OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

2018/19 Highlights
THIS YEAR’S HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, the Office of Sustainability established a five-year Strategic Sustainability Plan to guide sustainable activities and measure our progress across the institution.

We continued to build momentum in 2018/19 by improving our campus’s food security, supporting the integration of new sustainability-focused courses into university curricula and working to reduce waste on campus. This year the Sustainability Leadership Council received the 2019 Emerald Award in the Youth Category for the 20-plus initiatives that were developed on campus. Lastly, with a strong focus on community engagement, the Office of Sustainability is proud to have joined MacEwan’s Department of University Relations.

As we look towards the coming year, one thing is clear – creating a sustainable campus takes a group effort. As the Office of Sustainability, we don’t see ourselves as owners of sustainability initiatives, but as facilitators. MacEwan University’s students, faculty, staff and community members are the ones making sustainability a way of life on campus. This shared enthusiasm, dedication and partnerships has allowed us to take significant steps forward and we look forward to carrying the passions and efforts of our community into the 2019/20 academic year.

We’re pleased to share some of the highlights from 2018/19. For our complete annual report, please visit MacEwan.ca/Sustainability.
Goal
To promote the growth of sustainability-related opportunities for student learning, faculty research and academic collaboration.

2018/19 Highlights

LEARNING SUSTAINABLY

This year we saw growth in our academic programming, teaching and research, and we continued to build upon initiatives introduced last year.

MacEwan University made advancements by:

• Finalizing the draft for the embedded certificate in sustainability credential for students.
• Advancing new initiatives to support our campus-as-a-living-lab, including design and construction of a robotic vertical farm that will be located in Roundhouse.
• Bringing on new teaching pairs for Sustainability 201 and starting to draft the syllabi for Sustainability 301 and 401.
• Piloting our Green Spaces program and Green Labs program, which support labs to make their practices more sustainable through areas such as waste reduction.
• Holding the Sustainability Reimagined Workshops in partnership with the Office of Teaching and Learning Services. The workshops helped to facilitate the addition of sustainability content into new or existing courses.

STARS REPORT

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. Capturing campus-wide sustainability efforts, MacEwan University received a Silver STARS rating. Exemplary performance was recognized for:

• The certified green cleaning program
• Installation of seven indoor food systems on campus
• Conducting an external pre-submission independent review

The STARS report is displayed publicly online and shows that MacEwan University is:

• Connected to our surrounding community and building partnerships, including with other post-secondary institutions.
• Collaborating with staff, faculty and students across campus.
The Urban Beekeeping Project saw an increase in honey production in 2018/19. MacEwan University launched a honey vinaigrette, which is now used by Campus Services on a selection of food items, and was sold in a small batch this year. The beekeeping tours continue to generate a lot of interest inside and outside of the university community.

An immersive experience was launched allowing small groups to spend a few hours with our beekeeper, participate in a hands-on workshop, and harvest and take home honey.

2018/19 Highlights

**URBAN BEEKEEPING**

The Alberta Narratives Project tells stories about the values and identities of Albertans and how they speak about our province’s energy-climate future. This year, a faculty member in the Bachelor of Communication Studies program presented research from the Alberta Narratives Project at the Conference on Communication and the Environment (COCE) in Vancouver.

**MACEWAN BIKES**

MacEwan Bikes is a grassroots group on campus that supports cycling and bike commuting.

* An urban bike network tour led by MacEwan Bikes generated participation from the public.
* A draft cycling plan was completed and work to create a secure bike lock-up is underway.
* Cycling infrastructure on campus was updated, starting with bike lock-up hoops. Older bike stands that were replaced were donated to community groups.

**PAWSS**

The PAWSS (Pets Assisting with Student Success) program fits closely with MacEwan’s sustainability model, which situates well-being at the centre of the four domains of sustainability. Through interaction with wellness animals, PAWSS provides social and emotional support to students and helps decrease their stress and/or anxiety to help them succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

* 43 wellness dogs participate in the PAWSS program.
* 3,000 students have visited the PAWSS program across campus.
* On average, students interact with handler teams for 31 minutes.

**ROUNDHOUSE**

This year, the Office of Sustainability moved its office into Roundhouse, MacEwan’s collaborative shared workspace in Allard Hall. Moving into Roundhouse speaks to the nature and work of sustainability and has allowed the office to build relationships with like-minded partners who are supporting our campus and community.

**6 HIPHIVES**

**241.6 POUNDS OF HONEY**

**$3,898 WORTH OF MACEWAN HONEY AND VINAIGRETTE SOLD AND REINVESTED INTO SUSTAINABLE FOOD INITIATIVES**

**4 VOLUNTEERS (ONE STAFF, THREE STUDENTS)**

**20 BEEKEEPING EVENTS HOSTED 530 GUESTS**
2018/19 Highlights

WASTE REDUCTION

The Office of Sustainability assessed the levels and types of waste disposed at MacEwan to better understand how our university is diverting its waste and recycling. This audit has laid the foundation for us to move forward on improving campus waste management. Current initiatives to reduce waste include:

• Green-to-Go reusable lunch containers. There have been 361 container uses since the program launched, with significant momentum gained in the 2019 Winter semester.

