

Knowledge is power ... to change

THE POWER OF YOU PUTS FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS

Knowledge is power. And at UBC's Okanagan campus, power—or more specifically energy reduction—is all about knowledge.

The Power of You is a new engagement program developed by the Okanagan Sustainability Office aimed at creating a shift in energy use on campus by raising awareness of energy conservation practices.

Ensuring UBC's Okanagan campus is a special place to learn, live, and work is a responsibility that lands on Michael Shakespeare's desk. As Associate Vice-President Administration and Finance, Shakespeare and his team work behind the scenes to manage the physical and financial side of campus life and to provide exemplary service in a fiscally responsible way.

"The Power of You is aligned with UBC's sustainability commitments and is a key initiative toward campus energy and carbon reduction efforts," says Shakespeare.

Through a series of awareness campaigns aimed at faculty and staff beginning in fall 2013—developed in consultation with Facilities Management, Health, Safety & Environment, and other key stakeholders—Phase One of The Power of You will educate the community about how even small actions such as turning off lights, reducing the use of space heaters, and powering down computers at night, can lead to measurable improvements in energy use in academic buildings.

Phase One of the Power of You will also include a student residence pilot program designed to save energy by encouraging cold water, versus hot water use for laundry.

"The Power of You is about people and how we use energy on a day-to-day basis," says Leanne Bilodeau, director of Sustainability Operations. "Our everyday actions—deciding to purchase energy efficient equipment, or simply turning off the lights if we don't need them—have a direct impact on the energy conservation efforts of the whole building."

Bilodeau explains that The Power of You is a key component of an energy-reduction strategy for UBC's Okanagan campus. That's where the knowledge comes in. The Building Optimization Program, a collaboration between UBC and FortisBC, will involve controls- and infrastructure-related energy reduction measures in five original academic buildings (see the Building Optimization Program sidebar at right).

By measuring how much energy the campus buildings use, UBC can assess the information, make changes, and suggest actions everyone can do to help reduce that energy consumption.

"Through collective action toward energy conservation behaviours, we anticipate that the campus will achieve greater reduction in energy consumption over the course of the program than the Building Optimization Program could achieve alone," says Bilodeau.

This dual-pronged approach is supported by Natural Resources Canada and has been applied successfully at other institutions and in communities. ●

THE DASHBOARD

BUILDING OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM SUPPORTS BETTER STEWARDSHIP OF ENERGY

People are the drivers of energy consumption, but lighting, heating and other systems actually consume energy, and these systems are the targets of a comprehensive new energy management initiative called the Building Optimization Program.

Led by a team of Facilities Management, Okanagan Sustainability, and Information Technology Services staff, the program was launched in 2012, when the campus finalized an agreement with FortisBC to optimize the performance of its original academic buildings.

The three-year program allows for real-time energy consumption data collection in nine academic buildings. The data are gathered in real time, analyzed, and displayed on a publicly accessible Pulse Energy Dashboard.

Taking into account the Okanagan's variable seasons and campus occupancy, the software monitors energy use and identifies anomalies so building control changes can be made.

Starting in September 2013, Okanagan Sustainability Office and Facilities Management teams will begin to implement building retrofits and optimization of controls to accomplish targeted energy savings.

The dashboard provides a vital tool to monitor energy consumption and the impacts of energy reduction measures.

View the dashboard at: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/sustainability/sustcamp/projects/bop



Associate Vice-President, Administration and Finance Michael Shakespeare