This issue of Good News celebrates the accomplishments of the University of Alberta’s Office of Sustainability across all three focus areas: Facilities & Operations, Outreach & Engagement and Teaching & Research. As the hub of the sustainability initiative on campus, we work to inform and inspire students, faculty and staff to adopt sustainable practices. This year we’re proud to highlight a number of initiatives including: renewable energy projects, increasing numbers of buildings certified under BOMA BESst and LEED®, Eco Move Out, embedded certificate in sustainability, recognition as one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for the fifth year in a row and being an Emerald Awards Finalist. We’re especially thankful for the increasing number of partners we collaborate with to advance campus sustainability.

—Trina Innes
Director, Office of Sustainability
Integration of Renewable Energy

A large majority of the greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere are created through the burning of fossil fuels for energy. The University of Alberta understands the importance of reducing energy use and of harnessing renewable energy generation, including solar power. The university is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through continued strong action on energy efficiency and conservation and through implementation of renewable and alternative energy on campus.

Building on strong energy efficiency efforts implemented in past years, the university is moving ambitiously to increase renewable energy generation on campus. The Medical Isotope and Cyclotron Facility on South Campus opened in 2013 with an innovative, building-integrated photovoltaic (solar panel) system producing 25 MWh of electricity per year.

The Camrose Performing Arts Centre on Augustana Campus is finishing construction and will open in Fall 2014. It also features a building-integrated photovoltaic system—the largest installation of its type in Canada—producing 150 MWh of electricity per year.

Certified Green Buildings

The Sustainability Plan commits the university to provide sustainable places to study, work and live through sustainable planning, design, construction, retrofits and operations. To accomplish this goal, the university is expanding implementation of the BOMA BESt (Building Owners and Managers Association’s Building Environmental Standards) program across campus.

The Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS), completed a few years ago, has now been awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver designation by the Canada Green Building Council.

The Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA) has been awarded both a Certification of Building Excellence, and The Outstanding Building of the Year (TOBY) award.

Turn to the next page for a list of UAlberta buildings that have been BOMA BESt certified and what level of certification each building received.
Programs and events hosted by the Office of Sustainability inspire students, faculty and staff to engage in sustainability-oriented activities that develop their leadership skills and foster social responsibility.

Sustainability at Orientation

The Office of Sustainability helped welcome students and staff returning to campus for the new year. Activities included skill-testing challenges, sharing resources, residence orientation, and helping people discover sustainability services on campus.

During Orientation and Week of Welcome, the Office of Sustainability made 2,524 contacts—a new record!

All across campus, people tweeted their sustainability commitments using the hashtag #GoGreenUofA, generating 190 tweets.

A total of 1,630 people completed passports that challenged contestants to complete a series of educational tasks. One such challenge was playing Recycle-It-Right, a game testing an individual’s recycling knowledge.

Sustainability Awareness Week

Sustainability Awareness Week 2013 continued to grow to new heights. In 2013, 56 workshops, tours and events connected sustainability advocates, researchers and services with 9,325 people—an increase of 1,825 over the previous year.

The week’s success was made possible through the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of the 33 campus organizations and 9 community organizations that partnered with the Office of Sustainability.

Student Sustainability Summit

In January 2014, the fourth annual Student Sustainability Summit took on the theme of “Power & Prosperity: The relationship between energy systems and communities.” Keynote talks from climate change communicator Cara Pike and decision scientist Joe Arvai opened the conference.

The day-and-a-half–long conference looked at the complex opportunities and challenges that result from energy production and consumption. In total, 103 students from seven post-secondary institutions located in Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton explored the environmental, economic and socio-political consequences of fossil fuels in Alberta and beyond.

Sustainability Speaker Series

This year, two speakers visited Edmonton for the Sustainability Speaker Series: Paul Hawken and Severn Cullis-Suzuki. Together, the two attracted a crowd of 864 attendees. During Eco Move In at Lister Basecamp (residence orientation), 292 Lister residents made a One Simple Act on Campus commitment, joining UAlberta’s pledge program promoting small lifestyle changes that make a big impact in improving the health of the planet. Later in the Fall Term, another 300 Lister residents made commitments in a residence-wide challenge. Residents of Lister’s Green Wing acted as champions for this challenge and served as sustainability leaders throughout the year.

