Elizabeth Harvey Memorial Sustainable Development
Intern Year End Report
For the Academic Year 2011 – 2012

Submitted May 8th, 2012 to the Bishop’s
Sustainable Development and Land Use Committee
by Lauri Lidstone
I would like to thank the Elizabeth May Harvey Memorial Foundation for giving me the opportunity to work as the Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) this academic year. This position allows for a student who is passionate about sustainability issues to get real-world experience in this exciting field. This position greatly helped me develop my communication, leadership and professional skills, and my commitment to working for grassroots sustainability has been reaffirmed by engaging in the process of making a campus community more sustainable.

I would like to thank Michel Caron for being a great supervisor and role model. I have learned a lot from watching how you treat those around you, as well as your passion for your sustainability initiatives and your strong support for students and their projects. You have been an honourary Environmental Studies professor to me during my time at Bishop’s.

I would also like to thank staff members Jean Vaillancourt, Deb Langford, Berenice Rodriguez, Paule Corriveau, Mike Little and Annis Karpenko, as well as all of the students of the SDAG and the BUEC who have participated to realize sustainability projects and help me carry out the duties of this internship. It is a gift to work with such great people.

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Brief Summary of the Bishop’s University Sustainable Development Structure

Sustainability at Bishop’s happens formally in three ways. First, in student projects led by the Bishop’s University Environmental Club (BUEC); secondly, in the Sustainable Development Action Group (SDAG) composed of both student leaders and staff members; and thirdly in the Sustainable Development and Land Use Committee (SDLU) comprised of alumni, volunteers, staff, faculty, and student representatives which reports to the university’s Board of Governors.

The SDAG also allocates the Student Representatives Council (SRC) Sustainable Development Action Fund (commonly known as the Green Levy). The fund is collected through a student service-fee of $2.50 per semester and is given back to students for grassroots sustainability projects.

The Sustainable Development Student Intern position ensures communication between these groups and the rest of the Bishop’s community to raise awareness of the various sustainability projects happening at Bishop’s.

Brief Summary of Sustainability Committees & Student Groups

Sustainable Development and Land Use Committee (SDLU)

My role on the committee this year was to report the ongoing activities of the SDAG and to represent the voice of students along with the SRC Student Affairs Representative. The SSDLU continued to meet throughout this school year with Drew Leyburne acting as chair person via videoconference from Ottawa. A Sustainability Audit of the campus was realized this past summer by the summer intern Amanda Hamel. She presented her report to SDLU in the fall, and Michel Caron and David Jones worked to create a report with a list of recommended actions. At the time of this writing, draft changes were being discussed by the SDLU following the initial presentation to the Bishop’s Executive Group by the Drew Leyburne.
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The SDLU was presented this year with the idea of merging the Building Committee and SDLU Committee. Some members favored the idea, while others had reservations. These included 1) giving sustainability a higher precedence than buildings, 2) maintaining high student input, and 3) having the focus of the new committee determined by those involved.

Regular updates from the Building Committee and the campus master plan were given by Michel Caron in the fall semester and by his replacement Paule Corriveau in the winter semester (while Mr. Caron was on sabbatical). Professor Darren Bardati presented a proposal by a group of farmers to create a farmer’s market in Lennoxville on the Bishop’s-owned land on College Street across from Clarke and Sons. One idea discussed by the SDLU, but not implemented this year, was to have a different theme for each meeting relating to sustainability (transportation, food, etc) with a discussion and brainstorming session among the members if time allows.

Sustainable Development Action Group (SDAG)

The SDAG meet this semester every second week and had consistent membership from students and staff members. Green Levy projects were heard and the SDAG initiated some of its own projects. As always, more ideas were generated than could be realized in a single year. Notes of the meetings were typed and emailed to a list of interested parties who could not be present. The representative from Sodexo, Mike Little, could not be present this year due to scheduling conflicts. I met with Mike throughout the year to work with him on SDAG projects and to learn about Sodexo’s sustainability initiatives.

The Eco Floor Resident Assistant (RA) was made a voting member of the SDAG. It will depend upon Residence and Conference Services to decide if the project will continue, if so, the Eco Floor RA will make a valuable addition to the SDAG as they are in touch with sustainability in residence.
Due to scheduling conflicts and Michel Caron’s sabbatical there were often times when staff were underrepresented on SDAG. Although it is vital to hear the student voice, staff members are also valuable as they can often advise a student project and have institutional memory of past projects. I would suggest that the next intern works to ensure a balance between students and staff at SDAG meetings, perhaps inviting interested faculty members or other staff members.

*Education for Sustainable Development Committee (ESD)*

The ESD committee was created in response to the Quebec Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec (MELS) selecting seven post-secondary education institutions (UdeS, BU, Champlain College, Cégeps de Granby, Sherbrooke, Drummondville, and Victoriaville) to partner in the formation of an Education in Sustainable Development Project. The project funded two pedagogic consultants, housed at the Université de Sherbrooke, to provide resources and networking between the partner institutions. The Bishop’s ESD committee met in the fall to continue their work of discussing how best to integrate ESD into the curriculum.

