

2016 - 2021 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN





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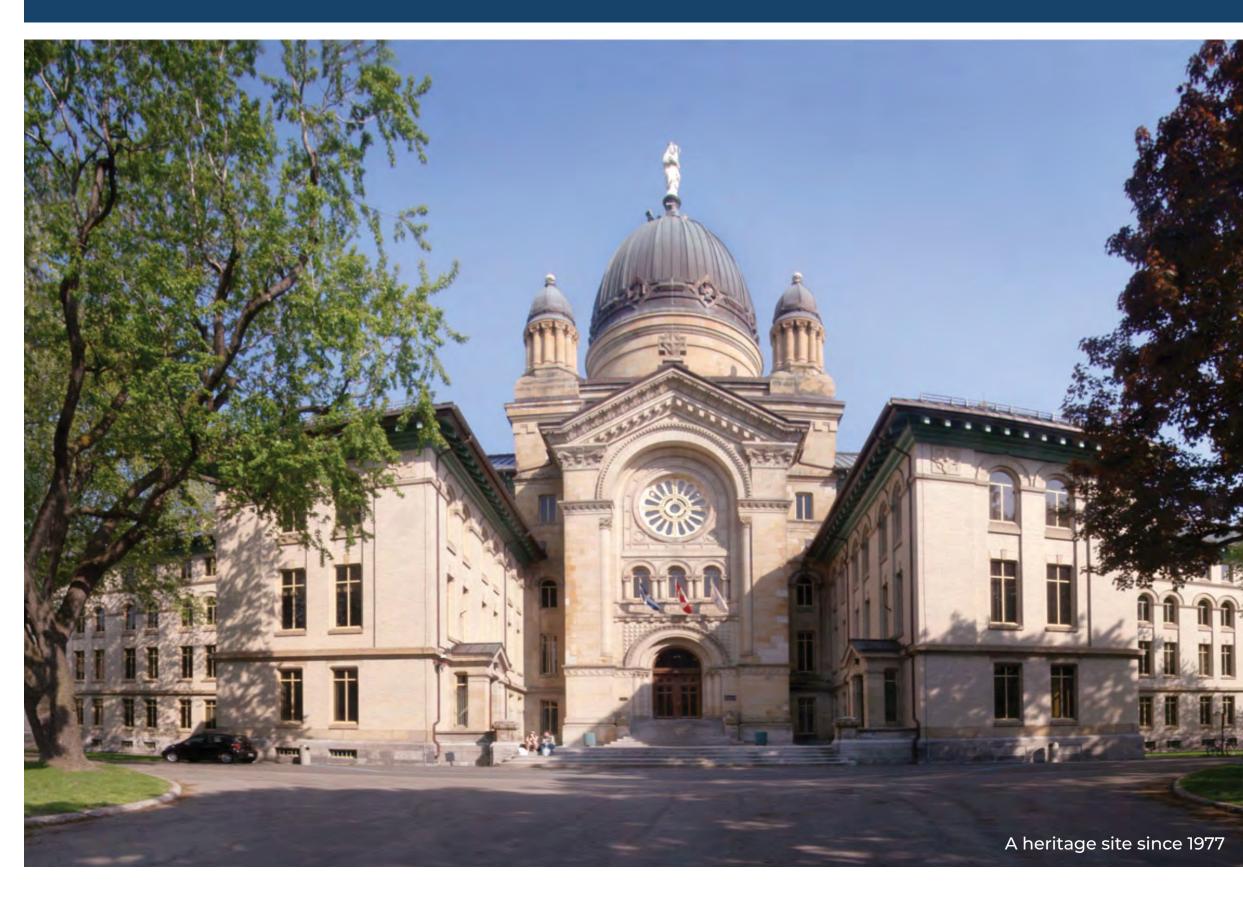
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- A post-secondary public institution founded in 1968
- 10,000 students and 1,000 employees representing more than 100 cultures and languages
- Five pre-university programs and 21 technical programs
- Located in downtown Montreal, a UNESCO City of Design in Quebec, Canada
- Dawson College is named for Sir John William Dawson, a renowned geologist, educator and principal of McGill University
- The College was once the Mother House of one of the most influential teaching orders of Quebec, the *Congrégationde-Notre-Dame*



