



Sustainable Development Student Intern (SDSI) Final Report and Recommendations 2016-2017

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This year Bishop's University has actively sought alternatives to improve the campus' sustainability aspect of its activities and to involve and inform students about what sustainability is, and why it's so important. The campus, among incredibly beautiful forest, sits in a privileged area. However, with this privilege of living amid natural beauty, a certain responsibility pursues. Bishop's is using its "close" sense of community to spread the importance of sustainability in everyday life. This year, Bishop's focused in improving its facility activities by seeking to track campus waste and develop a waste management program. In addition, many students have shown support and interest in developing sustainable initiatives that range from on-campus greenhouse program to possibly the development of a farming program. Although there has been great progress, we must continue to look up our peers, mentors and surroundings to find new ways to reach out to the Bishop's community and spread sustainable development awareness and interest.

SDSI Report 2016-2017

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Section A: Sustainability Evaluation Framework

1. Description:

The university must ensure that the path of sustainability follows a concrete and organized plan. There are evaluating framework programs that are available and that offer certifications as well as recognition for the effort of universities in achieving sustainability. It was discussed that Bishops seeks to have the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) recognition. STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. It offers plans and goals and it gives recognition for each goal achieved. It is highly advised that the upcoming SDSI inquires further and seeks to have the university under the STARS program. This step is crucial in uniting and solidifying the vision of Bishops sustainability efforts.

Section B: Waste Management Program

1. Description of this year's activities:

The Waste Management Program (WMP) is an ongoing project that plans to characterize the waste of each building on-campus in order to gain a full picture to develop effective and environmentally-friendly initiatives to process waste. Throughout this year, the SDSI in cooperation with the Bishop's Environmental Club, Bishops Administration and the *Conseil Regional de l'environnement* have worked towards developing the program. Unfortunately, due to the lack of volunteers and time the waste characterization was postponed until further notice. Developing the WMP is a crucial step to acquire waste management certifications.

2. Available Resources:

The *Conseil Regional de l'environnement* is supplying the resources (information, tools, and training) for the characterization. Bishop's Manager of Procurement, Ms. Josée Lamoureux, is providing the forms needed for the characterization process. It should also be taken into account that the Green Levy Fund can be used for funding the program might need in the future.

3. Recommendations:

The upcoming SDSI is in charge to set up a date for the characterization that works for the *Conseil Regional de l'environnement*. The SDSI is also in charge of coordinating with the Bishops Environmental Club for scouting volunteers. Bishop's Manager of Procurement, Ms. Josée Lamoureux, is providing the forms needed for the characterization process.

The WMP should involve raising awareness of correct waste sorting and the advertisement of the program in itself. SRC has offered several resources to get the information out to the students. Billboards around campus can be utilized to put information about waste sorting as well as what the WMP information at Bishops. Additionally, It would also be possible to use digital boards to inform students as another resource to spread information and awareness of proper waste management. Upcoming SDSI has to collaborate in organizing and coordinating the different aspects of the WMP. Ms. Josée Lamoureux and the SRC are resources for the upcoming SDSI in the implementation of the WMP.

Section C: Gaiter Gears

1. Description of this year's activities:

Gaiter Gears is a rental project that gives students and the Lennoxville community access to bikes (Conference/Paterson) and snowshoes (Sportsplex) for accessible prices. Currently Gaiter Gears is ran by Conference Services, overseen principally by Lynn Fortney with the cooperation of the SDSI.

This year Gaiter Gears experienced several issues regarding the maintenance of the bikes as well as questions of who should be in charge of the rental process and the location of the rental post. These are questions that the upcoming SDSI needs to work towards finding a sustainable solution. For this summer (2017), it was decided the bikes will remain in the charge of the Patterson Conference services.