The ESD committee chair V.P. Michael Childs is also the chair person of the Liberal Education project. The project will require each department to ensure that the students progressing through the program meet a certain set of learning objectives such as numeracy, writing skills and ESD. The ESD Committee will be better placed to move forward when the Liberal Education project is approved with ESD as one of the requirements. In the meantime, Professor Keith Baxter proposes to create a Sustainability Minor at Bishop’s. To help him pursue this project we have met with various professors throughout the university to discuss the opportunities and barriers to the creation of a minor, the structure of the minor, and compiling lists of interested faculty and courses that would be appropriate to include in the minor. Some faculty members at Bishop’s will also be attending the “Atelier le développement durable et mon enseignement” workshop, which aims to increase ESD in the
curriculum and is hosted by the pedagogic consultants in June. This year my honour’s research project in the department of Environmental Studies and Geography was on the topic of ESD at Bishop’s. I will be making this student research and its recommendations available to the ESD Committee.

**Bishop’s University Environmental Club (BUEC)**

This winter a new group of students became involved in the club and were very enthusiastic volunteers. The largest project was the Art Flows event and contest. The Gaiter Gears bike project was refurbished with a lot of volunteer hours from many students. Students researched and proposed other projects such as a large winterized greenhouse that may be continued other years and continued to work on past projects, such as the snowshoe project.

**Bishop’s University Social-Ecology Club (BUESC)**

This club which was active in past years and worked separately from the BUEC has changed. The club members are residents and volunteers in the Tierra del Fuego project and have organized their events out of that organization rather than as a separate student club. The members ran Cinema Politica events (documentary film screenings) at Bishop’s as well as other events related to social and ecological issues.

**Tierra del Fuego**

This off-campus community resource center run out of a house on Church St. organizes and hosts many projects that fit the themes of sustainability such as the culture kitchen, community meals, and community garden. The centre encourages self-sufficiency through gardening, local eating, cooking, sewing, and other skill sharing (guitar lessons, yoga classes) and makes its resources (library, internet and computer use, kitchen, and music room) available to the community on an open-house basis. The BUEC and the SDSI have used the house as a home-base and resource center for many
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projects. For example, this year the Art Flows volunteers made their vegan cupcakes and banners at Tierra before the event. Although not officially recognized or funded by Bishop’s it has become a center of alternative sustainable learning in Lennoxville.

Sustainable Development Office

Last year the first Sustainable Development Office was created on the first floor of the Student Union Building (SUB) on campus. This year the SRC moved the office into the Diversity Center, which is located in the SUB basement into an office already painted a bright green. The Diversity Center includes the offices of three other clubs (Pride Alliance, Gender Equity, and Caribbean African Student Association), a conference room, and a large common space with couches. The space is open daily for student use and can be reserved for club meetings and events.

As the office is located in the basement within the larger Diversity Center space it received very little foot traffic, although it was well-used for informal student collaboration and the BUEC’s weekly meetings. Buildings and Grounds donated a bookcase that now houses a lending library of books related to sustainability (textbooks and general reading), storage for various SDAG and BUEC projects, and supplies. The office has a computer supplied by the SRC, a microwave, a printer and a white board provided by the BUEC. I am very grateful that such a space exists on campus as it allows for student collaboration for sustainability projects to occur and it is something that past SDSIs were hoping to realize.

Bishop’s Residence Eco Floor

In the fall, I participated in a welcome day for the Eco Floor students before the start of classes. The students went on a walk along the river with a local-food picnic lunch, discussed ideas for the upcoming year, and I updated the students on ways to get involved with sustainability at Bishop’s. The Eco Floor Resident Assistant and I met this fall to share ideas of my experience working in the same position last
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year. Unfortunately, the Eco Floor was not active this year as there was a low registration for the program and the students who enrolled were not living in the same building. I think that the Eco Floor is a great project as it allows students to become engaged in living a sustainable lifestyle with their peers. As it requires proximity to create a sense of community, I would suggest that a house or at least a floor be made available for the project.

Approved Green Levy Projects

U Bus Pass Student Survey

Money Requested: $25
Money Allotted: $25

Early in the year the Société de Transport de Sherbrooke (STS) requested a meeting through Michel Caron of Bishop’s students to discuss organizing a university bus pass for all Bishop’s students. Members of the SRC, the SRC Environmental Officer and Michel Caron met with representatives from the STS. A universal bus pass (U pass) would require a raise in student service fees as all students would have to participate in the plan, and this would require a student referendum. At the meeting the STS described how they calculated the cost of the plan to each student. The students at the meeting asked the STS about an increase in services as there is very little bus service at night or on the weekends, however this would increase the U pass fee for each bus added.

As the SRC Environmental Officer and I both felt strongly that this was a great opportunity to get an inexpensive public transportation option at Bishop’s, we asked some students in an ESG statistics class to organize a student survey about their bus-use habits and their interest in a U pass. The students did the survey using an online company called Survey Monkey as part of a class project and were supervised by their professor. There was a $25 usage fee that the students applied to the green levy to be reimbursed. SDAG requested that the students prepare and present a report on their findings with a list of recommendations to go forward with the project. The survey showed that 70.78% of
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students are willing to pay 25$ or more per semester for current bus service, and 85.12% are willing to pay over 25$ with an increase in bus service. See appendix B for a summary of the report and the R: Drive for a copy of the full report.

