



MacEwan
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
2017/18 Highlights

A YEAR IN SUSTAINABILITY

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

In 2017/18, the second year of the plan, we built and continued community partnerships, piloted new programs, and made changes – big and small – toward the goal of creating a campus that is environmentally, economically, socially and culturally sustainable.

As we continue to make progress, one thing has become very clear – it's a group effort. As the Office of Sustainability, we don't see ourselves as the owners of sustainability initiatives and growth, but as facilitators. Students, faculty, staff and community members are making sustainability a way of life on campus. This shared enthusiasm, dedication and partnership allowed us to take significant steps forward this year.

We're pleased to share some of the highlights from the 2017/18 academic year. For our complete Annual Report and Strategic Sustainability Plan, please visit MacEwan.ca/Sustainability.

OUR MODEL OF SUSTAINABILITY



OUR PRIORITIES



Academic programming, teaching and research



Campus operations



Engagement, outreach and communications



Leadership

OUR 2017/18 FOCUS AREAS

- Transportation
- Food security
- Energy efficiency
- Community partnerships
- Academic integration



ACADEMIC PROGRAM, TEACHING *and* RESEARCH

Goal To promote the growth of sustainability-related opportunities for student learning, faculty research and academic collaboration.

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MILESTONE MOMENTS

This year, MacEwan University made two significant advancements in prioritizing sustainability in academics.

- The Office of Sustainability presented a draft sustainability credential to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee for approval.
- In May 2018, the Board of Governors approved institution-wide sustainability learning outcomes. Upon completion of their programs at MacEwan University, students will be equipped to:
 - Collaborate effectively with others toward fulfillment of a vision, goal, initiative or project.
 - Contribute to strengthening communities locally, nationally and internationally.
 - Demonstrate cultural mindfulness, including a sense of respect for Indigenous peoples.
 - Apply ethical and sustainable practices towards social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being.

MORE THAN **1/3**
OF ALL GRADUATES
COMPLETED A PROGRAM
THAT HAD A SUSTAINABILITY COMPONENT

BIG IDEAS

We piloted innovative and engaging projects that started conversations, sparked inspiration and demonstrated that even the biggest sustainability goals are achievable.

- The Peltier Tile Project is a well-being themed artwork. It incorporates sustainable practices and materials, including peltier tiles, which generate electricity through temperature differences.
- Since 2014, first-year engineering students have been designing solutions to sustainability problems on campus, and developing funding proposals to create and implement their designs. This year's proposals included recycling and producing resale products, solar panels for campus buildings, electricity-generating turbines in exhaust stacks, a greenhouse operated by wind turbines, green roofs and an anti-theft bike storage system.
- Campus as a Living Lab events provided experiential, interactive opportunities across campus to learn about sustainability.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

By integrating sustainability concepts and practices into curriculum across programs and faculties, we demonstrate to students that sustainable approaches can be incorporated into their studies, their careers and their lives – no matter what they're pursuing. In 2017/18, we:

- Continued to work with faculty members from across the university to integrate sustainability as an interdisciplinary concept into curriculum. A workshop and fellowship were successful tools in driving faculty uptake.
- Delivered a workshop on incorporating sustainability into curriculum to faculty, staff, and guests at Thompson Rivers University, laying the foundation for us to offer this workshop at other institutions in the future.
- Began developing a series of teaching resources on sustainability concepts to support curriculum integration.





ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH and COMMUNICATIONS

Goal To create a community where sustainability matters and is lived, shared and celebrated.

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ENGAGING THE MACEWAN COMMUNITY

Students, faculty and staff were eager to learn and to share their knowledge, skills and ideas on sustainability. Here are just a few of the ways we engaged with the MacEwan community to continue building a sustainable campus:

- The new Sustainability Leadership Council, along with our growing volunteer program, helped us foster a new generation of sustainability leaders by providing mentorship, networking and professional development opportunities.
- We increased non-credit programming and learning experiences for staff, students, and faculty on topics such as vermicomposting, bee hotels, container gardening, cycling and waste reduction.

5 VOLUNTEER
TEAMS

35 VOLUNTEERS

12 NEW

23 RETURNING

900
ITEMS DONATED
OR EXCHANGED IN
CLOTHING SWAP

1083 KG
OF DONATIONS COLLECTED
THROUGH SUITE SCORE

BEYOND OUR CAMPUS

We continued to foster partnerships and programs with community members, local government, NGOs and businesses to promote and cultivate sustainability on campus and beyond. Our partnerships saw us reaching out to the community, and inviting community members onto our campus.