2. Recommendations:

Upcoming SDSI needs to find a solution to the current issues with the program. That is: establish clear responsibility guidelines, such as who is responsible for the money, who is responsible for organizing repairs, who is responsible for purchasing. Important conversations between SRC and Conference services need to be arranged. Throughout the multiple Sustainable Development Action Group (SDAG) meetings this year, the possibility of acquiring new bikes and making a business agreement with a local store to provide maintenance in exchange for advertising space or other options were discussed. Additionally, the location of the bikes as well as promotion of the program needs to be improved so that it becomes more accessible to the public.

Section D: Green Levy Fund

1. Description of this year's activities:

This year the Green Levy Fund experienced a halt as the SDAG Committee went through different changes. In the last SDAG meeting the following changes were considered and passed by a majority of votes:

- SDAG members that will review applications for the fund consist of: One member representing the university, one member representing B&G invited where needed, SRC member, SRC General manager, SDSI, and Environmental Club President.
- The online application process changes:
 - Make a step by step process of the application: Submission, (1) First approval of the project including SDAG comments and suggestions on the project and requirements SDAG deems necessary such as dialogue with B&G, (2) Second approval is submission of the project with all the changes suggested, (3) Final approval with all changes and necessary measures.
 - Online application requirement of a letter of recommendation should be changed to optional

All these changes on the online application should be added to the bylaws of the Green Levy Fund and the online application needs to be updated through Julie Fradette (jfradett@UBishops.ca). Upcoming SDSI is responsible for these changes as well as contacting the SRC President to add the new application process.

2. Applicants this year:

- Elsa Cattelan (ECATTELAN15@UBishops.ca): Chicken Coup
- Camie Lamarche (CLAMARCHE13@UBishops.ca): Community Fridge on Campus
- Chelsea McLellan: Compensation for Waste Management Volunteer

This year, the Green Levy did not cede any funds for any of these projects as the committee was experiencing changes as explained before. The first two applicants were contacted and are still interested, please find their applications in the SDSI webmail account. The application made by Chelsea McLellan, although approved, was not used as the waste management characterization was postponed.

3. Recommendations:

With the new changes decided this year as well as the concrete definition of the members the fund is ready to review and accept new applications. The SDSI should work towards improving and expanding the advertisement of the fund throughout the student body. The possibility of advertising the fund in the new digital boards being mounted around campus next year was widely suggested. The SDSI needs to work with the SRC and Ms. Josée Lamoureux towards developing this idea.

Section E: Sustainability Awareness

This year the SDSI in cooperation with the Environmental Club worked on several events that offered different information on sustainability topics. Throughout the year we had presentations by students and alumni that had opened eco-friendly businesses. We had the pleasure to have Elizabeth Clements, owner of L'Original, a local restaurant that uses only produce made locally and organically. Additionally, we had Nick



Melka, CEO of MIEL MTL, a beekeeping business that is gaining popularity as it produces its honey in a way that is completely harmless to its bees. Speakers came to Campus on two different occasions and spoke about their businesses and the importance of locally grown foods as well as the impacts of industrial production of foods among other things. The presentations were followed by a documentary on different topics dealing with issues of sustainability in the 21st Century. In these two occasions, *The Flood* and *Food Inc.* were shown.

In addition, another big event that promoted sustainability on campus was the yearly Eco-Week. This event is led by the Bishops Environmental Club every year as a way to raise awareness on environmental issues and promote sustainability in our campus. The event which consisted of different themes for each day during a whole week, touched upon issues such as conscious consumption and conservation to topics such as the importance of renewable energy and social economy. Eco-Week had also the pleasure to host Ms. Diana Guerra of Réseau des entreprises d'économie sociale de l'Estrie, to talk about social economy and the work her organization does, as well as the involvement Bishops has with the movement.



In all of these different events, the SDSI played a key role in working as a resource to plan and set up events, and assist the Environmental Club as a volunteer. This role should be followed by the upcoming SDSI as it is the position's duty to represent and promote sustainability on campus as an active participant.

