Good News 2015 – 2016

Good News celebrates the accomplishments of the University of Alberta’s Campus Sustainability Initiative across three focus areas: Facilities & Operations, Outreach & Engagement and Teaching & Research.

With each passing year, sustainable operations and behaviours become the standard at the University of Alberta. We develop and adapt initiatives for an increasingly responsive campus community. Our new Green Labs program implements systems to make sustainable practices more attainable within that unique setting. The Green Building Strategy helps improve the green building certification process and promotes awareness of the sustainable practices and features of individual buildings. Established programs, such as Eco Move Out and Week of Welcome, continue to break participation records from students, staff and faculty each year. In the same way our institution is viewed as a global leader in education, we’re increasingly recognized as a leader in campus sustainability.

—Trina Innes, Chief Sustainability Officer
The Donadeo Innovation Centre for Engineering (ICE) opened in 2015. Designed to meet or exceed LEED® Silver certification, the 28,400 m² facility incorporates many sustainable features. Windows make up 40 per cent of the total wall area, allowing natural light to fill the space and reducing the need for energy-consuming artificial light sources. Motion sensors further reduce lighting-related energy use, as lights automatically turn off when a space is empty for extended periods of time. Water is conserved through the use of low-flow restroom fixtures, and tankless water heaters save energy by producing hot water as needed, rather than storing it. Hot and cold water runs through chilled beams to help control the building’s interior temperature, using less energy than comparable air systems.

Materials used in the building’s construction were made with recycled content and were locally sourced whenever possible.

**GREEN BUILDING STRATEGY**

UALberta provides its students, staff, faculty and visitors with the best spaces to learn, work, teach and relax. As the campus community grows, buildings are developed to accommodate the increased population. Sustainability is considered in all steps of constructing a new building, from planning to fruition.

Using input from various faculties and units, the Green Building Strategy was created to accelerate building certification and educate the public about UAlberta’s green buildings. Two major projects have emerged from the strategy: green building signage that educates visitors on the various green features of a building, and the Sustainability Information Management System, an online repository for green building information.

Green building tours are provided to educate participants about the features that make a building sustainable. There are currently three green building tours developed for the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Triffo Hall.

**ENVISION**

Originally proposed to span seven years, Envision has been reformatted into an aggressive five-year plan. A budget of $19 million was approved for the first three years. Two focus areas have been added to the program: lab & research facilities and facility renewal projects.

Upon completion, the initiatives implemented through Envision will save $4.5 million per year in utility costs and eliminate 30,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.
ZERO WASTE STATIONS

UAlberta is aiming to divert 90 per cent of their waste from the landfill by 2020. To keep on track with this goal, the university set a milestone goal of 50 per cent by 2015. Through waste education, composting, Zero Waste stations and other diversion methods, we have achieved that goal—UAlberta’s waste diversion was 55 per cent in 2015!

Using these diversion methods, UAlberta is on track to meet our 2020 goal while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the demand for natural resources, and lessening the social and environmental impacts of landfills.

GREEN GREASE

Green Grease, a new kitchen grease recycling program, was implemented in HUB and SUB. The food vendors collect used grease in a central location and it is then donated to Sustainival, the world’s first green carnival and creators of the Green Grease program. Sustainival turns grease into biodiesel, which is used to power carnivals that educate participants about alternative energy sources.

WATER

Hydration Stations provide an easy way to fill reusable water bottles and avoid purchasing disposable bottles of water. To date, there are 27 Hydration Stations installed across all campuses, helping to further reduce waste.

Watego - Proactive Water Protection, is UAlberta’s new water stewardship and management program. It invests in fixture upgrades and innovative water technologies, while promoting community-based solutions to reduce water usage. Watego is the first program of its kind in Alberta, aiming to pave the way for other post-secondary institutions to commit to a sustainable water future for Alberta. The program launched this year with the installation of low-flow fixtures in restrooms in the General Services Building on North Campus.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD WORKING GROUP

In March 2016, the Office of Sustainability, Facilities and Operations, and Ancillary Services joined together to create the Sustainable Food Working Group. With its diverse membership from across the institution, the group will work to increase sustainable food initiatives.

