

2010 SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainability is the common thread that weaves through our campus operations, our teaching and research and in our community outreach and partnerships. Here are just some of the past year's highlights on our collaborative journey to advance sustainability.

GAINING GROUND ON CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Water efficiency inside and out

Improving water quality and reducing consumption across the campus is a priority. All new academic buildings and student residence buildings have water-saving fixtures. Thanks to a partnership between the Sustainability Office and the Student Union, WaterFillz kiosks will provide free, filtered water in three of our new academic buildings, helping reduce the number of plastic bottles from entering our waste stream. Outside, a Hunter-Wireless Irrigation System implemented by Facilities Management adjusts or ceases watering based on temperature, precipitation and wind speed.



The new WaterFillz Kiosk in the Arts and Sciences II building has diverted close to 9,000 single-use plastic bottles from the campus recycling stream in just six months of use. The units only use 12 watts of electricity for ultraviolet purification. When the refrigeration unit is running to cool the water to 38 degrees F, it only requires 46 watts of power versus vending machines that can draw over 1,500 watts of power.

Composting collegia

The addition of two small pails on the third floor of the UNC building is helping meet sustainability goals. Fourth-year student Michelle Yule spearheaded a composting project under the supervision of Geography professor Mary Stockdale. Students and staff are encouraged to dispose of their compostables into the "earth tubs" and it's hoped the project will expand campus-wide in the future.

Recycling re-vamped

Helping people on campus understand what can be recycled will encourage more compliance and reduce the amount of recyclable materials in our landfills. In a partnership between the Okanagan Sustainability Office and Facilities Management, new campus-wide recycling signage was installed to help you find the right slot for your paper, plastic, refundables or coffee cup.

More than 6,000 litres of lab plastics have been recycled thanks to a partnership between the Okanagan Sustainability Office, Health, Safety and Environment, Facilities Management, Supply Management and Fisher Scientific. Revenues from recycled plastics go towards green lab initiatives.

Thanks to our partners in advancing sustainability

City of Kelowna
Climate Action Secretariat
Fisher Scientific
FortisBC

Fresh Outlook Foundation
Glenmore Neighbourhood Association
GreenStep
UBC Students' Union Okanagan

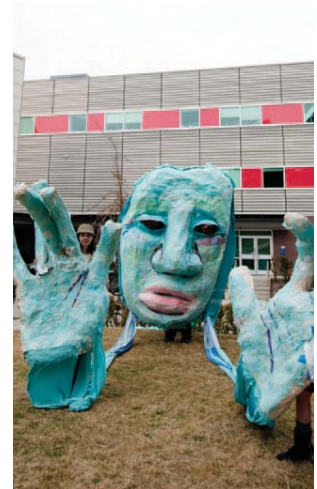
ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

Small steps, big leaps

Partnering with the Climate Action Secretariat and the Fresh Outlook Foundation, the Okanagan Sustainability Office hosted the Thompson Okanagan region's Provincial Climate Action Workshop in September. The two-day event drew participants from government, business, academia, not-for-profit and public sectors. The workshop focused on increasing collaboration between sectors; providing targeted training to support carbon reduction efforts; engaging the community through climate change visioning, which links science, local input and planning information with mapping and 3D climate adaptation visualization tools.

REEL change

The Fresh Outlook Foundation partnered with the Okanagan Sustainability Office and Leo's Videos to host the second annual Reel Change Sustainability Film Fest on campus. This film fest featured a variety of sustainability topics including child exploitation, climate change, education reform and sustainable architecture. Each film was followed by a panel discussion involving campus faculty, students and participants from the business, not-for-profit and public sectors.



Welcoming your participation

World Water Day is a community-based celebration led by Dr. John Wagner in concert with faculty and student sustainability visionaries. Held in March, this annual event welcomes the participation of campus, local community, First Nations and civic leaders, to raise awareness about water security issues regionally, nationally and globally. Of the many events held on campus, highlights included the Mayor's Youth Forum on Sustainability, Green Research Workshops and Campus Sustainability tours.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS CULTURE

Celebrating our success

UBC's Okanagan campus has achieved recognition for its efforts on many levels. In 2010, we received the City of Kelowna Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award for Most Sustainable Development and Most Environmentally Dedicated Individual (Alan King, aka "Compost King," Facilities). The campus was also awarded five Green Globes for the new Arts and Sciences II building for highest achievement for environmental and energy performance.

It's just part of our culture

Sustainability is part of regular business for Facilities Management. They have taken the lead to develop and implement an anti-idling procedure for fleet vehicles, including driver training to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They have also implemented a practice to replace older vehicles with electric and energy efficient models.

