great impact on the Bishop's community as staff who have to report the material they print now think twice before producing promotional materials.

Section 9: Summer Action plan

STARS:

The past 7 months as an SDSI have gone by really fast and working half-time while studying, you realize that there is not as much time as there are ideas to implement. This is why this summer I will have much more time to dedicate to the STARS program than I had during the year. I started reading the guide and other documentation available to learn about the program but I will continue further during my three months full-time here to prepare the data collection. I am looking forward to learn more about "The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating

System (STARS)”. The self-reporting framework aims at helping universities and college to measure their sustainability performance, which I believe concludes well with my introduction remarks, Bishop’s community is full of actors ready to make our campus a more sustainable place and act upon climate change, but we still have much to do to reach this goal.

Other initiatives and recommendations:

During the two semester I was SDSI, I had the chance to work on other initiatives or help out people with other’s ideas. For some reasons they do not always work out, but could be good ideas to keep in mind for the upcoming years. The first idea I had the chance to work on, was the Sustainable Development Goals training offered by the United Nations to Canadian universities. I met with Dr. Mckeen-Edwards to organize everything but it is only because of a timing problem coming from the United Nations staff that we could not host the event this year, which is why I highly encourage to try this again next year. Another interesting thing to follow-up in the next SDSI mandate would be the new program starting at Bishop’s on “ Sustainable agriculture and Food systems” chaired by Dr. Bardati. I am sure the SDSI could work with students from this program on interesting projects. Moreover, I was contacted by Kristen Richardson from CleanRiver, a company who manufactures sophisticated and customized recycling containers designed to improve participation, reduce contamination and pay for themselves in less than 2 years. This year, this was not possible, but if sustainable development grows at Bishop’s, it could be a solution to explore, as they already helped Laval, McGill and Concordia Universities achieve their goals.

<https://cleanriver.com>

Another faculty I worked with this year is Bruno Courtemanche, teacher in the environment and geography department. He shared with me his idea of carpooling on campus to reduce the number of cars on campus. At the second SDAG meeting, we presented his idea, which was approximately at the same time as the new master plan for our campus came out learning that parking would be farther on campus. The questions and concerns from SRC members were regarding the demand for such a project and if security would accept such project as it requires a lot of information about students. I met with Olivier St-Jean on February 6th to talk about the project. He is Bruno’s assistant and supervises a team of students from the Geography and

environment department. Their project is going well, he shared the proposal with me and their goal is to submit it by the end of the month. They got all the information they needed from security (who buys parking passes and their postal codes) and are currently working with ITS for the rest, but how it would work ideally is that on the BU main page, a tool would be added where you could see students postal codes and it could suggest you to drive with them. I did not get any further news from either Bruno or Olivier, but they might contact the new SDSI if this goes further.

It has been an incredible pleasure to serve as Sustainable Development Student Intern this year and I hope that Bishop's University will continue its journey towards a more sustainable and green campus in the upcoming years.