Art Flows

Money Requested: $530 (based on an estimated budget)

Money Allotted: $376.29 + final printing costs

An annual Art Flows contest and events was started by a Fine Arts student interested in sustainable development. The purpose of the project was to raise awareness of the bottled water ban at Bishop’s. Artwork in the theme of water justice was collected by the club. The art was showcased at a happy hour event in the Gait where it was judged by two Fine Arts professors and two Environmental experts (Jean Vaillancourt from SDAG and a retired ESG professor), and the public. The winner of the contest received $100 cash prize, with secondary prizes of Lennoxville Cooking Handbooks, purple water bottles, and locally-made cider going to the runners-up. The top five pieces were installed over water fountains on campus alongside a plaque detailing the “Think Global, Drink Local” campaign to ban the sale of bottled water on campus. This was a great event that drew a large crowd to Happy Hour. The SRC Environmental Officer and I acted as emcees, describing the history of the campaign and the important motivations for it. A Powerpoint presentation, flyers, buttons, and a short documentary film were on hand to inform participants. The BUEC also made vegan cupcakes and homemade ‘vitamin water’ for the guests which were a big hit. The organizer, Yolanda Weeks, applied to the Green Levy for their expenses (printing, cups, prizes, etc.)
Recycling Bins

Money Requested: $450
Money Allocated: $450

There was discussion again this year in SDAG about increasing the availability of recycling bins on campus, both indoors and outdoors. There was little funding within Buildings and Grounds (B&G) for these improvements. This Green Levy application was a joint effort by the co-president of the BUEC Paddy Enright and the Custodial Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Jean Vaillancourt. It was proposed to use the funds as a pilot project to purchase 10 plastic recycling bins to install in major hallways on campus. After the funds had been transferred to B&G, the Ministry of Education accepted a proposal by B&G that the PQI subsidy be used to buy 30 robust steel bins (plastic is no longer acceptable under the fire code) for recycling. Those bins will be strategically located in corridors of the buildings. The Green Levy money that was transferred for the recycling bins project will now be used to create good recycling signage for the 30 bins, including a sticker with the SDAG logo to be put on the top of the bins.

Plan Nord Seminar & Student Lecture

Money Requested: $275
Money Allotted: $252.70 ($45 student conference fee x 5 students and $27.70 food costs for lecture)

This March the AMEUS (the Student Association of the Environment Master Degree of Sherbrooke University) hosted a full day seminar called “The Plan Nord in the context of sustainable development” on the subject of the Province of Quebec’s plan to develop mining and hydroelectricity in northern Quebec (north of the 49th parallel, a few kilometers north of Chicoutimi). This plan has been criticized for its lack of transparency, environmental degradation, and high public spending. The seminar presented both sides of the debate with speakers ranging from Premier Jean Charest, representatives from mining companies, environmental and first nations NGOs, and scientists.
students applied to the Green Levy fund to reimburse their seminar fees as part of the 10% reserved for professional development. In return, the SDAG asked that they present the information back to Bishop’s students. They did this by writing an article for the Campus (student newspaper) and the Poutine Press (local alternative journal; see Appendix C), as well as organizing a public lecture. Snacks and beverages were provided (and refunded through the Green Levy) at the lecture that was well attended by over 30 students. Four of the five students who attended the seminar spoke on different topics (mining, caribou populations, aboriginal communities, and protected areas). The seminar was presented in French only and the students’ translation of the information was greatly appreciated by students who came from various departments across the university. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion.

Compost and Recycling Signage

Money Requested: project labour and printing costs
Money Allotted: $250 + printing

There have been efforts in the SDAG in the past to increase public education of the proper use of composting and recycling bins in the food services sections of campus. The packaging waste from Tim Horton’s and the Gaiter Grill is especially confusing to patrons. This year, members of SDAG collected all of the waste packing materials used by food services on campus with the help of Sodexo. Jean Vaillancourt, the B&G Custodial Supervisor, and I worked with the president of the Photography Club who took digital images of the packaging and created signage to inform users what goes in what bin. B&G built signage display brackets and a new bin for the Bus Stop. At the end of this project the Tim Horton’s and the Bus Stop Café should have a unit that contains a recycling and compost bin with a sign above it explaining what goes in what bin. There will be a small black garbage can beside this unit. The Gaiter Grill has a plastic 3-bin unit with garbage, recycling and compost with a sign above it.
Uncompleted Projects

Project Green Light

Dana Sciuto had spoken to Michel Caron in the past about making the lighting at Bishop’s more environmentally friendly based on her experience working at a lighting company. Dana wrote a Green Levy proposal for a lighting project that would save the university money on their energy bill. Dana proposed that these saved funds could fund a scholarship program for off-campus students. I met with Dana in the fall semester and described the project to Michel Caron who was very interested as the Ameresco Energy Efficiency project still has funds remaining that were provided by Hyrdo Quebec. Dana was unavailable to meet with Michel before he left on sabbatical. Perhaps they can connect over the summer months or next semester to pursue the project.

Off Campus Collection Bins

Neil Hancock is a student who came to SDAG with a proposal to clean up the glass from student housing area of Little Forks by installing collection bins for refundable cans and bottles. Smaller collapsible bins would be given to each student’s apartment, as well as magnets and other public education tools. Neil had received support for the project from the landlord who agreed that Neil could install such a bin on the property. The money earned from the collectables would go to a Bishop’s memorial scholarship program called Four Shades of Purple. SDAG supported the idea but many details needed to be worked out to realize the project, such as finding a bin that would not break the glass when bottles were deposited.

