

Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) Final Report and Recommendations

2020-2021

Presented by: Bishop Carasquero

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In 2021, Bishop's University continued its efforts in the realm of sustainability by taking steps to achieve sustainable initiatives. This has been a difficult task with the return to campus being like none other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the constant volatility of the pandemic, the Bishop's community has rallied to ensure that sustainability is not forgotten. The pandemic has reminded us that our actions can have devastating consequences but through the determination of a few dedicated individuals, we can incite change that can inspire and save millions. This attitude must prevail in the wake of climate change and the Bishop's community is continuing to set a standard amongst academic Canadian universities in the realm of sustainability. Our fight against climate change is far from over but we must remain optimistic for the future.

SDSI Final Report and Recommendations 2020-2021:

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Section 1: Overview of activities during the 2020 - 2021 academic year

This is my second year as the Sustainable Development Student Intern. My mandate in the 2019-2020 academic year was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I returned to campus for the 2020 – 2021 academic year under guidelines to protect staff and students from the virus. Normally, the position is more hands on but due to COVID-19 measures, much of my mandate was worked remotely. This did not prevent me from accomplishing several objectives for this year.

Upon returning to campus, I did a mixture of in-person and online tasks. Some of my larger tasks include updating the Sustainable Development webpage and the Green Levy application system, cataloguing garbage, recycling and composting bins, coordinating the placement of the community fridge in the BUnited Peer Support Centre and concentrating on my social media presence. These tasks contribute to the Bishop's University Sustainable Development Plan that was approved by the Sustainable Development Committee on March 8, 2021 and presented to the Board of Governors on April 30, 2021. The following sections demonstrate how my work contributed to achieving the overall objectives of the plan.

Section 2: Operate Bishop's University in an Ecologically & Socially Responsible Manner

Waste Management

At the start of the academic year, I helped in the university's effort to redesign its waste management system. This was an area of importance to me last year as I worked towards improving the composting system in the library. It was clear that our waste management at Bishop's needed some improvement as bin placement and proper signage were preventing from efficient usage. I was tasked with cataloguing the current placement of all garbage, recycling and compost bins in public indoor and outdoor spaces across campus. I took pictures of these bins and marked their location on a floor plan of each of the buildings. The objective of this project is that the pictures will be used as reference points for redesigning signage and improving the locations of these bins. I also provided some commentary on the signage for the new outdoor bins. I look forward to seeing the new bins and signs when I return to campus in the fall, COVID-19 permitting.

Carbon Neutrality 2030

In the 2020-2024 Sustainable Development Plan, Bishop's University has set the ambitious goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. The new Tree Care and Biodiversity Committee has directly contributed to this goal by organizing the planting 10,000 trees. As SDSI, I am part of this committee and was actively updated on the status of the committee and participated in its first ever meeting. Taking place in early April, the meeting covered our agreement with Tree Canada and how the planting would take place. It was an exciting meeting to attend as it shows that Bishop's is taking the necessary sets to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Nonetheless, I believe

that there is much work to be done as planting 10,000 trees is only one step of many in our goal. One area of research that I believe the University can improve in is sustainable transportation. According to a 2016 report by Clean Energy Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defence, Équiterre and the Pembina Institute, the transportation sector makes up 23% of Canada's carbon emissions (Clean Energy Canada et al., 2016). Sustainable transportation are methods that effectively reduce our carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. During Earth Month, I dedicated a week to the topic of sustainable transportation to raise awareness that our transportation choice influences our personal carbon footprint. I chronicled the negative effects, some easy alternatives and put out a poll on a potential rideshare project. The posts and poll were well received with over five hundred viewers and multiple responses. My social media work showed me that the Bishop's community is open to the idea of more sustainable transportation options around campus. I believe that in the future, administration and students need to rally together to support the research and investment into sustainable transportation with the objective of lowering our carbon emissions.

