

Sustainable Development Goals Environmental Scan

Final Report for

Kwantlen Polytechnic University



Table of Contents

Overview	3
Methodology	6
Phase 1	6
Phase 2	8
Phase 3	13
Findings and Alignment	14
Governance Domain	15
Physical Campus Domain	20
Academic Domain	23
Operations Domain	28
Key Learning	40
References	47
Appendices	50

Overview

UN SDGs and Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs)

Post-secondary institutions (PSIs) have taken advantage of their unique position to proactively contribute to the advancement of the SDGs. Many colleges and universities worldwide have done significant work with actions and initiatives in support of sustainable development. PSIs are now increasingly seeking public recognition of their progress and commitment toward the UN SDGs as illustrated by the multiples ranking initiatives, such as the following:

[The Times Higher Education](#) yearly ranking of higher education institutions on their global performance in developing solutions for the UN SDGs

[The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System \(STARS\)](#), catering specifically to Colleges and Universities for tracking their sustainability performance

[The UI Green Metric World University Rankings](#), offering a ranking of green campus and environmental sustainability initiatives worldwide



Source KPU Media

KPU has made notable strides toward alignment, embodiment, and promotion of the UN SDGs and commitments to them. For instance, the alignment of key strategic documents such as the KPU 2050 Official Campus Plan Sustainability Framework demonstrates the willingness to align KPU's sustainability initiatives with global-scale transformative change.

The SDG mapping project was undertaken to clearly identify connections between KPU's existing and ongoing activities and the SDGs and to help build KPU's capacity to promote and align its sustainability efforts with the SDGs.

As a supplement to this mapping endeavor, an environmental scan was conducted to identify noteworthy sustainability-aligned practices and initiatives by other national and international PSIs. The objectives of the environmental scan were as follows:

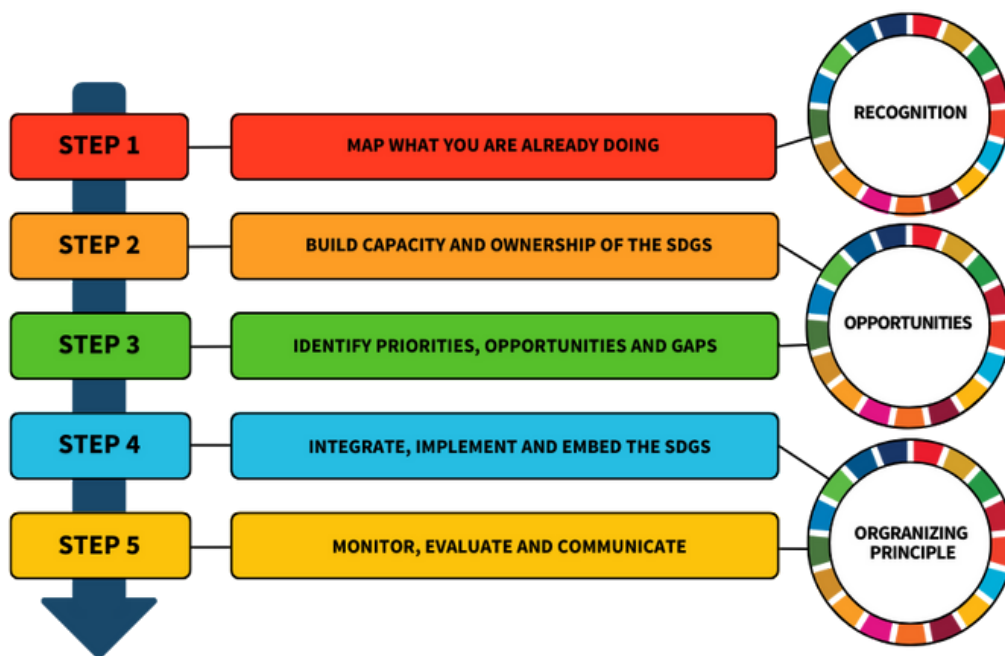
- 01** To identify and compile SDG practices from other PSIs
- 02** To provide a summary of best practices that offer guidance for aligning KPU's processes and existing & future initiatives
- 03** To inform KPU's approach and progress in working toward the SDGs (i.e., teaching, learning, & operational activities; systematic reporting on SDG progress; promoting SDGs and enhancing SDG literacy)

Source KPU Media



The results of the environmental scan, in conjunction with the mapping process, provide granular and wider perspectives and a solid basis for preliminary key learnings to help KPU build capacity and take ownership of the SDGs ([Step 2 of the SDG integration process](#) as recommended by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network [SDSN] and as referred to previously in the project report).

Figure 1. Overview of the SDG integration process.