In the fall semester the SRC hired Neil as the first SRC Clean Communities Officer, a position created to organize graffiti and litter clean ups (especially broken glass) in the student housing area below the tracks. Neil has worked very hard all semester to clean up the glass in the area and the public image of Bishop’s students. I think this is still a great project idea and hopefully Neil or another student would like to pursue it with support from the SDSI and the next SRC Clean Community Officer.
Follow Up on Past Projects

LED Screens

Nick Vendetti applied to the SDAG last year for funds to purchase LED screens to install around campus in order to reduce the consumption of paper by campus organizations and students for advertising and flyers. The SDAG approved the project in principle and held $6,000 in reserve for the project. Nick tried to work on the project over the summer months, but still needed to find an advertising company that would buy ad space on the screens in order to fund a student intern who would organize the Bishop’s posters. Nick was working as the SRC DFO this academic year and did not have time for the project. A student, Nick Seymour in the BUEC took on the project this year and contacted other universities known to use the screens hoping to learn about a company that would advertise. However, his research was not successful and the project is back on the shelf. The BUEC also discussed whether or not it would in fact be more environmental to have screens as paper is a renewable resource, where as e-waste and the life cycle of the screens have negative environmental impacts.

Bishop’s Organic Farm Project

Dave Mersons, a local organic farmer approached SDAG at the end of last year with an idea to create a small scale organic farm project at Bishop’s. I followed up with Dave this fall. We toured a site on the Mitchell Farm that is a part of Bishop’s property and Dave took soil samples. I met with various stakeholders who might be interested in the project: Estelle Chamoux in the biology department (to use the farm as a teaching experience) and Mike Little at Sodexo (to purchase the produce). Dave described that he would need a storage space such as a shed for his tools and a cool room on the site. Although Dave was very interested with many ideas of how to link sustainability on the farm to the classroom and the community, communication and follow-up was very difficult. If Dave is still interested in the project there was a lot of positive response from Prof. Chamoux and Mike Little. Prof. Darren Bardati is also involved in the local farming community and there is a possibility of another interested farmer pursuing the project.
Gaiter Gears

The BUEC took on the task of refurbishing the Gaiter Gears program this spring. Many hours were spent by about 10 different students on the six bikes, which were painted in Bishop’s purple, with a logo in silver. The bikes were repaired and engraved with numbers for easy identification. Money spent on supplies was taken from the project revenue from last summer ($430). New advertising signs are to be made in the coming weeks and Eric Smith (the incoming SRC Environmental Officer) will be the repair person responsible during the summer; he will write down his hours and charge residence (out of the Gaiter Gears revenue fund) for his time and any repairs that need to be made.

The students had several ideas to improve the project in future years including buying new bikes, establishing a credit card or student ID card rental system, and housing the bikes in the Sportsplex as it seems like a more appropriate location for a bike rental program it is open longer hours and on weekends than the Paterson Residence where the bikes are now located. Currently, the Sportsplex management is not interested in taking over the project due to lack of space and complexity of maintenance of the bikes (compared to the snowshoes which are housed there). Perhaps this can be reevaluated at another time. I would suggest that new bikes (not used bikes) be purchased from the Green Levy if students are interested next year. I would recommend that BUEC, Residence, SDAG and the SDSI discuss giving the revenue and maintenance of the project over to BUEC (similar to the snowshoe rental program).

Snowshoe Project

This winter was an unseasonably warm winter with very little snowfall; therefore the snowshoes were not rented frequently. The BUEC did make catchy advertisement flyers, which they had plasticized to be reused next year. Sales from rentals are collected as cash at the Sportsplex and given to the BUEC club head. This year, the BUEC opened a bank account and will appoint a treasurer next year to oversee the funds, which will be reinvested into the snowshoe project and other club activities. Paddy Enright is currently the contact person for the project and he will train a replacement when he graduates to ensure the long term sustainability of the project.
Think Global, Drink Local

Reusable water bottles (purple with a Bishop’s logo) were provided to all incoming students as a part of their Frosh packs. I spoke about the campaign during the Frosh tour, and to the classroom. The Art Flows project was initiated as a way to increase awareness of the campaign to new students through passive artwork and a plaque, and through the happy hour event. There is still the possibility of future interns to purchase other water filtration systems, like the one in the library, for the Bus Stop Café or SUB. Future interns should continue to work with the SRC and other campus partners to ensure that the ban is carried out.

Bishop’s Community Garden

The greenhouse and the Bishop’s community garden project have been little-used in the last two years due to interested students having left Bishop’s. The garden was used last year and will be used this coming summer by the Organic Gardening class in the Biology department. I have tried to promote the class and the garden to students during class talks, SUB days, the Daily Dish, posters and through the BUEC. Hopefully, interested students will use the space in years to come and new student leadership for the project can be found. There is a lot of interest among the BUEC and other students for sustainable food systems, however many of these students leave Lennoxville in the summer months for work. Alternatively, there is a collective community garden at Tierra del Fuego in Lennoxville that is used by students.

Communication & Networking

Communicating the opportunity of the Green Levy, the SDAG, and the sustainability actions currently underway to Bishop’s students seems to be the largest and most difficult task of the internship. Networking with student groups, the BUEC, provincial organizations and the community was a large part of my work this year.
Communicating with Bishop’s students about the Green Levy and SDAG started with the work of those already engaged in environmental issues; BUEC. I used the pages on Facebook ‘BU Environmental Club’ and created ‘BU SDAG’ to keep in touch with members and news on events and meetings. I used the Daily Dish (the SRC email newsletter), and the library ‘Environmental News’ and SRC SUB bulletin boards to communicate to a wider student audience. I met students face-to-face by going to Dewhurst Dining Hall (Dewies) and the ESG student lounge and handing out flyers and speaking to students about the Green Levy. I tried to invite someone from the Champlain student union to join SDAG but was unsuccessful. Perhaps a future intern could try again as the Champlain students share our campus.