Section 3: Engage the Bishop's Community in Improving its Sustainable Performance

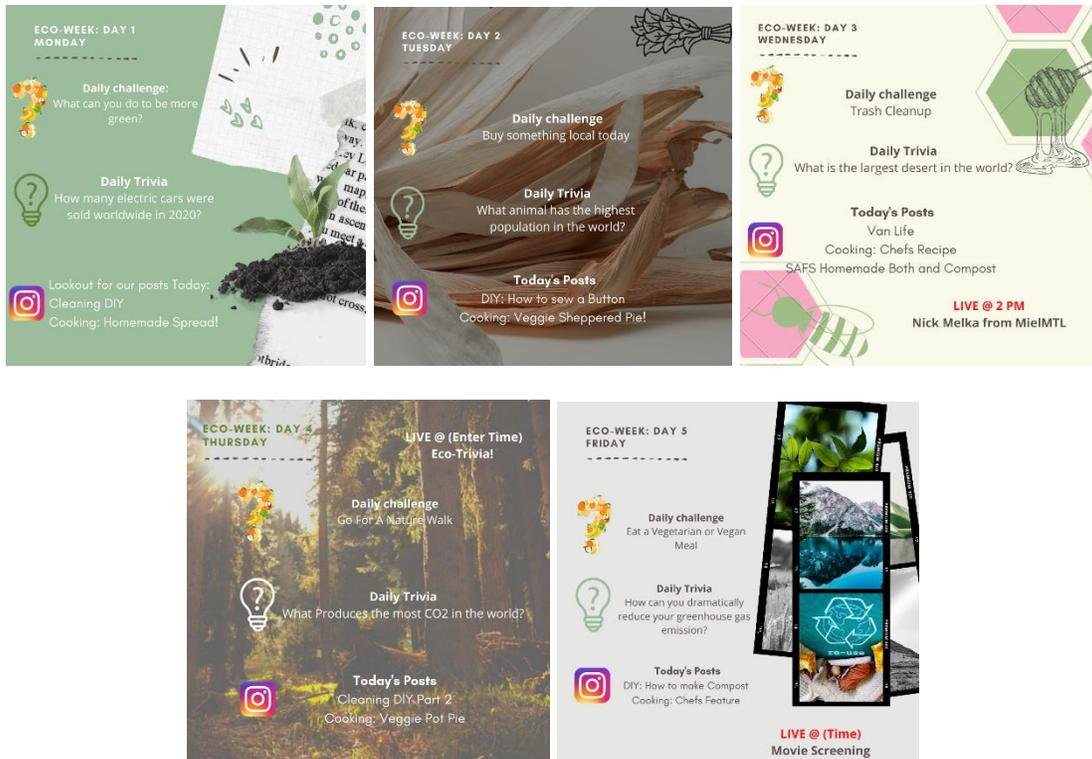
Social Media Awareness Campaign

Social media has been my largest and most prolonged task as the SDSI this year. During the winter semester of 2020, my supervisor, Josee Lamoureux, compiled answers to questions that assessed the Bishop's community's awareness of a number of sustainable initiatives. We discovered that there was a general lack of awareness of many of these initiatives, including the green levy. For my mandate this year, one of my objectives was to increase the awareness of

these sustainable initiatives. This mandate worked out well as the province of Quebec went back into lock down in November of 2020. With the majority of my schooling now online, I was forced to work this position remotely. Fortunately, social media work can be done remotely. For the last seven months I have used the environmental club's Instagram, Facebook and the BU Community Fridge Facebook as my main outlets for social media awareness. Each week, I have made posts raising awareness about on campus initiatives, educating my followers about sustainable practice and promoting other accounts that feature sustainable living. Through this task, I have learned important skills in content development and project organization.

Eco-Week 2021

Eco-Week is another important annual mandate of the SDSI. Due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to make the event completely virtual. Admittedly this was uncharted territory for myself as well as my team of environmental club executives. Nonetheless, we were able to plan and execute one of our most attended Eco-Week. Throughout January, myself and the environmental club executives organized a variety of events that challenged staff and students to be more environmentally conscious at home. Some pictures of the event calendar have been attached below this section. Because of the virtual nature of the Eco-Week 2021, we had more than 300 viewers and participants each day. It was very inspiring to virtually witness the interest and passion of the Bishop's community in learning more about the environmental crisis and challenging themselves to make more conscious day to day decisions.