SOLAR-POWERED LIGHTING

UAlberta’s first solar-powered street lamp was installed on Augustana Campus along Ravine Residence Road. This route can become hazardous at night, especially during the winter, due to the lack of lighting.

A standard street light would have required the installation of a pricey new power line, but the solar panel allows the new light to function independently. The sun charges the batteries via the solar panel, and the harnessed energy powers the energy-efficient LED light after the sun sets.

SOLAR-POWERED LIGHTING

Solar light on Augustana Campus.

VOICES OF NATURE DAY

For the eighth year in a row, UAlberta hosted the Voices of Nature Day, a unique musical performance that engages elementary students in environmental issues and promotes ecological stewardship within their families and communities. This year, the performance was enjoyed by 2,288 students and 217 teachers and chaperones from across Edmonton and the surrounding area.
WEEK OF WELCOME, ORIENTATION AND CLUBS FAIR

As new and returning students fill the campus in September, there are abundant opportunities to engage people with learning how to live sustainably. These interactions help guide people to more sustainable behaviours during and beyond their time at UAlberta.

During this year’s Week of Welcome, Orientation, and Clubs Fair, 2,752 people were engaged—the largest group to date for these events. Students participated in various activities to learn about sustainable actions. They earned a stamp on a “sustainability passport” for each activity completed. Each stamp counted as an entry to win textbooks for the term.

SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

For the eighth year in a row, Sustainability Awareness Week brought sustainability to the forefront of the campus community’s minds. Across all UAlberta campuses and throughout the city, 53 events took place, including a three-day clothing swap, tours of a net-zero home and commercial building, and a kick-off barbeque sponsored by Aramark. Participants that attended three events and filled out a “sustainability passport” were entered for a prize sponsored by Red Arrow Motorcoach.

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

This January, the Student Sustainability Summit theme was Sustainable Cities: Planning for Transformational Change. The weekend event attracted students from across the province with free transportation for out-of-town guests, provided via eBus by Red Arrow Motorcoach.

The weekend was packed with workshops from professionals representing business, government, academia, and non-profit. Two keynote speakers gave in-depth perspectives on their own urban transformation experiences. Brenda Herchmer, the principal collaborator in Campus for Communities of the Future, presented Is Community Building the Secret Sauce for Accelerating Sustainability? Kevin Jones, the director of the City-Region Studies Centre in the Faculty of Extension at UAlberta, presented Opening the City: Engaging Sustainable Urban Futures.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

| One Simple Act on Campus commitments | 367 (Twice as many as last year!) |
| Recycle-it-Right plays | 682 |
| newsletter sign-ups | 972 |
| now Instagram followers | 400 |
| entries into our separate Instagram contest | 31 |
| “sustainability passports” completed | 1,154 |
| eligible entries to win textbooks for the term | 2,556 |

Attendees enjoying a Green building tour (top), delegates in the Student Sustainability Summit (middle) and a participant pedalling one of the bikes that powered the music for Sustainability Awareness Week (bottom).

“High energy, upbeat atmosphere, solution-oriented discussion, full enrollment, social and potential business connections, enough seminar choices to keep time spent there relevant to me.”

– Student Sustainability Summit attendee

| 53 events | 9,746 connections made |
| 34 on-campus and 19 off-campus partners | |
| “sustainability passports” completed | 53 |

“A Student jumps for joy after committing to One Simple Act on Campus.
Our Sustainability Speaker Series was another success, thanks to our two engaging presenters. In November, Majora Carter discussed *Making the Transition: Leveraging Citizen Engagement for Green Revitalization* at UAlberta and Edmonton’s Community Energy Forum. She talked about the value of engaging citizens to accelerate projects within a community. Our second speaker, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, talked about *The Right to be Cold: Human Rights and our Changing Climate*. Her passionate talk raised awareness about how climate change has magnified effects in areas like her hometown in northern Canada.

**EARTH HOUR**

Earth Hour is about so much more than turning off the lights for an hour—it sheds light on energy-consuming habits and ways that we can change them.