I formed a relationship with the Bishop’s student entrepreneurial group SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) this winter, organized by Nigel Van Dalen. Nigel suggested that sustainability project ideas that have not been completed should be given to SIFE before their first general meeting in the fall, as one of the SIFE pillars is the environment and SIFE members work on projects throughout the academic year in order to compete nationally at the end of the spring term. The Green Levy could also be made available to environmentally geared SIFE projects. I would suggest that the next intern meet with the SIFE clubs heads in the early fall before their first general meeting in order to see how SDAG and SIFE might work together during the year.

**Frosh**

During Frosh (new student orientation) week at Bishop’s I worked with the Frosh Organizing committee for the Sustainable Development Office to be a stop on the Student Services Tour. Twenty-three groups of 15-40 students stopped by the office and were introduced to the SRC Environmental Officer and myself. We discussed the concept of sustainable development, described the Green Levy, the Environmental Club and that Bishop’s is Water Bottle Free. The new students participated in order
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to earn ‘Frosh Points’ by answering questions, making a rap, dance or poetry slam about sustainability.

Eco-prizes were given to the students who participated. This event informed a broad audience about
campus sustainability resources and welcomed those students interested in joining BUEC.

The SRC Environmental Officer and myself were scheduled to speak at the academic
orientation. However, due to timing issues the organizers had to cut our address at the last minute.

Because of the cancelation, we asked professors who teach large first year classes if we could speak for
5 minutes at the beginning of the class. There was great reception from the faculty and we spoke at
about 7 classes of 80-100 students. There is a great opportunity for future interns to work with the SRC
and the Frosh Organizing Committee to include sustainability in more of the Frosh week events. This
is a time when new students are introduced to many aspects of university life and sustainability should
be a big part of this cultural initiation.

I was also asked to speak to an Education class taught by Prof. Avril Aitkin who is a member of
the ESD committee. Her upper year course on interdisplinary topics was centered on sustainable
development this year. I was asked to speak to her class about the concept of sustainable development
and the sustainability projects underway at Bishop’s in advance of their ‘Seeds of Knowledge
Sustainability Walk’ project. The project required students to engage their peers on an issue of
sustainability by presenting an interactive display one day on campus. After describing the SDAG and
its Green Levy projects some of the students chose those topics for their own project. As students
walked around campus they encountered the education students and their displays, in this way the
event engaged many students and was covered by The Campus paper.

Sustainability Fair

Following the example of past SDSIs I organized a sustainability fair featuring student groups
engaged in sustainability on campus. Held in October in the SUB the event featured Tierra de
Fuego/Social Ecology Club who demonstrated how to grow sprouts and vermiculture (worms)
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composting. The BUEC had a table with information on the bottle water free campus, they sold baked goods and cookbooks and gave away reusable shopping bags. I presented information about the Green Levy, SDAG, and the community garden, and played a video made about the geothermal project at Bishop’s created by the summer SDSI. In the winter semester I set up a similar table during club day hoping to attract more students. However, club day is so hectic that I recommend future SDSI hold a separate sustainability fair on a separate day and advertise it well in advance through Facebook, the daily dish and banners or flyers to ensure a good turn out.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

The SRC Environmental Officer and I shared information and worked with the SRC executive council throughout the semester. I spoke at an SRC general meeting about sustainability at Bishop’s and worked closely with the SRC rep for student affairs. In the SRC Environmental Policy created by the SRC Environmental Officer there will now be dedicated meetings for sustainability twice a semester between the SDSI, the SRC Environmental Officer and the 5 members of the SRC executive council (president, student affairs, DFO, social and academic representatives), along with the SRC secretary to keep meeting minutes. This will ensure better communication about ongoing sustainability projects, and brainstorming of ways to improve the sustainability of the SRC operations and events. A first meeting of this group was held this spring during the training period of the incoming SRC executives.

Radio

I was asked by Micheal Michelison who hosts the “Moving Thoughts” radio show on the local CJMQ to speak about myself, the internship and sustainability projects on campus. It was a fun experience and a good practice in public speaking.
The Campus

Various articles were written for The Campus student newspaper. Students who received Green Levy funding were asked to write an article for the paper to inform students about the issue or project. I worked with The Campus editor to describe the sustainability happenings on campus for the last edition of the paper, which will be environmentally themed. The paper will be printed on minimal paper with QR codes (little black and white squares) for readers to scan with their smartphones. The printing savings from this edition will be used to buy a tree to be planted on campus. The editor is working with the Buildings and Grounds foreman, Steve Rowe to ensure an appropriate tree is purchased.

Bishop’s Website

During an SDLU meeting the idea of creating a Green tab for sustainable development on the front of the Bishop’s homepage was discussed with the goal of advertising Bishop’s sustainability efforts and consolidating the various sustainability pages that exist on the site (SDAG, SDLU, various press releases, etc.). Beginning this project I found a sustainability tab on the St-Mary’s University homepage that I thought was a good model for the Bishop’s page as it included student groups, administration achievements, events, academics and research all in one location.