The Green Levy

The Green Levy is a very special opportunity available for students to pursue their own sustainable development projects. This year we updated the Green Levy to include a section that required the project leaders to follow the necessary COVID-19 guidelines. With the help of the sustainable development action group, I was able to quickly update the application system before new incoming applications.

This year we received a number of large Green Levy project applications. The first coincided with the reinstallation of the BU Community Fridge. At the first SDAG meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year, SRC president, Enzo Evangelisti notified me that the BU United Peer Support Centre was looking to install a fridge to support their launch of the community cupboard. The community cupboard is actively fighting the stigma attached to university students struggling to

properly feed themselves through their university career. The cupboard offers dry goods as well as other school and hygiene related supplies to students that are in need. A fridge would allow the Centre to store and offer fresh vegetables and fruits which are often more expensive than a dollar store snack. With the help of the support center's director Jordi Hepburn and student support member, Amie Godward, I was able to help organize a Green Levy application that delegated the reinstallation of the BU Community Fridge into the BUnited Peer Support Centre. The application also approved funds for a community-supported agriculture membership.

Later this year, we had another large application submitted by the SRC Environmental representative Gemma Kamara and SAFS Club executive Karina Kramer. Their application proposed the installation of a vertical hydroponic garden in the BU Peer Support Center. The installation has the objective of providing the Bishop's community with an educational opportunity to learn how hydroponic gardens function and to provide students with free, nutritious produce. Although I was not directly involved with the planning of this project, I was aware that Ms. Camara and Ms. Kramer have worked closely with the appropriate Bishop's representatives to promote cooperation and meet installation requirements of the building and grounds department. They included a very detailed plan for installation and future operation of the project. I look forward to seeing the project when I return to campus in the fall.

Extraneous Accomplishments

Beyond what I have mentioned in the previous sections, I have been working hard to complete more minor tasks that help the overall function of sustainable development on the Bishop's Campus. One of the first remote tasks I completed at the beginning of the year was updating the Sustainable development webpage. The goal was to remove some of the dated information,

ensure smooth navigation and update the course list and other elements pertaining to the ESG and SAFS departments.

This semester has been like none other so I have tried my best to facilitate project completions and smooth transitions. It has been difficult doing this remotely but I have learned skills that will be transferable to my future in sustainable development

Section 4: Future Objectives

2021-2022 Academic Year

I hope to return to the Bishop's campus next semester to complete my fourth and final year of university. Being in person will allow me to work more efficiently on objectives for the future. My main objective will be working with the environmental club to host more events online or in person depending on sanitary measures. Due to COVID-19, the BU Environmental Club was relatively nonexistent as last year's normal executive voting process was disrupted. I have been contacted by three Bishop's students that will be taking over the executive positions next year. They have already discussed planning events and activities for next semester. I hope to work with them to grow the following of the BU Environmental Club.

I am also very excited for next semester as a Sustainable Development Advisor will have been hired to put in place the 2020-2024 Sustainable Development Plan. This person will be mainly focused on sustainable development within the Bishop's campus and will support me with any future projects. I look forward to working with the new advisor as it will allow for efficient work in the realm of sustainable development.

Section 5: Acknowledgements

Thank You!

I have been fortunate enough to have worked the SDSI position for the last year and a half. This would not have happened if not for the continued support of our gracious donors. I thank anyone who has supported myself and past SDSI's through donations or anything else that has allowed for the position to continue. I must also thank my supervisor, Josee Lamoureux. She has been helping me since the day I started and her continued support must not go unacknowledged.

Thank you Josee!

Section 6: Works Cited

Clean Energy Canada, The David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defence, Équiterre, & The Pembina Institute. (2016, June). Reducing GHG Emissions in Canada's Transportation Sector. https://www.equiterre.org/sites/fichiers/fmm_transportation_recs.pdf