



Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) Donor Letter and Brief Report

Fall 2023

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SDSI Final Report and Recommendations Fall 2023

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Section 1: Overview of Activities

1.1 Educational Kiosks

In Fall of 2023, the Sustainable Development office interns, myself and my colleague, were able to host many different educational kiosks. Whether it was during the weekly Farmer's Markets or during an afternoon in the student union building (SUB), the kiosks aimed to attract students and staff. The main goal of the kiosks was to engage and educate the Bishop's community on sustainable initiatives by providing interactive activities that passersby could partake in. By holding the kiosks in the SUB, we were able to reach people who would not normally take time out of their day to attend an information session because the SUB lobby is used by many students and staff to transit from one part of campus to another.

Kiosks were held for various large events, such as Fairtrade month, Halloween, during a bus pass survey circulation, and so much more including small events and special dates. We were also able to host kiosks during the Fall 2023 Open House and we were able to guide incoming students with how to become involved with sustainable development on the Bishop's campus.

Overall, hosting kiosks to educate the community is an engaging and simple event that should persist in the future. By assuring to take part in sustainable advocacy, more awareness will be raised regarding topics like global warming and climate change, and we can better protect and incorporate student and staff life to take part in the ongoing issue.

1.2 Fairtrade Month

Fairtrade month, October, was a success in many aspects. Throughout the month, the Sustainable Development office organized events to promote the global Fairtrade movement.

Activities included: kiosks where we offered Fairtrade chocolate to those who participated in a Fairtrade quiz, a conference with Fairtrade Canada members, offering free Fairtrade hot chocolate to passersby, and draws for attending or participating in events.

By doing such activities, we were able to educate more students and staff about the Fairtrade movement, especially on Fairtrade at Bishop's University. Bishop's is a designated Fairtrade campus, and we were able to maintain and promote this status through our numerous events hosted, with a future goal to move up in ranking.

During this month, we were able to contribute to the student newspaper, *The Campus*, so that if students or staff missed out on events, they could still read about the Fairtrade movement and what Bishop's is doing. The article discussed how Fairtrade applies to all the pillars of sustainable development.

1.3 Waste Categorization

Each year, *la Semaine québécoise de réduction des déchets* (SQRD) is held in October, during the same month as Fairtrade month. This year, the Sustainable Development office, student environmental club, Green Team, and other campus members decided to participate in Bishop's annual waste sorting event. In this event, we take one day's waste from each building on the campus. The team then weighed the waste by the type of bin it was collected in (recycling, compost, and garbage). The members of the waste sorting event then emptied the bags, sorted the waste properly and reweighed each bag for the proper category.

Myself and my SDSI colleague then compared the results before and after proper sorting to learn about where we could best educate students and staff on their waste sorting habits to implement changes and recommendations to stakeholders of the campus.

The waste categorization results are written up in a report which is presented to faculty. This year, we found it important to compare this year's and last year's results to investigate where the changes that we implemented previously had positively improved the system.

We noticed that this year there was significantly more compost, which was a great success since previously we did not offer compostable packaging for all foods on campus. Now, all of the packaging for food on the Bishop's campus is compostable and thus we have significantly improved the waste sorting habits in various buildings such as the SUB and Library Learning Commons. We hope to see similar positive changes next year with this year's efforts, recommendations, and reports.

The waste sorting event is a very important event to continue in the future. Not only does this event limit the amount of waste that we are disposing of on campus that day, but it also allows for the Sustainable Development office to implement change and to better the climate by lowering our campus' carbon footprint. This event should persist in future years and could even take place more often.

1.4 Bus Pass Survey

Business students at Bishop's conducted a research project this year regarding implementing bus passes at a reduced cost into students' fees. This year, they wanted to evaluate to see if it was beneficial by asking numerous questions regarding transportation habits of students, and

asked how much students would be willing to contribute for a bus pass to be implemented into their student fees.

The Sustainable Development office decided to partner with the research students to encourage students to fill out the easy online survey and receive the most responses possible which would allow for the most accurate information to be collected. Well over 600 responses were collected with an overall positive response regarding implementing bus pass into student fees. This would lower the carbon emissions on campus from parking and idling, and also promote sustainable transportation in general in Lennoxville. Not only would this better the Bishop's community, but the Sherbrooke community, too.

The information collected from the survey has supported the Sustainable Development office pilot project with the Société de Transport de Sherbrooke to offer hundreds of reduced fare bus passes to students at Bishop's and to encourage sustainable transportation in general. This is a project that has persisted for a long time, and the fight continues, but I do believe that there are more and more efforts put forward for sustainable transportation initiatives and this could become more prevalent in the future.

Section 2: Recommendations

2.1 Green Levy and Organization

The Green Levy has been offered for years now and offers students funding towards initiating sustainable projects on campus. The Green Levy had only two applications during the fall semester of 2023, and only one was accepted. Although this year the SRC Environmental representative and I put in many more efforts for advertising the Green Levy (including posting a

video that accumulated over 2,000 views), I would recommend that in the future, the Green Levy be more advertised on social media by the school's pages. The Green Levy committee also only meets once a semester but could meet more often, such as two to three times a semester, to encourage projects to begin action. Finally, during the meetings, there should be a section of time allotted for a presentation from the applicants. The applicants would also be there to answer any questions and comments of their projects.

2.2 Bishop's University Environmental Club

I would recommend that the Bishop's University Environmental Club become an Environment, Agriculture and Geography (EAG) Society or Association rather than a club. The Environmental Club has only three members who regularly attend events and meetings; but with a more general title, more people would feel willing to join. It would also be beneficial to consider collaborating with the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SAFS) club or the Outdoors Club in order to form a large group rather than segregate these different sections.

Section 3: Thank You and Acknowledgements

I want to personally thank the generous donors of the Sustainable Development Student Intern positions on campus. Your donations do not go unnoticed and have contributed to tremendous amounts of positive change on campus. We have accomplished so many individual victories and educated students on environmental awareness and concern.

Personally, I have learned so much from the role I have taken on at Bishop's University. I have gained first-hand knowledge on students' waste sorting habits as well as saw what the

student body needed in order to better understand the Sherbrooke waste system. Your donations have also helped combat the fight against food waste for students on campus. This position is essential at Bishop's and provides a liaison between students, staff, and environmental concerns on campus. This job has been an engaging learning activity and so much fun in general. I truly thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity. It would not have been possible without you.

Best,

Danielle Storey