• Suite Score, a program that allows students moving out of residence to donate unwanted household items to new tenants. This year, Suite Score generated 1,395 kilograms of donated clothing, electronics, furniture and kitchen supplies.

• The Suite Score bedroom recycling program, run in conjunction with MacEwan International, which saves commonly purchased items, such as mirrors, for international students to use during their stay.

• A stationery donations program across campus.

KEEPING IT GREEN

MacEwan’s facilities department is pursuing ISO 50001 with the groundwork being laid for certification in 2019/20. This year, the following steps were taken toward certification:

• Establishing an Energy Management Committee

• Conducting a large-scale lighting retrofit

• Upgrading campus equipment and boilers to be more energy efficient

• A pilot solar array was operational for its first full year

The Green Spaces Project was piloted this year. Volunteers helped nine teams from various departments across campus to meet their unique sustainability goals. The teams received different certification levels:

• Green Certified - three teams

• Green and Growing - two teams

• Green and Beyond - four teams

MacEwan’s Organizational Development Day was the first official green certified event on campus and an important milestone for the university. Green certified events uphold the standards outlined by MacEwan’s new Green Event Guide and supports our shared responsibility to build a more sustainable campus. Highlights from Organizational Development Day’s green event included:

• Sustainable swag (bamboo cutlery)

• Plantable and edible centerpieces

• An ASL interpretation services and other accessibility measures

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

• MacEwan University was a founding member of the City of Edmonton’s Corporate Climate Leaders program, a group of dedicated corporations across the Edmonton region that are committed to reducing, monitoring and reporting energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

• MacEwan participated in the City of Edmonton’s Building Energy Benchmarking Program for second year and won Best Overall Energy Performance for MacEwan Residence, with an honourable mention to Robbins Health Learning Centre.
2018/19 Highlights

The Office of Sustainability actively collaborates with our surrounding community, as well as the larger sustainability community, and plays an active role in creating resilient, sustainable and connected communities.

- In collaboration with the University of Alberta and the City of Edmonton, MacEwan hosted a speaker series with high community attendance.
- MacEwan participated on the planning committee and attended IPCC Cities and Climate Change Conference. Design Studies students contributed art installations to the event.
- The Columbia Ave. Pop-up Event invited the surrounding community and businesses to participate in an active outdoor space along 105 avenue. The event engaged and supported the re-envisioning of Columbia Avenue, and was an opportunity for community members to get to know each other and build relationships with the campus community.

Event and Partnerships

COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP

The Office of Sustainability provides leadership and participation at the community, provincial and national levels through membership in the following organizations:

- City of Edmonton groups and committees
- Energy Transition Advisory Committee
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Alberta Capital Airshed - Board of Governors

• MacEwan University and the Alberta Capital Airshed hosted the first annual Clean Air Forum on November 20, 2018. Over 100 attendees gathered and discussed air quality within our local airshed. Attendees included municipalities, air quality and public health professionals, community environmental interests, industry and government, academia and students.

LEADERSHIP

Goal

To guide, coordinate and inspire sustainability planning, initiatives and innovation across the university.

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2018/19 Highlights

This past year was monumental for our volunteer group. The sustainability volunteers, which grew to over 30 members, improved their efforts in community building and supported the campus with a variety of student-led projects.

Some of the continuing projects that are conducted by our volunteers include the Stationery Station, Green Eats volunteer cookbook, cricket infographic and outreach, meal planning guide, Resilience and Wellbeing in the Climate Crisis workshop series, vermicomposting workshops, conversation cafe, waste audit and green office support.

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INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTEERED FOR THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

12 SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

A TOTAL OF 755 HOURS SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES ON CAMPUS BETWEEN ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS ON CAMPUS (THE EQUIVALENT OF 32.3 DAYS).

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SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AND THE 2019 ALBERTA EMERALD AWARDS:

This year, the Sustainability Leadership Council (SLC) received an Alberta Emerald Award for their contributions to the campus community in the Youth Category. This team of students was involved with over 20 projects that education, inform, develop, and build the campus and community surrounding MacEwan University. Many of these initiatives were built and mobilized by the students. The SLC’s work has been featured in the campus newspaper as well they shared and presented their information and projects at the Alberta Student Leadership Summit in the Winter of 2019.
Get in Touch
To learn more about the Office of Sustainability, visit MacEwan.ca/Sustainability or contact us at sustainability@macewan.ca.