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In November, Paul directly engaged Edmontonians in a workshop facilitated by Alberta Climate Dialogue. His evening talk, “Reimagination of Carbon,” explored new ways of addressing the challenge of climate change. In January, Severn gave two presentations on the topic of “Energy for Change,” reflecting on her life journey and sharing inspiring models for sustainability around the world.

The 2013-2014 Sustainability Speaker Series was made possible through partnerships with the Alberta Climate Dialogue, the City of Edmonton’s The Way We Green speaker series, and the University of Alberta’s Office of Sustainability and the Global Education program’s International Week 2014.

The two events collected over 141 kg of food and $446 in donations for the Campus Food Bank and $1,072 in donations for UAlberta’s Green Grants.

Photos

1. Severn Cullis-Suzuki during her talk for the Sustainability Speaker Series.
2. A portion of the large audience at Severn Cullis-Suzuki’s talk.
3. An ecoREPs speed dating session. Groups learned about sustainable initiatives happening on campus and explore the challenges and opportunities to increasing sustainability on campus.
4. Outreach Assistant Lauren Hall highlights some of UAlberta’s sustainability features on a Campus Sustainability Tour.
5. The Women and Children’s Health Research Institute receives Green Spaces Silver certification.

ecoREPs—Sustainability Leadership Program

Creating a web of people connected by a common purpose and passion for sustainability is a powerful strategy for building a sustainable campus. The ecoREPs program provides faculty, staff and graduate students the resources, support and access to a community of practice needed to serve as campus sustainability leaders in their workplace.

Participants are encouraged to get involved in sustainability in their personal and campus life. Some examples of leadership from ecoREPs in campus sustainability include: certifying their offices under the Green Spaces Certification Program, integrating sustainability into their teaching and learning, championing recycling, completing research on a green procurement policy, and advocating for green purchasing.

The ecoREPs program was presented as a model for engaging staff at the annual Smart and Sustainable Campuses conference at the University of Maryland.

Campus Sustainability Tour

The Office of Sustainability’s summertime walking tours show off the university’s sustainability features and services to campus and community members. In summer 2013, 101 people joined 12 different tours, discovering the many ways UAlberta earned the Canada’s Greenest Employers award for five straight years.

The tour covers locations such as the Campus Community Garden, LEED™ Silver certified Graduate Residence and LEED™ Gold certified Triffo Hall.

Green Spaces

The Green Spaces Certification Program proved to be a great way to engage people in conversations about sustainability and contributed to making their spaces more sustainable. Last year, 19 offices, 2 labs, 15 events and 27 individual residences received either Bronze, Silver or Gold certification.

In addition to spaces being certified, one office went beyond certification and created their own video to promote the program to new staff.

The certification program was expanded to include labs and residences in 2013. As part of outreach to labs, a Green Labs reference team was formed to help guide work in this area, leading to the development of a companion document for lab certifications and a successful pilot of a shut-the-sash (fume hood) program.

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The Office of Sustainability also partnered with an art and design class and Organizational Learning and Effectiveness to refresh the current Green Spaces identity and checklists. The new version will be launched in the summer of 2014, providing recognition for actions that create a safe and inclusive work environment.
Eco Move Out

As students move out of residence they get rid of any extra belongings that are no longer necessary to them. To prevent these items from going into the trash and to make it easy for residents to donate the items, the Eco Move Out program takes place twice year, once at the end of April and again in July.

In 2013, the Office of Sustainability partnered with Goodwill Industries of Alberta, PODS, TerraCycle, Shanked Computer Recycling Inc. (a local electronics recycler) and the Campus Food Back to help divert 8,617 kg worth of clothing, household items, electronics, non-perishable food and toiletries and empty personal care product containers from entering the landfill. That is almost three times the amount that was collected in 2012!

Eco Move Out Results for 2012 and 2013

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<th>Item Type</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
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<td>4000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Bank Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothing and Household Items</td>
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<td>112</td>
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<td>Empty Personal Care Product Containers</td>
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<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waste in Residence

The Office of Sustainability and Energy Management and Sustainability Operations hosted a webinar delivered to hundreds of people through the College & University Recycling Coalition’s (CURC) network. It described community-based social marketing as a powerful tool to motivate behavior change and improve recycling on post-secondary campuses. The webinar used the waste education pilot in East Campus Village as a case study of how to use CBSM to increase recycling, composting and decrease contamination in a residence community.