Every year, Alberta campuses participate in the One Hour, No Power Campus Challenge. Schools compete to get the highest percentage of students, staff and faculty to participate in Earth Hour. This year, UAlberta partnered with MacEwan University to deliver the contest via MyEarthHour.ca. Fourteen institutions participated, and Keyano College placed first.

MacEwan University and UAlberta hosted fun activities to celebrate Earth Hour, including Flip the Switch and Lights Out Flash Mobs, in which people turn off lights in empty rooms and adhere Flip the Switch stickers to light switches. UAlberta also turned off the lights in Main Quad and the Donadeo Innovation Centre for Engineering.

UAlberta was invited to start a partnership with MacEwan University on their second annual Earth Hour Race took place on March 12. Teams completed eight challenges to test their knowledge on sustainable behaviours.

The Darkest Tower Challenge encouraged Lister residents to collectively modify their daily actions to help their tower achieve the largest decrease in electricity consumption. The winning tower celebrated with a pizza party sponsored by Aramark.

**SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER SERIES**

Our Sustainability Speaker Series was another success, thanks to our two engaging presenters. In November, Majora Carter discussed *Making the Transition: Leveraging Citizen Engagement for Green Revitalization* at UAlberta and Edmonton’s Community Energy Forum. She talked about the value of engaging citizens to accelerate projects within a community. Our second speaker, Sheila Watt-Cloutier, talked about *The Right to be Cold: Human Rights and our Changing Climate*. Her passionate talk raised awareness about how climate change has magnified effects in areas like her hometown in northern Canada.

Three speakers. 4 talks. 5 partners. 900 attendees.

- 40 kg of food donated to the Campus Food Bank.
- $490 collected for Campus Food Bank and Green Grants.

“The stories Majora had to tell were inspiring and demonstrated principles like sustainability and community development that we hear a lot about in action. Really brought home the power of that mindset to me, and I have been thinking ever since about how it could be applied globally to resolve some of the conflict we are seeing around refugees and cultural/religious differences.”

—Sustainable Speaker Series attendee

“I really enjoyed Sheila’s own story and the way in which her experiences have shaped her actions. I learned that even an introvert has a voice when the issue is important enough. And I was reminded about the power and influence of strong and loving mothers and grandmothers.”

—Sustainable Speaker Series attendee

**EARTH HOUR**

Earth Hour is about so much more than turning off the lights for an hour—it sheds light on energy-consuming habits and ways that we can change them.

Every year, Alberta campuses participate in the One Hour, No Power Campus Challenge. Schools compete to get the highest percentage of students, staff and faculty to participate in Earth Hour. This year, UAlberta partnered with MacEwan University to deliver the contest via MyEarthHour.ca. Fourteen institutions participated, and Keyano College placed first.

MacEwan University and UAlberta hosted fun activities to celebrate Earth Hour, including Flip the Switch and Lights Out Flash Mobs, in which people turn off lights in empty rooms and adhere Flip the Switch stickers to light switches. UAlberta also turned off the lights in Main Quad and the Donadeo Innovation Centre for Engineering.

UAlberta was invited to start a partnership with MacEwan University on their second annual Earth Hour Race took place on March 12. Teams completed eight challenges to test their knowledge on sustainable behaviours.

The Darkest Tower Challenge encouraged Lister residents to collectively modify their daily actions to help their tower achieve the largest decrease in electricity consumption. The winning tower celebrated with a pizza party sponsored by Aramark.

**ONE HOUR, NO POWER CAMPUS CHALLENGE**

14 post-secondary institutions from across Alberta.

- 625 UAlberta pledges, 2,333 total pledges.

**EARTH HOUR RACE**

- 18 Earth Hour Race teams
- 8 challenges

**LIGHTS OUT FLASH MOB**

- 25 Flash Mob participants
- 237 lights turned off during the Flash Mob
- 209 Flip the Switch stickers placed

**DARKEST TOWER CHALLENGE**

- 4 towers
- 3 weeks
- 18,959 kWh of electricity saved from baseline
- 16.9 per cent decrease in Henday, the winning tower
- 10.3 per cent decrease overall

“The stories Majora had to tell were inspiring and demonstrated principles like sustainability and community development that we hear a lot about in action. Really brought home the power of that mindset to me, and I have been thinking ever since about how it could be applied globally to resolve some of the conflict we are seeing around refugees and cultural/religious differences.”

