



Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI)
Report and Letter to Donor
Summer 2024

Provided by
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Section 1: Overview of Activities:

1.1 Educational kiosk

This summer, we held one educational kiosk at the Technoscience Estrie event on May 10, 2024. The kiosk was about proper waste management. During the event, we had kids sort items into (3) piles: compost, recycling and garbage. We found that the kids at this event were very interested in the topic and were eager to learn.

1.2 Local Flowers for Convocation

During Convocation, we helped the local flower businesses, Wild Thing and Les Jardins d'etc. with setting up their booth and preparing flower arrangements. Students and parents were delighted with the quality and variety of flowers this year.

1.3 Setting up beehives

Bishop's bees' responsibility was transferred to the S.D. office this summer. We did various things, including extracting and jarring honey and cleaning bee frames and hives to avoid the spread of disease. We conducted hive inspections with the guidance of Hugo, a local beekeeper. A helpful tip we learned from him is to clean our gloves with a bleach solution and scraping off propolis (or bee glue) from tools after going in the hives to stop the spread of disease and fungi. The death of bees from last year may have been due to disease, and so, it is very important that we keep everything clean to prevent a repeat of this unfortunate event.



1.4 Bishop's University Community Garden

The new Bishop's community garden was the summer's biggest project. The summer interns were in charge of building, preparing, and aligning garden boxes and ensuring that the garden stayed clean and organized. We also repurposed old rain barrels by painting them using leftover paint from previous projects and turning them into planters. The Panda Daycare also has a garden this summer that we set up for them. We helped them plant various crops such as tomatoes, beans and basil. The kids were in charge of watering their plants and caring for them. This was a great initiative as it taught the kids how to care for plants from a young age.



Pictures from Community garden

1.5 Pollinator Islands

Another large project for us was the expansion and maintenance of Pollinator islands. We started with six pollinator gardens and added about seven more gardens to the university. Due to the increase in gardens, we created a visual on-site map with photos for next year's interns. We extracted dandelions and removed some grass to make space for wildflowers and clovers. We added new soil to the ones that needed it and laid down seeds that matched their sun conditions (full sun, shaded).



Pictures from three of our pollinator island gardens

1.6 Tree distribution with Nature Cantons de l'Est

In May we helped hand out tree saplings at the Tree distribution event with Nature Cantons de l'Est. For the event we created educational flyers on the benefits of tree planting. Saplings that were given out included yellow birch, sugar maple, white spruce, red pine and white pine.

1.7 Tree-planting

This summer, we planted over 100 trees! We planted various types of saplings and shrubs around the large garbage containers at the Sports Plex, the side of Johnson building, and the corner of Kuehner Residence. We were able to turn some of the areas where we planted trees into pollinator gardens. In addition, we held a tree planting ceremony for Convocation where us interns and the 2024 graduates planted 24 trees.

Lastly, we planted a grove of conifers at the Plex with over 80 trees of pine and spruce varieties.



1.8 Gaiter Gear fleet expansion

We expanded Gaiter Gear bikes this year by painting abandoned bikes in purple and helping Mike (Velo Bahn) with minor repairs and bike tune-ups. The unrepairable bikes/bike parts were donated to Estrie Aide. By doing this, we were able to take abandoned bikes, give them a second life, and promote sustainable transportation.



1.9 CSA Basket Pickup & Thursday Farmers' Market

Every Thursday, we helped Camille from Les Hôtes Épinettes to set up and pack up her table for the CSA basket pickup and as a Farmer's Market.

1.10 Bike Month

During Bike month, the S.D. office held free weekly Bike Clinic/Repairs with Velo Bahn. We assisted Mike by pumping up tires and learning how to replace chains, tubes and tires. During bike month, we also held two Electric Bike Tryouts with Nouveau Cycle and Conseil Regional de Environnement de l'Estrie. Sadly, not many participants showed up for the second electric tryout event as this happened at the end of May when many students have left campus. We suggest that more marketing should be done to let people know about the event for next year.



1.11 Waste Stations/Eco-cabinets pickup

In August, we picked up all the items from the repurposed filing cabinets around campus, such as batteries, ink cartridges, light bulbs and wires and brought them to the nearby eco-center to be disposed of properly.

1.12 Bilingual Art Lab Summer Camp

From July 4th to August 8th, the S.D. interns held environmental workshops with the Art Lab summer camp every Thursday for two hours. The campers' ages varied from 5 to 12 years old. We found that most kids were engaged in the topics we discussed with them and benefited from the activities.

Activities done with the kids:

- Egg carton colour nature hunt
- Waste management relay race
- Create an artistic scene or pollinator animal using things found in nature
 - Leaves, twigs, grass, clover, flowers etc.
- Bingo scavenger hunt of things found in nature
 - I filled in half, and the kids drew the other half of the board with animals and plants they'd expect to find in nature
 - I took them to the forest lab and then the marsh behind the community garden to look at the ducks and frogs
- Pollinator Island scavenger hunt
- Pollinator relay race by simulating the 3 types of insect mouths (suckers, crushers and sponge). This taught them about the different types of pollinators.
 - Suckers (pipettes and water)
 - Crushers (two spoons and soil)
 - Sponge (A big sponge and water)

1.13 Community Cupboard donations

All bedding that was left in the residences at the end of the winter semester was given to the community cupboard this year. From these donations, we gave Estrie Aide towels, bedsheets, blankets, shoes, and some clothing items that were in good condition. Stained pillows and comforters that were not accepted at Estrie Aide were taken to Refuge le Château (Café Chat L'étoile) to be repurposed as pet beds. Stained flat sheets and pillowcases were taken to l'Auberge de Niche and Pet Connection Lennoxville.

Section 2: Learning, Thank You and Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the *Experiential Learning Funds* who supported the Sustainable Development Student Internships on campus this summer. We were privileged to engage in meaningful, hands-on work, from completing the community garden to planting over 100 trees. These efforts enriched our experience and contributed to the positive environmental changes on campus. Your support made it possible for us to take part in creating a more sustainable campus, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity. None of this would have been possible without your generous contributions. Thank you for making a lasting impact on both our education and the campus community.

Thank you,

Kamil Gonzalez and Maria Carina Divinaflor