

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

NEWSLETTER

MICROGRID RELEASE

The University was awarded \$976K from PrairiesCan to establish a Microgrid research lab and testbed.

The U of R worked with Siemens Canada Ltd. to develop a research-based microgrid lab with a mix of energy assets, which include photovoltaic generation, grid-compliant battery storage, loads, and a control center. This seminar provided an overview to potential users of the microgrid system, project progress, opportunities and challenges, and future directions.

Learn more at: cetri.ca/microgrid-project

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MAY 10, 9am-4pm: Gardening 101 Workshop**
This RPIRG workshop explores no till gardening with Kim Ross. Perfect for gardeners of all levels! It will be held in RI 119 & Green Patch. Register [HERE](#)
- **MAY 17, 10am-5pm: Electrify Regina 2025**
Electrify Regina is a trade show with vendors and presentations from a variety of sustainable industries. It is held at the Viterro International Trade Centre. Admission is free!
- **MAY 17, 12pm-5pm: TEDx Regina**
TEDxRegina is coming to campus for 'Mission Possible.' Speakers include several University of Regina professors and alumni. Get your tickets at tedxregina.ca

SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT



Wanting to bike to campus for your meeting, class or lecture? The Sustainability Office has created a [new map](#) to help you find the closest bike repair station and bike rack.



There are two Level 2 EV charging stations in Lot 14. This is a 24/7 user-fee-based service for ePermit holders. The PaybyPhone app can be used to pay for charging.



Student Transit tickets and passes can be purchased from the URSU office and our Employee Transit Pass Program allows employees to purchase a transit pass through payroll deduction at a discounted rate.

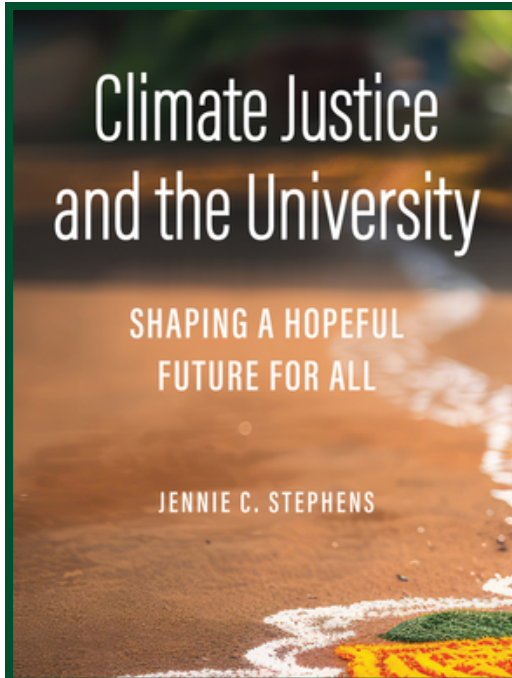
Read more on our website at:

<https://www.uregina.ca/parking/sustainable-alternatives.html>

COMMUNITY PANEL DISCUSSION – GETTING TO ZERO

On March 18th, panelists joined to discuss how local plans for reducing carbon emissions can contribute to climate justice in our community. Panelists included:

- Robbi Humble, Manager of Sustainable Energy & Adaptation at the City of Regina
- Neil Paskewitz, Associate Vice-President of Facilities Management at the UofR
- Abhay Singh Sachal, Graduate Student at UofR and Founder of Break The Divide
- Dr. Jennie Stephens, Professor of Climate Justice at the National University of Ireland Maynooth



WOODROW LLOYD LECTURE WITH DR. JENNIE STEPHENS

The Faculty of Arts hosted the 2025 Woodrow Lloyd Lecture, with guest lecturer Dr. Jennie Stephens, Professor of Climate Justice at the National University of Ireland Maynooth.

This presentation focused on her most recent book *Climate Justice and the University: Shaping a Hopeful Future For All* and described how post-secondary institutions can play a powerful role in addressing climate justice.

CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE (CEA)

The Sustainability Office, in partnership with the Office of Applied Research and Innovation at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, hosted a symposium on CEA on March 28th. This event brought together Saskatchewan producers, community partners, as well as government, industry, and academia to discuss challenges and innovation in the field of indoor growing.

Presentations were made by Dr. Shawn Clark on National Research Council projects, Dr. Henry Penn (The Resilience Institute) on the journey from root to market, and Dr. Ken Fry (Olds College) on integrated pest management.

Roundtable discussions included challenges, research priorities, and how to develop knowledge exchange within the Saskatchewan CEA community.

If you are interested in a recording of the event, please contact us at: sustainability@uregina.ca



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Earth Month

SEED GIVEAWAY

For Earth Day, the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies celebrated the importance of native wildflowers and grasses in local landscaping and gardening by passing out free seed packages of Bees n' Butterfly Mix & Prairie Meadow Native Grass Seed Mix!