Section F: Maple League of Universities Waste Management Program Summary

1. Description:

With the idea of developing a Waste Management Program and in order to choose a sustainability certification for our campus, it was suggested that we look at the other Universities of the Maple League which consist of: Acadia University, Mount Allison University, St. Francis Xavier University, and Bishop's University. However, very little information on any waste management programs of the universities was found. The following information was found about any membership sustainability recognition, and of the waste management of the universities:

1. Acadia University:

- Memberships:

- Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- Atlantic Canada Universities and Colleges Sustainability Network (AUCSN)
- Canadian Alliance of College and University Sustainability Professionals

- Waste Management Program: http://sustainability.acadiau.ca/waste_management.html
Acadia's waste management system is comprised of four primary streams: paper, organics, recyclables/refundable, and garbage. Secondary streams, such as hazardous waste, batteries and e-waste are also collected.

2. Mount Allison:

- No mention of memberships
- Waste management program handled by: Westmorland Albert
- Internal Environmental Audit mentions the waste procedures
- Policies Procedures Manual (2016) mentioned waste management: Facilities Management commits to recycling, reusing and reducing all campus waste materials, limiting the waste that goes in our landfills. All green and blue bags are sent to Westmorland Albert Solid Waste Corporation and waste placed in these bags is to conform to the Westmorland sorting lists

3. St. Francis Xavier:

- Recognitions:
 - Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association recognizes StFX as one of the top organizations in the world for its commitment to green and sustainable cleaning.

On the other hand, very little information of any of these universities using the STARS program to evaluate sustainability of their campuses.

2. Recommendations:

Upcoming SDSI should inquire further by contacting the universities in order to have as much information as possible. It is crucial as well as helpful to work hand in hand with the other universities in the Maple League. The possibility to create a network so information about sustainability on campus can also be explored.



Section G: Bishop's Bees

Bishop's University in collaboration with Miel MTL made an arrangement to setup 3 hives on a designated secure area on campus. Bishop's Bees is a small, student-run beekeeping initiative at Bishop's University. The project encourages students and community members to get involved by buying the honey available at Doolittle's and sold during Eco-Week, participating in activities, and learning about bees and beekeeping. The

project has big potential and can be highly beneficial for the suitability of the climate/geography, and contribution to the environment. Students will be invited to participate in the upkeep of a bee hive, as well as learn about the nature of bees. Bishops Bees achieved to become a student club this year which opens more opportunities to get involved with the project. This year Bishops was able to produce 300 jars of honey, all of which were sold. The project looks to be very promising and profitable. It is in the interest of the upcoming SDSI to get involved with the project for its sustainability contribution to the student community.

For more information please visit: www.ubishops.ca/wp-content/uploads/Bishop_s_Bees_Chloe_Soucy.pdf

Or visit the Bishop's Bees Facebook Group

Section H: Potential Projects

1. AgroBishops:

AgroBishops is an agricultural project now turned and recognized as a Bishops club that seeks to build a greenhouse on campus in which students can learn and cultivate and ultimately harvest different produce. The greenhouse would be built, maintained and overseen by students. The project intends to raise awareness about sustainability of food production as well as a learning tool for students to learn about cultivating foods. The founder, Arthi Ericka Khan would be the contact person if the upcoming SDSI and Bishops University decided to participate in the project. AgroBishops can also be linked to the Waste Management project as compost can be collected and used for its activities. It is highly advised that the upcoming SDSI ventures into this possibility. For further information please visit the AgroBishops Facebook group or contact its founder.

2. Farming Course:

Bishops is gifted with space and great conditions to develop an on-campus farm that can be turned into a course. Additionally, the university has the individuals that possess the expertise and experience to make this idea feasible. Dr. Darren Bardati, a professor of environmental studies and geography has expressed its interest in starting this project. It is recommended that the upcoming SDSI offers its services to Dr. Bardati and seek to make the project a reality. It is in the interest of the university to initiate this as it can have huge benefits both economic and educational.