Michel Caron, Celie Cournoyer (communications manager) and Julie Fradette (webmaster) worked to realize this project. Once a layout and the new content or links to content already on the site is given to the webmaster a tab will be created on the homepage, which while housed under the Buildings and Grounds page, will direct people immediately to a new ‘Sustainability @ BU’ page. When readers first arrive on the ‘Sustainability @ BU’ page, a welcome page will explain sustainability news at Bishop’s and lead readers to the rest of the sustainability content via a table of contents. I began the work of gathering the content for this page; however I realized that it is a very large project. I will present my initial content list to the webmaster and will instruct the next SDSI,
Tess Comeau to continue the project by updating the page. Once established, making updates for the page could become a duty of future summer and winter interns in partnership with the webmaster.

_Provincial and National Sustainability Student Groups_

I was introduced this year to the employees of the _Partenariat Jeunesse pour le Développement Durabale (PJDD.org)_ , an organization funded by the provincial government to stimulate and aid student sustainable development efforts. The PJDD staff members worked with the _Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC-CJS.org)_ to host the Comité d'actions stratégiques québécois des associations étudiantes (CASQ-asso) meeting at their offices in Montreal. Held once a semester, these meetings allow student environmental leaders to share ideas, successes and common challenges. I found the meeting very helpful and I recommend that either a student in leadership position in the BUEC or the SDSI should attend these meetings whenever possible in order to connect with other leaders from across Quebec. The PJDD refunded my travel expenses to Montreal and presented two different environmental awareness campaigns; the Sustainable Residence Challenge and the Food Matters Campaign. There was also a presenter from the Polaris Institute who spoke about their bottled water free campus campaign ‘Back the Tap’. The other students were very interested to hear about the success of the students at Bishop’s University and the high engagement of our students in the BUEC and SDAG.

_Other Accomplishments_

_Sodexo Local Food Map_

An SDAG project idea was to create a map showcasing the local food that Sodexo currently purchases to educate students and to encourage Sodexo to increase the percentage of local food. By reducing food miles Sodexo supports the local economy, greatly reduces the greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, and provides fresher and healthier produce. Professor Suzan Taylor from the
Environmental Studies and Geography department was approached to create a local food map as a class project in her introductory GIS (geospatial information system) class. Mike Little, the Food and Beverage Manager at Sodexo, collected the data of what products come from within the region (mostly Eastern Townships and Montreal). The students worked in pairs to create a map showing the best representation of this data. The top two maps were presented to SDAG. Slight changes were suggested to the map makers. The final map (see Appendix A) was printed and hung in Dewhurst Dinning Hall. The students and professor involved received two free passes for lunch and a thank you note. The costs for this project were incurred by Sodexo. The GIS Shapefiles (original files used to make the map) are saved on the R: Drive and can be accessed to update or change the local food map in future years.

**SRC Environmental Policy**

The SRC Environmental Officer, Ross Horrelt, an active member of the BUEC and the SDAG created an Environmental Policy this year specific to the SRC. As a student-run body the SRC is not included in the Bishop’s Environmental Policy. The policy, which was passed by the SRC in the spring semester aims to increase environmental awareness, reduce the environmental impact of SRC operations (the Gait and Doolittles general store) and events (Frosh and Winterfest). The policy will be made available on the SRC website. Next year the SRC Environmental Officer will work to conduct an audit of the SRC operations and create a report with an action plan similar that of Bishop’s

**Talloires Declaration Plaque**

As was suggested in the last SDSI report a copy of the Talloires Declaration, to which Bishop’s is a signatory, was laminated and hung in the library this year. Michel Caron with the help of Berenice Rodriguez, the B&G administrative assistant, created a plaque showcasing a copy of the declaration alongside the letter signed by the principal enacting the declaration at Bishop’s.
With the help of the webmaster and the ITS department I created an email address for the position for the SDSI (SDSI@ubishops.ca) as well as an R: Drive file (Sustainable Development Student Intern) for file sharing and storage. This will enable continuity from year to year so that posters and the website with the intern’s email address do not have to be updated every year. The R: Drive will hold files that relate to Green Levy or other SDAG projects, including the U Bus Pass report, the BUEC Art Flows poster design and the original GIS shapefiles used to create the local food map. This will allow students in future years who want to continue a project to have access to these files. Bishop’s will be switching to a new file-sharing program as of June 2012. I would recommend that Tess Comeau (the summer intern) work with Scott Stoddard (the ITS user support specialist) to switch over the files to the new system.

The SDSI could encourage the president of the BUEC and the SRC Environmental Officer to write a report similar to the SDSI report in order to ensure year to year continuity and a record keeping of environmental projects. This should help with problems that occur due to the high turnover of students over the years.

Projects in their Infancy

Several initiatives were started this year but not completed. The following is a list of initiates which should be strengthened.

Bioswale Pilot Project

Tegan Maharaj, a biology student, came to SDAG in late spring to propose an action project related to her honour’s thesis research project on bioswales. A bioswale or raingarden is a small wetland that is used to control flooding and run-off from parking lots through indigenous plantings. Tegan proposed to do a small pilot project over the summer of 2012. The SDAG liked the project but decided that the nature of the project needed approval from the appropriate parties at Bishop’s before any Green Levy funds could be approved. Tegan met with Paule Corriveau, the interim director of B&G, who liked the idea of the project
and they discussed possible locations and the parties necessary for the project’s approval. The chosen location is near the current Peter Curry Marsh and a proposed parking lot and practice field. Tegan later met with Michel Caron and is scheduled to meet with Prof. Micheal Richardson of the Biology department to discuss the project. The next SDSI will be included in the development of the project and will work with Tegan over the summer. It is possible that SDAG could vote on the matter of funding over the summer months.