They encourage those who collected seeds to share successes stories with them on Instagram at:

<https://www.instagram.com/gesuofr/>



SUSTAINABLE ART

Visual Arts MFA student Mahdi Mahdian's painting "Resilience During the Flood" is now on display in the Riddell Centre.

Commissioned through the Sustainability and Community Engagement Fund (SCEF), with support from the President's Art Collection and Facilities Management, the piece amplifies the urgency of climate action—reminding us of what's at stake and what we still have the power to protect.

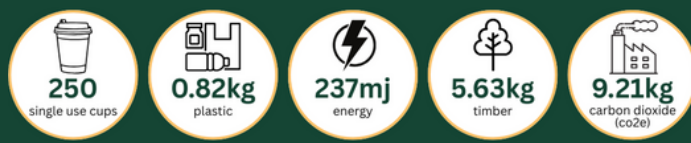
[Read More HERE](#)

FREE COFFEE



This Earth Day, April 22, 2025, the Office of Sustainability partnered with Ultimate Rotisserie Experience to provide FREE coffee if people brought a reusable mug.

Together we saved:

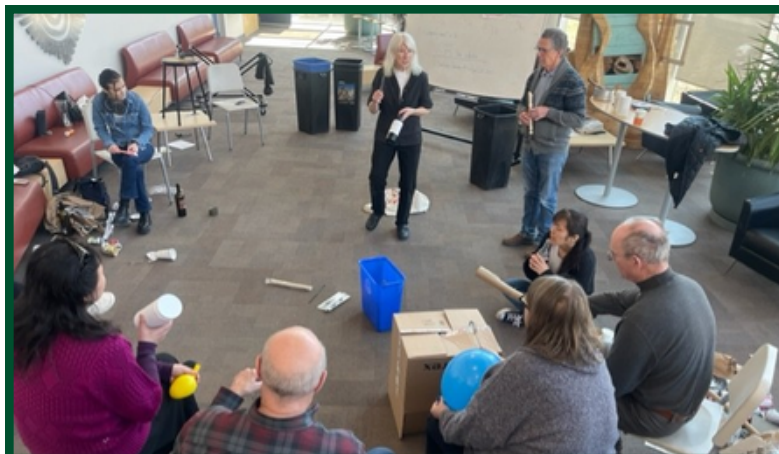


TRASH MUSIC: INSTRUMENTS OF CONSUMPTION

Fulbright Canada Scholar Dr. Sarah Schmalenberger and the Sustainability Office organized the "Making Music in a Throwaway Culture" project finale!

This research project explored the intersection of sustainability and music through the lens of collaborative music-making. The event used resources that were discarded, collected and re-purposed over the course of Sarah's time in Regina.

A materials audit was conducted on the 73lbs of materials collected. Materials were separated by category (e.g., plastics, paper, aluminum cans), weighed, and the time to degrade was discussed.



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UR HACKS

This March, the University of Regina Computer Science Students' Society (CSSS), hosted a hackathon with the theme of Sustainability. Participants came together to collaborate and build a project based on the theme within the short timeframe given. At the end of the hackathon, groups presented the prototype of their project to a panel of judges. We were impressed by the innovation and hard work that was put into building projects that incorporated the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals!

We would like to congratulate Team Solar Green for taking home the championship, Team Future Feast as the first runner-up, and Team BinBuddy for winning the People's Choice Award!

Student Spotlight

Hi! My name is Steven Hatcher and I am currently in the fourth year of my B.Sc. in Computer Science degree at the University of Regina.

The University of Regina's first hackathon, UR HACKS 2025, was an exciting experience, pitting passionate and hardworking individuals with different skill sets against one-another to work towards a shared goal: improving the planet. The core theme of the event was sustainability, with the primary directive being to build a project that focuses on providing improvements to any number of the UN's 17 Sustainability Development Goals, and ultimately progress at least two of the UN's 5 Ps of Sustainability.

The idea we came up with for this Hackathon project was a dashboard for designing your own microgrid, allowing organizations to achieve independence in power generation, storage, and usage. The goal of this software is to provide a straightforward solution to organizations that are looking to take the leap of being the architect of their energy, with an emphasis on balancing cost and environmental implications.

The user enters the annual power consumption of their home or organization, then designs their microgrid with their choice of solar panels, diesel generators, turbines, and batteries. It provides the user the essential information regarding their microgrid design at a glance, and streamlines the overall development process by including only the quintessential components & their respective details.

Read more on our website at:

www.uregina.ca/sustainability/student-profiles.html



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uregina.ca/sustainability



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