Outreach Statistics

- **140** engagement activities reaching **34,000** contacts
- **33,340** visits to sustainability.ualberta.ca
- **2,000** people like us on Facebook
- **2,819** people follow us on Twitter
- Support from **110** partners, **30 per cent more** than last year

TEACHING & RESEARCH

Sustainability Certificate

Broadening the integration of sustainability into the academic experience teaches students sustainable behaviour at the start of their career, rather than later when an unsustainable habit may have already developed. The key to this strategy is the launch of an embedded undergraduate sustainability certificate.

Following preparations made throughout the year, a Certificate in Sustainability will be available to undergraduates in nine faculties (including Augustana Campus) for Fall 2014. The certificate is designed to complement a four-year degree program.

The certificate involves:

- 6 credits in core courses
- 6 credits in electives
- 3 credits for an integrative project

The integrative project could be accomplished through a field course, internship, community service learning course, a student-led research project tied to a course or through an independent study that involves off-campus sustainability research.

Photos

1. Recycling and organics disposal on campus is divided into five different categories: paper and cardboard, beverage containers, plastic, glass & light metal and organics.
2. Students engaged in a discussion on sustainability.
On February 7, 2014, Gary Machlis, Professor of Sustainability at Clemson University, co-led a workshop with Naomi Krogman, Academic Director of the Office of Sustainability. Machlis shared his experiences with broadening participation in the 36 years that he has worked in academia. Twelve UAlberta faculty members from across disciplines discussed general ideas to broaden participation in sustainability education and research and proposed ideas to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in sustainability-related teaching and research.

**Festival of Teaching**

The 2014 Festival of Teaching, led by the Centre for Teaching and Learning and collaborating with the Office of Sustainability, examines the question of sustainable teaching and learning. Dr. Gary Machlis presented his keynote lecture, “The Craft of Teaching Sustainability,” on North Campus and Augustana Campus in February, 2014. For International Week 2014, a panel discussion was held on “Using Technology in the Classroom to Enhance Systems Thinking.”

Watch Festival of Teaching talks on the Centre for Teaching and Learning’s website.

**SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS 2013-14**

**Emerald Awards Finalist**

The Office of Sustainability earned a spot as finalist in the Government Institution category at the 22nd Emerald Awards—chosen by a panel of distinguished judges to reward environmental leadership in Alberta.

**Canada’s Greenest Employers**

The University of Alberta was named by MediaCorp as one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for the fifth year in a row.

**Trina Innes joins AASHE Board of Directors**

The Office of Sustainability’s director became the first Canadian named to the board of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

**RecycleMania Award**

The Office of Sustainability’s “Tough Guys” video won special recognition in the 2014 RecycleMania Tournament. This compelling and entertaining video series educates new students on how to properly dispose of waste, organics and recyclables on campus.

**THEME FOR 2013-2014: ENVISION**

This year saw all three branches of the Office of Sustainability working together on initiatives to address energy efficiency, energy savings and alternative energy. These activities were organized under the banner of Envision: Intelligent Energy Reduction.

- Environmental Management and Sustainable Operations introduced alternative energy solutions into new constructions including the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre and the Innovation Centre for Engineering. Groundbreaking solar arrays were completed on South Campus and Augustana Campus.

- The Sustainability Speaker Series, Student Sustainability Summit and Sustainability Awareness Week brought global leaders in climate and energy issues to campus to inspire the next generation of leaders.

- An awareness program educated the campus population on the magnitude of each building’s energy use. Readers also learned simple actions they could take to conserve energy and reduce the institution’s environmental footprint.

- Through social media and campus publications, a range of energy-related tips, facts and stories were circulated, including: profiles of faculty working to advance sustainable energy solutions, staff-led energy-saving initiatives and energy-reduction competitions like Earth Hour.

**Photos**

1. Dr. Gary Machlis, Professor of Sustainability at Clemson University, spoke about sustainability in education and research.

Want to get involved in campus sustainability?
Visit sustainability.ualberta.ca to learn more about UAlberta initiatives, the Office of Sustainability’s projects and to subscribe to the monthly newsletter Sustainability eNews.

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