—Sustainable Speaker Series attendee

“I really enjoyed Sheila’s own story and the way in which her experiences have shaped her actions. I learned that even an introvert has a voice when the issue is important enough. And I was reminded about the power and influence of strong and loving mothers and grandmothers.”

—Sustainable Speaker Series attendee

* Majora Carter (left) and Sheila Watt-Cloutier (right) speak to audiences (below) about sustainability in urban centres and remote communities.
* Participants in the Earth Hour Flip the Switch Flash Mob (left) and the full group enjoying a candlelit hour together (right).
GREEN SPACES CERTIFICATION

Last year, food vendors took part in the Green Spaces Certification Program through a pilot program in HUB. This year, other vendors from across North Campus have also been encouraged to get their spaces certified. Three Green Spaces Challenges were held in East Campus, Lister and Campus Saint-Jean as a way to get more residences certified. Residence buildings in East Campus and floors in Lister and Résidence Saint-Jean competed for the highest percentage of certifications in order to win a movie night. Linden House was the winning residence for East Campus, the second and third floor won in Lister Residence and the third floor won in Résidence Saint-Jean.

Green Leaders within residences also volunteered their time to encourage others to get their spaces certified. The top four Green Leaders helped bring in 54 certifications.

GREEN LABS

The Green Labs program assists the UAlberta research community in creating safe, healthy and environmentally-sustainable teaching and research labs. A Green Labs Leaders Network was developed to help spread the word and educate people about safe and sustainable lab practices. Currently, there are 17 active leaders in the network.

Within the network, two teams are accelerating sustainability initiatives within labs. The Environmental Health and Safety Green Labs Project Team focuses on integrating sustainability into lab inspections, creating safety and sustainability training, and finding solutions to reduce hazardous waste. The Solvent Recycling Team is planning an acetone recycling pilot project in the UAlberta organic chemistry teaching labs in Fall 2016.

UAlberta became a member of My Green Lab, a non-profit organization based in California that provides expert advice to UAlberta’s Green Labs initiative. The university also became a member of Sustainable Labs Canada and will co-host the annual Sustainable Labs Canada Conference in Lister Centre in November 2016.

Becoming more engaged in the transition towards greener labs, students have also completed two projects: an inventory of ultra-low temperature freezers to help inform a freezer management strategy, and an investigation of the connections between safety and sustainability in lab settings.

POGO CARSHARE AND UALBERTA PARTNERSHIP

In August 2015, UAlberta partnered with Pogo CarShare, a service that offers members access to a fleet of vehicles within approved zones in Edmonton. Pogo made a special offer to waive the initial registration fee for people registering for membership with a UAlberta email address.

Register at: pogocarshare.com/ualberta

14 Offices certified
123 Events certified
31 Labs certified
44 Food Vendors certified
149 Residences certified

GREEN SPACES CHALLENGE 2016

34 East Campus residences
86 Lister residences
21 Résidence Saint-Jean

Augustana Campus’ Learning, Advisory and Beyond office earned Green Spaces Gold certification.

This lab earned Green Spaces certification its users perform their tasks in a more sustainable way.

A partnership between the university and the local car sharing company Pogo CarShare brings another method of transportation to North Campus.

Lab CME 4-112 in Chemical and Materials Engineering earns Green Spaces Gold certification.
ECO MOVE OUT 2015
The Eco Move Out program diverted a record-breaking 13,506 kg of waste from the landfill — 3,920 kg more than 2014! This couldn’t have been accomplished without the help of our partners: PODS, Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore, Shanked Computer Recycling Inc., TerraCycle and the Campus Food Bank. Re-Matt is a new partner that collects and recycles mattresses.