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

This sustainability plan showcases progress, outlines goals for the future and reaffirms Dawson College's commitment to the development of sustainable solutions to real-world problems. Through our Living Campus, we empower our students and staff to live the learning and to be active and responsible citizens who contribute to the betterment of our society and to the promotion of well-being for all, sustainably.

The ongoing effort of the entire Dawson community to achieve our sustainability goals is inspiring. Collaboration across disciplines and offices and the recognition of common goals contribute strongly to the realization of the College's Strategic Plan. However, as we strive towards our goal of being a leading Canadian educational institution in promoting and practising sustainability, we must broaden and deepen our efforts. We must model the behaviours necessary to achieve a sustainable future and be more rigorous in assessing and tracking our performance.

Human well-being is dependent on environmental well-being, but the promotion of sustainability cannot be solely focused on environmental challenges. Issues of equality and inclusion are among the most pressing of our time.

Dawson students and staff are prepared to address these challenges and have already begun their work. This plan reinforces the dedication of our community, attests to our hope for the future and focuses our efforts towards solving complex problems, meeting daunting challenges and realizing well-being for all, sustainably.

Richard Filion *Director General, Dawson College*



Centre initiative, a dancer performs at the opening of Skén:nen, an art exhibition and series of events which featured insightful and powerful work of Indigenous artists.



We Value Sustainability

DAWSON COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN

Comments from 1500 students and over 350 staff contributed to the ambitious and visionary 2016–2021 <u>Dawson College</u> <u>Strategic Plan</u> which highlights the promotion of "wellbeing for all, sustainably" as a core value. Additionally, one of eight strategic goals is dedicated to sustainability: "Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution in promoting and practising sustainability in all its endeavours" and contributing to a sustainable future is part of our mission.

Educate - Engage - Enrich

Dawson College is a vibrant and inclusive community dedicated to providing quality higher education. Our mission is to:

- Educate a diverse population of students through transformative and innovative learning activities;
- Engage learners and empower them to become active, responsible citizens;
- Enrich society by offering life-long learning opportunities, cultivating partnerships and contributing to a peaceful and sustainable future.

For additional background information and strategic plan progress to date, view recent news on the <u>Dawson College website</u>.



Mechanical Engineering Technology faculty and students have collaborated to design and build manual compost cutters and bicycle-powered tree branch shredders to facilitate composting.

WELL-BEING FOR ALL, DEFINED

The word sustainable is defined as a method of using or harvesting a resource that does not deplete or permanently damage that resource.¹ Sustainability can be thought of as the ability to continue a defined behavior indefinitely.²

The 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, concluded that:

Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.³

The report of the Commission, which established links between social, economic and ecological components of sustainable development, has guided the ever-evolving definition of the concept and process of sustainability for the last 30 years.

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)..."defines sustainability in a pluralistic and inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations".⁴

When economic, social and ecological systems are healthy and sustainable, the result is **well-being for all.**

Dawson students in front of the "living wall" where over 400 plants cover a 5.2 metre (17 ft.) wall.

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¹ Webster's Dictionary

²Thwink.org

³Our Common Future: Report of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987 ⁴AASHE.org

We Are Sustainable Dawson



responsible economic activity and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations. The Living Campus activities that are led by students and staff all contribute to well-being for all.

Living Campus

Living Campus is a learning approach that breaks down traditional classroom structure and uses the entire campus as a learning laboratory where our community of students and staff participate in high-impact experiences. Guided by sustainability principles, our Living Campus promotes authentic, integrative learning. "Classrooms" of our Living Campus allow students to live the learning and become the change-makers and problem-solvers of the future.

Governance

Under the leadership of the Sustainability Office, Sustainable Dawson is comprised of the Sustainability Office team, the Sustainable Dawson Steering Committee, the Quality Assurance & Planning Office, the Communications Office, students, and staff from across the College.

Sustainable Dawson Mission

We practise sustainability as we explore societal, economic and ecological challenges and advance human and ecological well-being through teaching, learning, operations management, planning and engaging our local and external community.

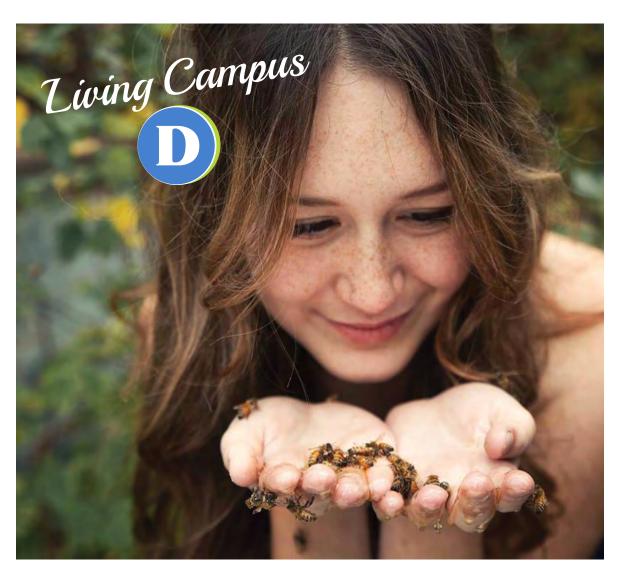
Sustainable Dawson Vision

Well-being for all, sustainably

Dawson College and Our Commitment to Well-Being for All, Sustainably

Dawson College first demonstrated its commitment to sustainability in 2006 with a two-year Action Conservation program coordinated by an external non-profit organization and then in 2009 when a Sustainability Policy was adopted by the Board of Governors. Since then, we have implemented sustainable practices throughout the College, integrated sustainability content and themes into academic and extra-curricular activities, and aligned practices and operations with sustainability principles. For example, in 2016 Dawson became carbon neutral. Dawson continues to build its expertise in sustainability, integrate best practices and share knowledge with other educational institutions, non-profit organizations and businesses locally and internationally.

Dawson College and Sustainable Dawson are committed to the practice and promotion of well-being for all, sustainably. We recognize that we have a responsibility to educate our students to meet the challenges of the future, and we support our Living Campus as a vehicle for achieving human and ecological wellbeing which includes human health and happiness, social justice,



We Are ... on a Journey of Hope, Resilience, Happiness & Change

Individual & **Community Engagement**

 Peace Week 2017 drew over 1500 participants • 4 university, 3 college, 1 elementary school and 2 NGO partnerships established to share best practices in sustainability Dawson Student Union created Executive position for sustainability with dedicated funding • Dawson Centre for Training and Development offered Naturehood, a children's day camp, on the Dawson campus • Sustainability Prize awarded during Entrepreneurship Week (EWeek)



2017 EWeek Sustainability Prize Winners

Health & **Well-Being for All**

 Urban Habitat Restoration **Project:** birds and insects rarely seen in downtown Montreal are returning to inhabit campus rooftops and grounds • Free yoga and meditation sessions • 3000+ pairs of eyeglasses donated • Stress reduction services offered to students by Health Services, Campus Life and Leadership (CLL) and the Physical Education department • Rooftop beehives are home to over 40,000 honey bees



Free Yoga Classes for Students and Staff

Research & Leadership

• First Peoples' Centre, Safer Spaces Initiative, and Peace Centre established • Gender neutral washrooms introduced Dawson awarded \$1.1 million in grants for sustainabilityrelated research over three years • Building maintenance uses biodegradable cleaning products • The Dawson campus is smoke-free



Peace Certificate Graduation Ceremony

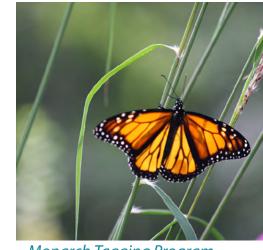
Climate Change Actions

• 47 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (400 tons of CO2) since 2012 • 96% of Dawson students and 84% of staff use public transportation, carpooling or walking

• Composting program in pilot phase • 46 tons of paper, plastic and metal recycled annually on average • Dawson has banned the sale of plastic water bottles on campus



Dawson Recycling Centre



Monarch Tagging Program

Commitments

 Dawson Peace Garden and campus designated a city biodiversity zone and monarch oasis by Montreal's Espace pour la Vie • The Dawson Foundation announced a \$1.5 million goal for one of the main pillars of the Dawson College major fundraising campaign: Sustainability/Living Campus Dawson College has attained and will maintain carbonneutral status • The Dawson **Quality Assurance and Planning** Office staff to be certified in Sustainable Happiness

Excellence in Education

 Biodiversity was explored by students that traveled to the **Galápagos Islands and Costa Rica** North-South Profile students experience real-world learning on their annual trips to Central America • AccessAbility Centre supported 1365 students during the 2016-2017 academic year Communities of practice for innovation in pedagogy continue to expand • Dawson supports 20 sustainability-related participatory research projects in Mexico • Peace Certificate awarded to 25 students in 2017 Rooftop gardens provide lessons in urban agriculture and food security



Sustainability Projects with International University Partners

The Dawson Student Union

Champions of Well-Being for All, Sustainably

One of the many ways the DSU connects, supports and inspires students and our community is by leading and contributing to sustainability initiatives!

DSU initiatives include:

- Good Food Box
- Clothing Drive
- Campus-wide composting
- Management of The Hive Centre for Gender Advocacy, which provides information and resources on sexual health and gender to students
- Dawson Dinin' promotes a healthy lifestyle and diet by providing a free vegan lunch to over 400 students
- Queer & Peace Exhibit and Conference
- Anti-Discrimination Racial Profiling Workshop
- Islamic Awareness Days
- Korea Tea Week
- 30-day Act of Kindness Challenge
- Mindful November
- Fundraising \$5000 in aid for earthquake victims in Mexico, Hurricane victims in Puerto Rico and other charitable organizations
- Support of a variety of student-run clubs







Sustainability Plan Development

Well-being for all, sustainably is a recurring theme in the values and goals of the College's Strategic Plan, and it has guided the development of this Sustainability Plan. This Sustainability Plan is a result of a collaborative process with over 125 stakeholders including students, staff, administrators and external partners. The results of this process clearly show that sustainability is a priority for the College community.

Consultation methods included:

- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis by an external consultant
- Requests in newsletters
- Community emails
- One-on-one interviews
- Faculty professional development workshops
- 25+ College Strategic Plan and Living Campus focus group meetings
- Presentations to the Dawson College Board of Governors and the Dawson Student Union
- Sustainability Steering Committee meetings



Decisions we make today will impact the generations of tomorrow.



Description of Success

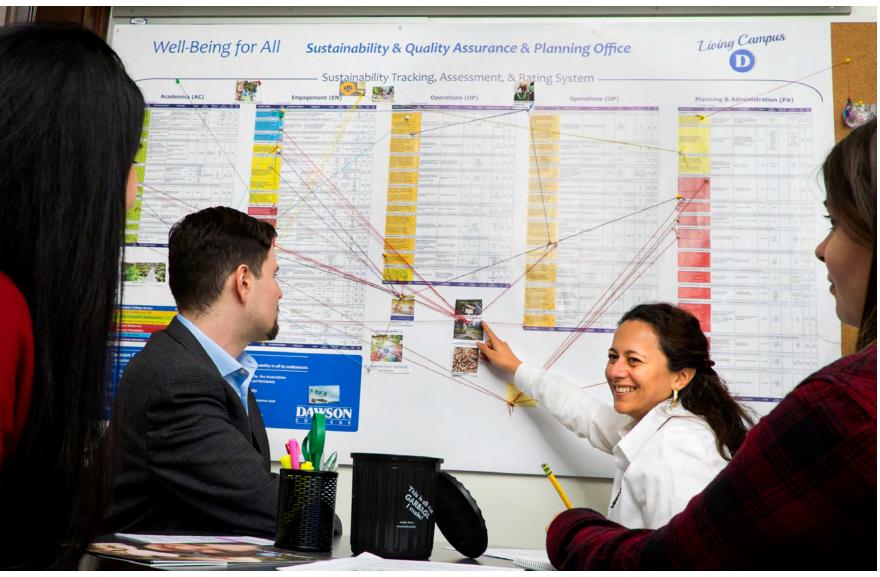
Dawson College is the largest college in Quebec and has many community partners. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to promote sustainability literacy.

Through our Living Campus, we integrate sustainability literacy, prepare and empower our students and staff to address societal and environmental challenges and advance well-being for all, sustainably on and beyond our campus.

By 2021, Dawson students and staff will contribute to well-being for all, sustainably, through coordinated efforts in teaching and learning, operations management, planning and engaging our local and external community.

How Will We Achieve This?

Dawson College has partnered with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and is using their Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System



Staff members and students review projects in the Sustainability Office

or STARS for tracking our progress towards meeting our sustainability goals. The leading association for the advancement of sustainability in higher education, AASHE is comprised of over 900 members internationally. STARS is a framework for post-secondary institutions to measure their sustainability performance. The framework identifies four target areas where progress will be measured:

- Academics
- Engagement
- Operations
- Planning & Administration

This Sustainability Plan and the STARS framework outline how we will advance well-being for all. We will report our progress yearly and submit results for verification.

ACADEMICS

Goal: Increase sustainability literacy by integrating sustainability themes into courses and research

Increasing sustainability literacy among students, staff and our community, gives us a common understanding of sustainability challenges, and prepares us to address them as we strive to achieve well-being for all.

We intend to increase the number of courses that are focused on or related to sustainability, and include diverse perspectives in these courses. Research is important in helping us establish and understand best practices in sustainability and explore viable solutions to sustainability challenges. High-impact practices cultivated through our Living Campus help students live the learning that will enable them to become leaders in facing sustainability challenges.

This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:

- 1. Foster intentional and coordinated approaches to developing the Graduate Profile outcomes
- 4. Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society
- 7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all it endeavours



Students created a pond microhabitat on a Dawson rooftop which is used for study by a variety of disciplines.

ACADEMICS

Goal: Increase sustainability literacy by integrating sustainability themes into courses and research

Strategies

- Increase the amount of sustainability-focused or related courses offered to students
- Develop a Sustainability Certificate program
- Pursue funding for development of sustainability-focused or related courses and projects
- Increase the amount of sustainability-focused or related research at the college
- Deliver a minimum of two sustainability-focused or related immersive experiences for students
- Increase sustainability literacy among students and staff
- Increase the use of College grounds and building as a living lab
- Create an open-access web-based platform for Dawson research

Success Indicators

- The disciplines of French, English, Humanities and Physical Education all offer at least one sustainability-focused or related course
- 90% of all programs offer at least one sustainability-focused or related course
- 20% of all courses at Dawson are sustainability-focused or related
- Funding for development of sustainability-focused or related courses and/or projects has been secured
- 10% of all research is sustainability-focused or related
- A minimum of two sustainability-focused or related immersive experiences for students are delivered
- An increase in student and staff sustainability literacy
- An increase in the use of the College campus for teaching and learning
- A Dawson College, open-access platform for information about sustainability-related research, has been established



Sustainable Campus research projects share best practices and contribute to well-being for all. In rural Mexico, these women have learned about entrepreneurship and now sell their traditional medicinal remedies.

ENGAGEMENT

Goal: Engage our community of students, staff and partners in initiatives that promote well-being for all, sustainably

Engaging students, staff and our community and partners in activities and projects that are outside the formal curriculum promotes a culture that integrates sustainability principles and advances well-being for all. High-impact experiences reinforce classroom activities, and further help to prepare students, staff and our community practise sustainability and address the challenges of working towards a sustainable future.

This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:

- 2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
- 4. Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society
- 5. Be a leading employer dedicated to employee development and engagement
- 7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all it endeavours
- 8. Establish active working relationships with Dawson's external partners and alumni and engage them in helping the College to reach its strategic vision



Students from the Women's Gender Studies Certificate Program explore topics such as cultural perspectives of gender, women's history and the politics of feminism.

ENGAGEMENT

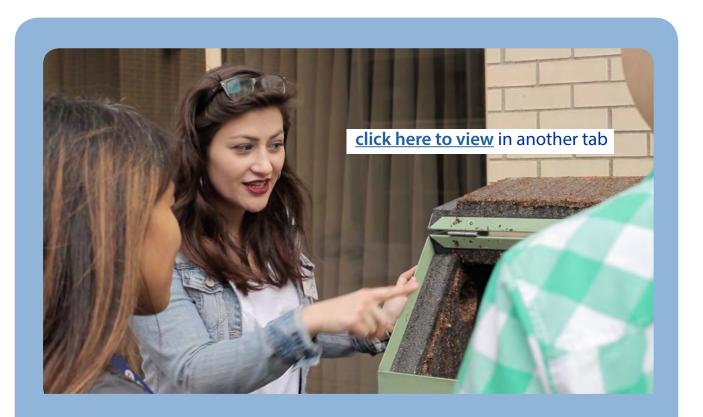
Goal: Engage our community of students, staff and partners in initiatives that promote well-being for all, sustainably

Strategies

- Develop and deliver student orientation activities related to sustainability
- Develop a minimum of five co-curricular sustainability activities for students yearly
- Implement a minimum of two outreach campaigns
- Implement an annual, subsidized sustainability workshop or course for staff
- Develop a student peer-to-peer and a staff peer-to-peer sustainability education program
- Produce a recurring sustainability newsletter
- Develop a comprehensive website explaining Dawson's sustainability efforts
- Sign sustainability-related cooperation agreements with at least two Canadian and one international non-governmental organizations
- Promote inter-campus collaboration by sharing best practices in sustainability, with at least five post-secondary institutions
- Offer a certificate in Sustainable Happiness to Dawson staff and external community through Dawson's Centre for Training and Development

Success Indicators

- Orientation activities for new students and new staff include a sustainability component
- Increase in the number of sustainability-related outreach initiatives and campaigns for students
- Awareness of sustainability initiatives has increased among staff and students
- An increase in social media interaction to promote awareness of sustainability initiatives
- An increase in the number of visits to the Dawson sustainability website
- An increase in student and staff participation in sustainability-related events
- Increase in the number of staff who have obtained a Sustainable Happiness Certificate



© Dawson College Video: Well-Being for All

OPERATIONS

Goal: Implement practices that contribute to well-being for all, sustainably

The Dawson Facilities team is at the forefront of resource conservation and the battle against climate change. Building construction, energy consumption, waste management, procurement of goods, the use of sustainable dining services and modes of transportation influence the environment which affects human and ecological health. Dawson is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, diverting waste from landfills, conserving water and managing landscape in a way that benefits biodiversity and contributes to well-being for all, sustainably.

This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:

- 2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
- 4. Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society
- 6. Promote a culture and practice of continuous improvement in all areas of the College
- 7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all it endeavours



Facilities staff analyze and make real-time adjustments to the complex heating, ventilation and air conditioning network at the College, which is comprised of kilometers of pipes, air ducts and equipment.

OPERATIONS

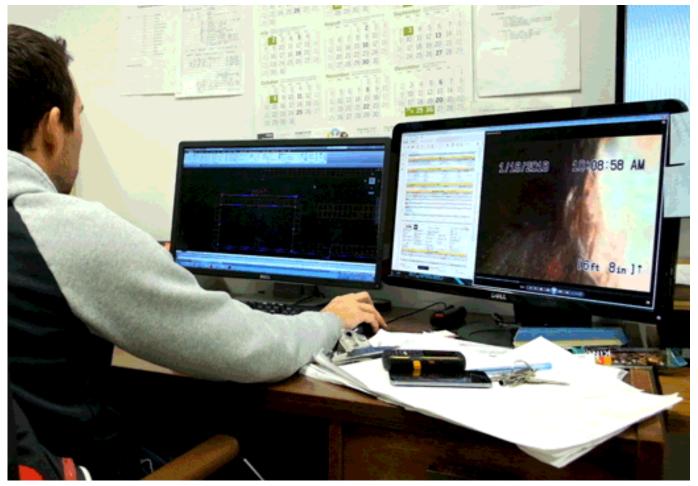
Goal: Implement practices that contribute to well-being for all, sustainably

Strategies

- Create more parking areas for bicycles
- Offer priority parking for staff with electric cars
- Install energy efficient lighting
- Install energy efficient HVAC systems
- Install recycling and composting centres
- Review procurement procedures
- Install low-flow toilets and faucets throughout the College
- Prevent and identify water pipe leakage
- Develop a landscaping and pest management plan for College grounds and biodiversity zones
- Involve students and staff, where feasible, in operations that improve the campus's sustainability efforts.

Success Indicators

- 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduction in pollutants originating from outdoor equipment
- Landscaping and pest management plan developed for College grounds and biodiversity zones
- Decreased water consumption per user and/or per square metre
- Reduction in amount of paper used at the College
- 85% of paper used at the College is recycled
- All paper used by the College is Sustainable Forest Certified, equivalent or post-consumer
- 50% of all electronics purchases are energy efficient, end-of-life management (EPEAT) certified
- 70% of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste is diverted from landfills
- Composting and recycling stations are installed
- 40% reduction in waste delivered to landfills
- A procurement screening process that identifies environmentally and socially preferable products and services is established
- Increase in student and staff involvement in operations that improve the campus's sustainability efforts



The latest techniques and equipment are used to monitor the performance of our infrastructure systems and anticipate maintenance needs. In this case, a live video feed permits the inspection of a drainage pipe.

PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

Goal: Facilitate the convergence of efforts from across the College, towards the practice and promotion of well-being for all, sustainably

We will encourage a campus and community culture that is guided by sustainability principles and promotes the participation of all stakeholders in the governance, organization, implementation and communication of sustainability initiatives.

This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:

- 2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
- 3. Provide coordinated and accessible services to students
- 5. Be a leading employer dedicated to employee development and engagement
- 7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all it endeavours



Thousands of flowering plants in the Ecological Peace Garden are a symbol of the College's commitment to peace and non-violence.

PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

Goal: Facilitate the convergence of efforts from across the College, towards the practice and promotion of well-being for all, sustainably

Strategies

- Engage students and staff and community members in governance
- The Dawson Foundation committee establishes a screening process for sustainable investment
- Identify, evaluate and enhance initiatives that contribute to staff and student wellness
- Benchmark and increase employee satisfaction and engagement to improve well-being
- Review equity issues for external contractors

Success Indicators

- The Sustainability Office, partners and collaborators coordinate college-wide efforts that advance well-being for all, sustainably
- The measurement of sustainability performance has been implemented using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)
- 60% of the funds invested by the Dawson College Foundation are placed in sustainable investments
- Programs that recognize student and staff sustainability accomplishments are established
- Student and staff wellness initiatives are implemented
- External contractors hired by the College pay a living wage to their employees
- An increase in the number of initiatives that contribute to staff and student wellness



Over 200 students and staff contributed to TRANSLUMINAL, a permanent installation, coordinated by the Sciences Participating in Arts and Culture in Education (SPACE) initiative. SPACE projects encourage participants to make connections between information, ideas, individuals and their community, beyond the classroom and across disciplines. They foster an environment where exploration, innovation and cooperation can thrive, and contribute to well-being for all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thanks to all those who contributed to the development of Dawson College's Sustainability Plan.

Sustainability Plan Review

Richard Filion - Director General Diane Gauvin - Academic Dean Donna Varrica - Coordinator, Communications Carmela Gumelli - Dean, Academic Systems **Ray Boucher - Director, Student Services** Francis Lessard - Executive Director, Dawson Foundation

Alan Stewart - Assistant to the Academic Dean Wai Bong Shum - Director, Facilities Pascahl Scott - Director, Human Resources Glenys Ronnie - Director, Finance François Paradis - Director, Information Systems and Technology & Corporate Affairs

Dawson Sustainability Steering Committee

Chris Adam - Coordinator, Sustainability Office Anna-Liisa Aunio - Profile Coordinator, Environmental Studies Heather Bradley - Department Chair, Physical Education Tiawenti:non Canadian - Coordinator, First Peoples' Centre Jennifer de Vera - Recreation Technician, Campus Life & Leadership Richard Dugas - Information Technician, Sustainability, Facilities Cindy Elliott - Information Technician, Sustainability, Facilities Gisela Frias - Geography Department, & Coordinator, Sustainable Campuses (Dawson/Mexico Partnership) Fiona Hanley - Program Coordinator, Nursing Azra Khan - Professional Development, Human Resources Geoffrey Kloos - Coordinator, First Year Students' Office Julia Lijerón - Program Development, Office of Academic Development Ian MacKenzie - English Department, Project Lead - Writing in the Disciplines (WID) & Learning Communities Katherine McWhaw - Coordinator, Quality Assurance and Planning Office Omer Othman - Sustainability, Dawson Student Union Véronique Paris - Coordinator of Building Services & Sustainability, Facilities Diana Rice - Coordinator, Dawson Peace Centre

Nursing students plant native species on the gymnasium roof as part of the Habitat Restoration Project, a collaboration between Living Campus and the Dawson Peace Centre.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

External Partners

AASHE CEGEP VERT Climate Change Coalition CEGEP Merici Earthvalues Institute Groupe Compass Inc. Nature Canada – Naturehood Cape Breton University McGill University Office of Sustainability Concordia University Centre for Teaching & Learning

UPN University, Mexico UPEMOR University, Mexico Prepatoria Tres Marias, Mexico Sergio Garcia Bahena, UPEMOR Cesar Maldonado Mercado, UNAM Cookshire Elementary School Westmount United Church CRISPESH -Centre de recherche pour l'inclusion scolaire et professionnnelle des étudiants en situation de handicap

The following groups at Dawson College received a presentation from the Sustainability Office and/or the Quality Assurance and Planning Office about the Sustainability Plan and Living Campus during the Fall of 2016 and 2017:

Communications Office Office of Academic Development Facilities Sustainability Steering Committee Health Services First Peoples' Initiative Dawson Foundation Management Group International Development Office

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Julia Lijerón, writer Nicholas Sourias, <u>NTS Photography</u> Reese Turner, RE : PRODUCTIONS Canadian Peacekeepers share a message of peace in the Dawson College Ecological Peace Garden. The garden's Peace Pole is an internationallyrecognized symbol of peace.

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