- **Urban Beekeeping Tours** continued to forge and expand positive community relationships and educate people of all ages about biodiversity, food security and various ways to protect pollinators.
- **Alberta Narratives** is a large-scale, qualitative climate change research project that encourages Albertans to share their diverse perspectives on climate change, weigh trade-offs and identify goals.
- The Office of Sustainability moved into **Roundhouse**, MacEwan's social innovation co-working space, to be more accessible to community members and create greater opportunities for collaboration.
- Suite Score is a joint initiative with MacEwan University Residence to reduce move-out waste and divert it from the landfill. During spring move-out, students leave behind gently used items that are then donated to incoming international students and community organizations, such as Goodwill Services Alberta, Bissell Centre, Boyle Street Community Services and Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS).
- We participated in various City of Edmonton initiatives, including the Bike Network and Energy Committees.





CAMPUS OPERATIONS

Goal To create a model sustainable campus that fosters well-being for individuals, communities and ecosystems.

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BUILDINGS AND ASSETS

Inside and out, our buildings – and their contents – became more environmentally friendly.

- Installed 50 solar panels on campus.
- Implemented low-impact development practices for all new construction and major renovations on campus.
- Created a sustainability-themed room in MacEwan Residence, built and furnished according to biophilic operation principles.
- Transitioned all purchased desktops and laptop computers, displays, tablets/slates, televisions and imaging equipment to EPEAT Gold or Silver registered products.
- Participated as a founding member in the first year of the City of Edmonton's Building Energy Benchmarking Program, through which the Robbins Health Learning Centre received an Award of Excellence for energy performance



TRANSPORTATION

Our social responsibilities don't end when we leave campus. Here are some steps we took to improve the commute to and from MacEwan:

- Collaborated with the City of Edmonton to advocate for a bicycle-friendly campus, and played a vital role in advancing the bicycle network in downtown Edmonton, which is connected to a larger municipal transportation plan.

Contributions in 2017/18 included:

- Development of bike lanes on 105 Avenue
- Bike tours during Environment Week
- Commuter challenge
- Piloted a bike share program for Residence and the Social Innovation Institute/Roundhouse, with the goal of expanding to the larger MacEwan campus community.

FOOD SECURITY

Holding ourselves to higher sustainability standards improved dining quality and selection.

- Fair Trade Fridays events provided education about fair-trade products and their global impact.
- Food Services, which already uses local products where possible, committed to seeking out suppliers who prioritize sustainability.
- Honey from MacEwan's hives and produce from Tower Gardens was used in Food Services offerings, and to create retail items.
- Season, a new vegan/vegetarian food vendor, increased plant-based options on campus.

Allard Hall, MacEwan's new home for programs in visual, performing and communication arts, as well as arts administration/management, officially opened in September 2017. The building boasts many eco-friendly features, including natural and LED light, smart lights in performance venues, chilled beams to passively balance temperature and ceramic frit on windows to reduce heat islands.



LEADERSHIP

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

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LAYING GROUNDWORK

Meaningful plans lead to meaningful actions. By carefully and thoughtfully drafting policies, plans and reports, we set our course for success in the coming years.

- Revised and updated Sustainability Policy D6000
- Created a departmental plan that sets the direction forward for the Office of Sustainability.
- Worked with staff and faculty towards submission of a sustainability report (through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE), Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS).
- Moved into Roundhouse, which created an accessible and visible sustainability space that staff, students and faculty can use as a resource.

We provided leadership and participation at the community, provincial and national levels through membership in the following organizations:

- City of Edmonton groups and committees, including the Environmental Advisory Committee
- Alberta Capital Airshed Board of Governors
- Canadian Alliance of College and University Sustainability Professionals
- Canadian College and University Environmental Network
- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
- BOMA Canada
- Canada Green Building Council
- Campus as a Living Lab Working Group

MOBILIZING PEOPLE

There is no resource more powerful than people. We brought together driven, like-minded people and empowered them to become sustainability leaders.

- Continued to have a cross-functional Sustainability Advisory Committee, and related sub-committees and working groups, comprised of staff, students, faculty and community members.
- Oversaw and consolidated a student-only sustainability leadership council.
- Created ongoing sustainability positions for communications students and interns.