ECO MOVE OUT 2015 WASTE DIVERSION NUMBERS
- 8,186 kg clothing and household items
- 2,170 kg furniture and appliances
- 1,668 kg electronics
- 775 kg non-perishable food and toiletry items
- 122 kg frozen food
- 112 kg empty personal care and beauty containers (or 1,408 containers)
- 473 kg clothing, electronics and food from Augustana Campus, all donated to local organizations
- 12,506 kg TOTAL donations and recyclables

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY VOLUNTEERS
Transitioning the practices of a 108-year-old institution and encouraging a campus population of over 53,000 people to operate and behave with sustainability in mind is not an overnight feat. Conventional systems and habits have formed over time, and to move in a new direction takes determination, passion and hard work. All of our Campus Sustainability Volunteers possess these important qualities and help influence this transition.

Residence volunteers extended their support by researching sustainability topics and sharing their learnings with fellow residents, helping to spread educational material and answer questions regarding the Waste in Residence program, and encouraging participation from other residents in Earth Hour events.

Communications volunteers wrote popular blog posts about Earth Hour, Water Week, ALES solar installation, eating seasonally and winter holiday tips, while others took photographs at our events for use in future promotions.

51 Campus Sustainability Volunteers
703 hours from October 2015 to May 2016

Communication volunteers
• Wrote blog posts about Earth Hour, Water Week, ALES solar installation, eating seasonally and winter holiday tips
• Took photos for use in future promotions of programs and events

Professional development opportunities
• Direct Energy System tours, Farm to Fridge workshops, Sustainability Campus Tour and a green cleaning workshop.
• Two volunteers won a contest to take the LEED Green Associate Exam Kickstarter course to learn foundational information on green building principles and practices
• Three volunteers won a contest to take the IMPACT! Sustainability Champions Training Program by The Natural Step in Saskatoon, Sask
• An outreach intern developed a one-hour feedback session with the Office of Sustainability
SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS
The Sustainability Scholars Program sponsors UAlberta graduate students to work on applied research projects with mentors from the City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta. Successful applicants receive $5,000 stipends and complete 250-hour projects during the summer.

The positive outcomes from last years’ pilot led to eighteen graduate students being selected for the 2016/17 program — three times more than last year. Read the reflections of two scholars’ to the right.

CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABILITY
Undergraduate students with a commitment to learning more about sustainability can earn a Certificate in Sustainability, which is jointly administered by the Office of Sustainability and the Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. During the 2015/16 academic year, 75 students were in the process of earning a Certificate in Sustainability.

UALBERTA NORTH
UAlberta North was founded to support the University’s Northern Strategy (2011), which includes strengthening relationships with our northern partners, raising the public profile and impact of northern research, building a community of researchers, facilitating innovative forms of knowledge exchange, and providing opportunities for students.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2016–2020
As one of the world’s leading institutions, UAlberta will benefit from this new Sustainability Plan, which will guide us as we provide the knowledge, research and innovation to support the global transition towards a sustainable future. Currently in the final draft form, the plan will be submitted for approval in Fall 2016. The document has been leveraged to inform the new Institutional Strategic Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ACADEMIC COMPANION DOCUMENT
The Sustainability Plan 2016–2020 will be released alongside an academic companion document, A Plan for Deepening Sustainability Education and Scholarship at the University of Alberta 2016-2020, which provides information about the goals and strategies for sustainable practices and initiatives in education and research at UAlberta.

The goals and strategies identified in this document will create opportunities for students to learn, research and apply sustainability using interdisciplinary approaches to capitalize on the knowledge and strength of our academic and research communities.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS 2015 REFLECTIONS

“It’s an opportunity to use some of your knowledge in a real-world setting, and it makes you feel like what you are doing is important. When you are a student, you are dealing with the theoretical, and when you get out into the working world, you realize that while some of your theory is important, it won’t all work.”
– Marni Devlin Moses (energy mapping)

“I learned the value in using sustainability as a strategic framework and how much of an impact that can have on the overall quality of our city. If you think back five years ago when we started talking about sustainability, look at how far along it’s pushed our city. It’s really amazing to see this work in practice.”
– Luca Petryshyn (encouraging infill)
Want to get involved in campus sustainability?

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

Stay in touch:
2-06 North Power Plant
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2N2

Telephone: (780) 492-9289
Email: sustainability@ualberta.ca

Join us online: