
***President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS)
Annual Report 2012-2014***

This report describes the major activities undertaken by the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) during the period September 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014

"The intent of the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) is to support the vision of the [2009-2014 Strategic Plan *mâwawohkamâtowin: Our Work, Our People, Our Communities*] and help guide the University of Regina in ensuring that the best insight, knowledge, and leadership, as well as high ethical standards regarding sustainability, are brought to decisions around sustainability in the areas of operations, education, research, performance evaluation and community service." *PACS Terms of Reference*

This report is organized by categories as laid out in the Sustainability Tracking and Rating System (STARS) through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

Planning and Administration

Sustainability Strategic Plan

In 2012 PACS initiated the process for creating a U of R Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP)

- The sustainability coordinator researched best practises and presented to PACS.
- A sub-committee of PACS formed to determine how the SSP should be created and what resources were needed. (Chair - Sustainability Coordinator C. Reyda; Members – J. Crivea and K. Arbuthnott).
- June 2013 - PACS endorsed the proposed Sustainability Strategic Plan process of the Sub-committee.
- November 2013 - President Timmons approved the process.
- The sub-committee implemented the process:
 - ~ Fall 2013 - Developed and implemented a Sustainability Survey with a 9% response rate = 1338 responses.
 - ~ Jan to June 2014 - Committee members and student volunteers analysed the data.

- ~ March 2014 - Developed and implemented three successful engagements sessions to discuss the top three themes from the survey. PACS members assisted.

A draft plan will be submitted to PACS in Fall 2014 for recommendation to the President.

STARS

PACS has recommended and the University is pursuing reporting its sustainability achievements with the *Sustainability Tracking and Rating System* (STARS) through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Faculties and Units are engaged and the information gathering will be completed by September 2014.

Theme Years

PACS recommended that for the immediate future the U of R concentrate on the themes of Transportation and Food. The President

confirmed those themes for 2013-2014. PACS recommended that the theme for 2014-2015 be Water.

Sustainability Policy

In April 2013, Policy 10.140 “University of Regina Sustainable Campus Policy” was removed from the University as a policy as part of the Policy Renewal Project. PACS has decided not to recommend any new sustainability policies until the Sustainability Strategic Plan is completed.

People’s Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education.

PACS investigated and tabled the idea for the U of R to be signatories on the *People’s Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education*.

RCE-SK Recognition Awards

PACS supported the nomination of the following recipients of the RCE-SK Recognition Awards. All initiatives were successful in being recognized.

- ~ Alternative transportation – Parking and Transportation Services (2013)
- ~ SaskAdapt.ca - Prairie Adaptive Research Collaborative (2013)
- ~ October Sustainability Action and Awareness Month – U of R Partners (2014)
- ~ Re-ART – Recycled Art Competition and Exhibit – U of R Partners (2014)

Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Dr Joseph Piwowar, Chair of the Strategic Plan Facilitation Team, met with PACS to update the group on the Strategic Plan 2014-2017

process and to listen to comments. “PACS made the following suggestions: Build sustainability issues into the Strategic Plan – consider sustainability efforts throughout the development of the Plan using ‘a sustainable mindset’ to make those connections; incorporate the Sustainability Strategic Plan into the 2014-19 Strategic Plan; Move from concept to action – the Strategic plan needs to support the Sustainability Plan; key performance indicators (KPI) that are sustainability issues; ...” (PACS minutes 26March 2014)

Financial

PACS noted the need to establish a budget line to ensure funding for the Sustainability Coordinator activities, a student intern position, and seed money for worthwhile future projects. PACS provided funds in 2013 to support the Edible Campus project (\$3,000) and the first Sustainability Intern within FM (\$2000).

AASHE

In 2012, PACS financially supported the first year of membership for the U of R in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). FM has continued that support. All students, staff, faculty have access to all of the substantial resources on their website aashe.org.

Updated Terms of Reference

PACS updated its Terms of Reference and have recommended them to the President (Spring 2014).

Academics – Curriculum and Research

Faculty of Engineering professor D. Wagner presented on a possible student project with Facilities Management to identify electricity savings on campus. PACS supported the initiative.

“Composting: A Sustainable Solution for the U of R’s Food Waste Disposal” research project was presented to PACS by Jeeshan Ahmed, a 4th year Environmental Engineering student.

Living Labs and Ecomuseums Symposium
PACS member J. Crivea and Sustainability Coordinator C. Reyda with financial support from FM and in collaboration with RCE-SK hosted this RCE-SK Higher Education Event on 8

May 2014 at Government House. There were 40 attendees from all higher-education partners as well as the Ministry of Education, SaskPower, and museums sector.

Engagement – Campus and Public Communities

U of R's Edible Campus

PACS met with representatives of the Edible Campus. The project engages over 50 campus volunteers and donates over 3500 lbs of produce to Carmichael Outreach per year. They requested support from PACS to encourage faculty/staff to volunteer their time. PACS continued to support the initiative. In 2013 PACS provided \$3000 and FM provided \$4300. For 2014, FM has committed to fund the Garden Coordinator for \$7000. Funding for the project going forward continues to be an unresolved issue for the group.

President of the **UR Sustainability Club** updated PACS members on the objectives of the newly formed student group (Fall 2012). The Club had 20 active members with at least 110 on an email distribution list. Besides working on supporting existing initiatives, they were hoping to work in collaboration with PACS in the creation of a Sustainability Centre. PACS agreed in principle to support and work with UR Sustainability and welcomes input from them.