*Universal Bus Pass*

Many students in the SDAG, the BUEC and others are interested in organizing a U pass for Bishop’s. Next year the student survey previously described (p. 7) and this year’s SRC student survey (with some questions related to transportation) should be used in a discussion involving the SRC, the STS, and an organizing committee of interested students. A U pass requires a student referendum, which usually happens in March with the SRC elections. I would recommend that interested students form a committee (perhaps centered around BUEC or SDAG) and led a student discussion and a public awareness campaign lasting several months in order to gain adequate support before a referendum is held. The “Think Global, Drink Local” was a successful campaign that can be used as a model (see past SDSI reports and the R: Drive for indeas).

*Sustainable Residence Challenge*

Floris Ensink from the PJDD staff visited Bishop’s in the middle of the spring semester to explain the project to a group of interested students. The challenge pitted students living in residences across Quebec to against each other to reduce their energy, water and waste usage and to increase their environmental awareness. As this was the first year of the contest there were some issues on the PJDD side (timing, English resource material availabilities) and the Bishop’s side (Reading week falling during part of the contest) that led to the project not reaching a mass audience. Bishop’s like other universities is does not have water or energy meters on individual residences. This has been a problem
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in the past for the Environmental Audit process as well. I would recommend research for funding to install these types of meters.

The Sustainable Residence project formed a committee led by the SRC Environmental Officer with Resident Assistants and the on-campus SRC reps. There were plans to hold an internal competition among the Bishop’s residence buildings and to use Green Levy funds for a prize for the winner. The challenge ended up being more of an awareness campaign. I would suggest that a future SDSI help to create a similar committee in the fall semester with advertisement beginning at the beginning of the winter semester for the challenge. The residence challenge could coincide with the Climate Challenge/Defi Climat (deficlimat.qc.ca) for off-campus students.

Food Matters

Marie-Ève Perreault from the PJDD came to Bishop’s in the middle of the spring semester and presented her campaign for sustainable food on campuses called Food Matters. She had many resources and ideas to present and was willing to come to Bishop’s to help with events. The students present were very passionate about the idea and proposed to screen a documentary film on sustainable food issues and host a food tasting from local producers. It ended up being too late in the semester to organize and hold the event, but hopefully they will realize the project next fall with the help of ESG Professor Darren Bardati who has a graduate student coming to screen a film in the same topic. Dr. Bardati is also involved in a local farming organization and can hopefully help the students find local producers. The proposed location was Bandeen Hall as it has a large reception area (for the tasting) and a great hall.
Recommendations

1) Based on past recommendations the SDAG instituted **deadlines for the Green Levy**. Encouraging students to apply early is important due to the time required to organize and complete projects within the academic year. I am not sure based on this year’s Green Levy proposal’s whether it worked or not. I wonder if some students did not apply based on the deadlines. I would suggest either keeping the deadlines for another year (one per semester) and evaluating them again next year or strongly communicating to students the need to apply early in the semester (or year if possible).

2) **Green Frosh**. As the next SDSI, Tess Comeau, is employed over the summer and academic year this upcoming year I would recommend that if other projects are completed she work with the Clean Communities Officer, SRC executive, SRC Environmental Officer, Frosh organizing comities, leaders and judges to see how Frosh can be made more sustainable.

3) The links between the BUEC, **Tierra del Fuego and the Eco Floor** should be strengthened. These sustainable living communities both on and off campus are great representations of sustainable lifestyles and the students involved should get to know each other and could support each other’s projects. This year I organized a pot luck meal with the BUEC at Tierra, and I would encourage the SDSI to do this annually (early in the year).

4) The **Local Food Map** can be updated to include more information about local purchasing as it becomes available from Mike Little to encourage Sodexo to increase the amount of local food where feasible.
5) Use the **SRC website** as a communication vehicle for the Sustainable Development Office (SDO) and the SDSI. Work with the SRC Communications Officer to make a video introducing yourself, the SRC Environmental Officer, resources available to students, and where the SDO is. Post the video to the SRC and Sustainability @ BU websites. A large sign outside the SDO and a smaller one coming down the stairs would increase the awareness for the office and the whole Diversity Center.

6) There are funds ($6,000) held in reserve for the **LED screens project**. I recommend taking the project off of reserve as there do not seem to be students currently interested in the project. Someone can reapply to the Green Levy if this changes in the future.

7) Try to set a formal meeting to discuss a student’s **Green Levy proposal** in full before inviting them to present it at SDAG. Students applying for conference funding should apply formally to the Green Levy, have a vote of approval, and the details of how they will share the information when they return clear before the student attends the conference if possible.

8) **Staff members** from across the university (custodial staff, secretaries, admin., etc.) as well as students should be encouraged to contribute ideas and volunteer in the SDAG.