Sustainability Action and Awareness Month (SAAM)

The University of Regina's first ever Sustainability Action and Awareness Month (SAAM) was held from October 1st – November 1st, 2013. SAAM was hosted by PACS in collaboration with a wide network of faculties, institutions, departments and student groups around campus inspired to tackle sustainability issues. The month focused on the themes of transportation, food, waste, and general sustainability.

Overview:

- ~ 1900 total SAAM participants
- ~ over 32 events
- ~ 85 organizers, contributors, and volunteers representing over 25 U of R groups/units
- ~ 80 cars took advantage of the carpooling contest
- ~ 31 RE-Art-ists
- ~ 645 RE-Art exhibit visitors
- ~ 661 coffee cups collected and re-imagined for the Great Coffee Cup Audit Community Art Piece

External Relations joined PACS to discuss ways and means to assist with the communication requirements around the Transportation and Food Sustainability themes for 2013- 2014.

PACS tabled the proposal "**U of R Sustainability Champions**" until completion of the Sustainability Strategic Plan.

Regional Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Development – SK

U of R is an important partner in RCE-SK. Several joint RCE-U of R events were connected through PACS:

- ~ President Timmons hosted a ULT meeting with Dr Geoff Scott, RCE-Greater Western Sydney (Oct 2013).
- ~ "*ESD – An International Perspective*" meeting with Ms. Won J. Byun of RCE Tongyeong (S. Korea) (Oct 2013).
- ~ "*Greening Professionals for Sustainability*" public event presented with U of R Faculty of Engineering (May 2013)

Sustainability Initiative Fund

PACS met with a representative of the proposed “Sustainability Initiative Fund”. This fund, financially supported by six U of R units and President Timmons, will fund projects led by or having significant involvement by U of R

students. The President’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability supported and endorsed this initiative and is willing to assist where possible. The fund, renamed the Sustainability and Community Engagement Fund, will be accepting its first set of project proposals in Fall 2014.

Operations

Car Share Program

In 2012 PACS heard from both the *Regina Car Share* representative John Klein and the U of R Manager, Parking and Transportation Services Gwen Evans. Throughout the 2012-2013 school year, Parking and Transportation Services and the Sustainability Co-ordinator worked to have a car share in place on campus. In September 2013, Enterprise CarShare program began at the U of R. By April of 2014 the program has approximately 20 users. Operational support for the program has been through P&TS and the Sustainability Coordinator.

Regina Farmers’ Market

In 2011, PACS supported the possibility of the Regina Farmers’ Market (RFM) coming to the U of R. In 2012 and 2013 the Sustainability Coordinator, on behalf of PACS, liaised and worked with RFM, Conference Services, URSU, and Parking to bring the RFM to campus. In 2013-2014 there were 9 Fall Markets, and 8 Winter Markets. RFM has confirmed that they will be on campus for Fall 2014.

Pesticide Use on Campus

In 2012, Dr. T. Dahms presented to PACS on pesticide usage, focusing on environmental health, human health, liability, and cost. From that initial presentation, a working group with representatives from Health, Safety and Environment, Facilities Management, Wascana Centre Authority and Dr. Dahms have worked to explore options to reduce pesticide use on campus and work toward a Plant Health Care Model. There will be costs associated with implementing such a model. The working

group, with support of student and academic volunteers, will operate and study a small pilot research and teaching project in summer 2014 to understand costs and benefits of a Plant Health Care Model. Project was featured in the LeaderPost.

UPASS

PACS is supportive of the U of R working with URSU and the City of Regina in developing a universal bus pass for students. URSU has led this initiative with the City. Members of PACS and FM are involved. Plans are to have a fall 2014 awareness campaign and a spring 2015 student vote to levy fees.

Facilities Management provided an overview of the new residence footprint, location, and energy and water sustainability initiatives. PACS suggested FM also consider composting stations and gardening space for children in the daycare.

An undergraduate student Devon Peters provided a presentation on tips and recommendations for **water conservation on campus**. Some of the recommendations are already being explored by the U of R.

Facilities Management demonstrated the Lotus Pro cleaning System to PACS. This chemical-free system creates ozoneated water to use in cleaning and is being tested in the RIC and Lab Buildings (May 2014) with very favourable results.

Updates

- Five more water-bottle filling stations have been added on campus 2012-2014.
- PACS received an update on the Print Optimization Project from IS.
- Energy project partnerships - 2014 – U of R is in partnership with Sask Power and Johnson Controls. Through the Industrial Energy Optimization Program Sask Power will help fund projects/proposals with an energy saving focus. Johnson Controls and the U of R are looking at ‘novel’ energy projects.
- U of R has funded a Sustainability Coordinator. Sept 2012 - 25% term position. May 2013 - FM received permanent funding for ½ time position. As this position is housed in Facilities Management, the University is giving FM a clear mandate for supporting sustainability matters on campus – an issue they take very seriously.

Recommendations for Future Actions

- Sustainability Strategic Plan – Recommendation and communication of the Sustainability Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019. Resource and implementation of the plan which will likely include: waste management, student engagement, efficient use of all resources, better communication of sustainability successes and efforts on campus, development of the Living Lab concept, development of an Office of Sustainability, a Sustainability Champions program.
 - Review of existing U of R policies with a sustainability lens. Decision on appropriate sustainability specific policies.
 - Concentration on Water issues-2014-2015
 - Discussion on the University’s position on its carbon footprint and how to strategize and create solutions for staff travel.
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