9) Review the **2012 Sustainable Development Report** in order to work with the SDAG, the SRC and other campus partners to begin to initiate those changes. Consulting with each of the campus partners on each of these points is a very large task for a student intern to accomplish with the rest of the SDSI duties. I recommend that a full-time staff person is hired by Bishop’s University to work as an Environmental Officer to accomplish these tasks and others related to sustainability on campus as occurs at other universities.
10) Katrina Kroeze said this about networking in her year-end report and I think it is worth repeating:

The intern, as the link between students and administration and faculty should meet with club heads at the beginning of the semester. A meeting early on will help the students feel comfortable in communicating activities and initiatives throughout the year. Networking is a great way to establish long-lasting relationships. The intern has the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people who have similar passions about sustainable development. Cherish those relationships, enjoy being intern and have fun! This is a dream job for a student passionate about sustainability.
BRIEF

**Sample size:** To obtain the appropriate sample size for the Bishop’s University, the sample size formula was used based on current enrolment of 2300 full-time and part-time students, this was calculated with a 99% confidence interval, a 5.2% margin of error, and 50% percentage picking.

**Interesting results:**
- The sample consisted of a relatively equal distribution of respondents from each department as well as years of study remaining (Figure 1). There was a higher number of respondents from the departments of Social Science and Humanities.

![Figure 1: Respondent Department Distribution and Years Remaining at Bishop’s University](image)

- In terms of bus usage, results show that 68.10% of respondents currently use the bus every month (Figure 3). Moreover, most respondents lived either in Lennoxville (above the train tracks), in Sherbrooke or on campus (Figure 4).
• When analysing bus use in relation to residency, results showed that most students using the bus more than ten times per month live in Sherbrooke or in Lennoxville ‘above the train tracks’ (Figure 5).

Figure 5 demonstrates that there are more Bishop’s University students that use the bus than those that do not; this can be determined by examining the difference between the green (no bus usage) and the range of blue (anywhere from 1->20 times per month).

• Respondents were asked to select the reasons for which they did not use the bus; they could have multiple answers. The two most popular reasons for which students do not currently use the Sherbrooke transit system are the services too expensive and there are currently not enough buses running (Figure 6).
Respondents were asked how much they were willing to pay in tuition increase per semester for current bus services and increased bus services (Figure 7). In terms of current service, 70.78% of students are willing to pay 25$ or more per semester, and 85.12% are willing to pay over 25$ with an increase in bus service.

Respondents were asked “If there were a referendum today proposing a mandatory 25$ increase to student fees per semester for unlimited bus use, what would you answer?” 84.08% of respondents answered ‘yes’ and 15.51% responded ‘no’, with less than 1% not responding (Figure 8).
RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the data suggests strong interest for student U-Passes to be introduced at Bishop’s University future recommendations based on the data collected during the survey process, if SDAG or students would like to introduce U-Passes would be as follows:

- A group of students such as the BU Environmental Club, or a committee created through this or SDAG should conduct a 6 month awareness campaign to encourage students to vote ‘YES’ for an increase in tuition fees to introduce a U-Pass. This would be leading up to a referendum vote during the end of the Winter 2013 semester.
  - The campaign could include:
    - Poster campaigns
    - Film campaigns
    - Environmental awareness on commuting
    - Feasibility of the project
- The committee would, necessarily, have to organize meetings with the SRC, SDAG, and Sherbrooke Transit Services in order to determine rate of increase and whether to maintain current service or increase services.
On March 2nd, 2012, I assisted the 24th seminar by the Ameus (the Student Association of the Environment Master Degree of Sherbrooke University): The « Plan Nord » in the context of sustainable development. Québec Premier, Jean Charest, presented what he called the « Plan Nord ». During his talk, a group of protestors shouted slogans concerning the increase of university fees for Québec. Is it a troubling time for the current Québec government? It is not my intention here to talk about this issue.

The « Plan Nord » was announced in May 2011 by the Québec government. The Premier is currently doing the marketing of this public investment plan. On March 7th, 2012, Jean Charest was in Gatineau, Québec in order to explain his intentions to businessmen.

According to his declaration on March 2nd, this plan is the industrial development of Northern Québec. The southern limit chosen is above the 49th parallel, a few kilometers north of Chicoutimi. This provincial government is planning to invest $80 billion including $33 billion of private mining investments. The « Plan Nord » is divided into two parts, on one hand the hydroelectric power, and on the other hand, the mining industry. Of the total $80 billion, $47 billion will be invested in the hydroelectric projects. The goal is to generate 3500 MW in Northern Québec. The government did not declare where the hydroelectricity will be obtained. Currently, Hydro-Québec is generating 35,000 MW. The « Plan Nord » project represents a 10% increase from the current hydroelectric potential.

The other part of the « Plan Nord » is the mining development. The Québec earth is very rich in non-renewable resources. Mining projects involve the extraction of gold, iron, copper, silver, titanium, nickel, niobium, tantalum, chrysotile, apatite, uranium, lithium, yttrium, diamond and aluminium. The exact quantity of those resources is unknown. The government is planning to protect 50% of the territory including 20% that will be protected by 2020.

Following the government declaration on the projects, many scientists, politicians, businessman and activists gave their points of view. In the group favouring the project, the arguments were: the development of aboriginal communities, monetary benefit from the projects for the mining and construction companies and provincial economic development thanks to the royalties. On the other
side, the arguments were: a lack of data concerning the industrial development and the quantity of resources, the biodiversity risk for a vulnerable ecosystem, the lack of precision concerning the protected areas, the volatile market where those resources will be sold as well as a world economic system in decline unable to purchase the produced energy or resources.

This major Québec issue is only starting and will be a debate for the development of Québec society. It is our new generation that will decide its future. This is why we must keep informed on this subject in order to understand fully the division between resource exploitation and respect for the environment. One can not be undertaken by itself and this is our current dilemma. Is this sustainable development desirable for the next generations? We must decide.

Aurélien Plomb