Source: Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Australia/Pacific. (2017). Getting started with the SDGs in universities: A guide for universities, higher education institutions, and the academic sector. Retrieved from <https://resources.unsdsn.org/getting-started-with-the-sdgs-in-universities>



Source KPU Media

Two key ways in which PSIs help in advancing the SDGs are by demonstrating “how to support, adopt and implement” them (SDSN Australia/Pacific, 2017, p. 7) and by showing how global sustainability priorities can translate to local actions (Arsenault, 2021). Thus, a logical step forward for KPU is to assess and learn from the initiatives of fellow PSIs in that sense. According to Arsenault (2021), another major role PSIs can take in advancing sustainability is through inter-institutional collaboration. As such, recording a catalogue of PSIs’ sustainability best practices and initiatives is a great starting point for planning, developing, and pursuing such collaborations.

The PSI sector has a long history of “networking to expand their knowledge” (Ebers, 1997, as cited in Kohl et al., 2022, p. 221); this gained momentum after the Earth Summit in 1992, with the formation of networks to address sustainable development (Kohl et al., 2022). There has been a notable uptick in the number of institutions taking action, in the form of sustainability programmes, courses, and research; participation in rankings; and other activities in support of the sustainability agenda. However, “globally, Higher Education Institutions [HEIs] have not had a strong voice beyond their own networks” (Kohl et al., 2022, p. 223). Therefore, conducting an environmental scan could be a significant step for KPU to extend its influence beyond its immediate community. We believe it will help uncover shared objectives, collaborations, and partnerships opportunities with other PSIs.

Methodology

Phase 1: Preliminary Research

An initial list of institutions was compiled based on the following criteria:

- » A list of Canadian colleges was selected from the first phase of this project and on the basis of their commitments towards the SDGs.
- » A selection of Canadian universities gathered based on whether they met all or a combination of these criteria: (a) their inclusion in the first phase of this project, (b) their strong commitments towards the SDGs, (c) their similarity to KPU, and (d) their inclusion in the Impact Rankings 2022. The Impact Rankings by Times Higher Education are international rankings that evaluate universities based on their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.
- » Several American and international PSIs were selected as they have been referred to as SDGs champions in one or more academic articles and/or are listed in the Times Impact Rankings 2022.

The first and preliminary scope of research resulted in a list of 65 institutions, including

- 26 Canadian colleges
- 23 Canadian universities
- 01 American college
- 03 American universities
- 12 International universities

The first phase of the scan was conducted to get an overview of each institution's sustainable practices. These data were used to identify institutions with strong commitments toward the SDGs.



*Methodology***Phase 2: Exclusion Criteria and Data Collection**

Subsequently, a list of exclusion criteria (see Table A below) was used against the preliminary list of institutions and initiatives to refine the scope of our research. The preliminary list of institutions was narrowed down to 40 (Table B), including

- 10 Canadian colleges
- 18 Canadian universities
- 01 American college
- 03 American universities
- 08 International universities

Source Pexels.com



Table A: Exclusion Criteria

1	Locally based certifications/programs with no Canadian equivalent (i.e., specific to geographic realities and locations)
2	Research-focused initiatives not replicable at KPU or not directly impacting the institution (i.e., student or faculty research projects)
3	Resource-intensive initiatives that can't be replicated or tailored to KPU (i.e., large budget changes, primarily infrastructure-based such as construction projects, childcare, etc.)
4	Existing and/or well-established initiatives at KPU (i.e., existing student support/offerings at KPU)
5	Initiatives related to (a) student living on campus (i.e., housing and meal plans) and (b) alumni work (unless it could be utilized by KPU)
6	Initiated but no retrievable evidence of work being done and/or information is inaccessible and /or is published in a foreign language
7	Generalized 'speakers' or 'talks'
8	Programs/initiatives that do not exist anymore

Table B: 40 Colleges/Universities Scanned

CANADIAN COLLEGES	CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES
Canadore College	Carleton University
Centennial College	Lakehead University
Fleming College	Queen's University
George Brown College	Simon Fraser University
Humber College	Trent University
Mohawk College	Université Laval
Nova Scotia Community College	Université de Montréal
Selkirk College	Université de Sherbrooke
Seneca College	University of Alberta
Sheridan College	University of British Columbia
	University of Calgary
	University of the Fraser Valley
	University of Manitoba
	University of Toronto
	University of Waterloo
	Vancouver Island University
	Western University
	York University

Table B: 40 Colleges/Universities Scanned

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES	AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
ETH Zurich (Switzerland)	Arizona State University
Newcastle University (UK)	Carnegie Mellon University
University of Auckland (New Zealand)	Harvard University
University of Graz (Austria)	
University of Manchester (UK)	
University of Plymouth (UK)	AMERICAN COLLEGE
University of St. Gallen (Switzerland)	Oberlin College
Western Sydney University (Australia)	

For each of the 40 institutions, the data collection process was performed by using official websites, multimedia content, and/or institutional reports on sustainability or the UN SDGs. During this phase, data collection was conducted to gather details about the description of each institution's initiatives, the collaborators involved, and the links to the website or webpages referring to the information recorded for ease of reference. As a result, notable initiatives were compiled into an Excel document database, resulting in an initial list of 377 initiatives scanned—of these, 100 were subsequently excluded using the exclusion criteria mentioned above, leaving a final list of 277 initiatives included for further analysis (Table C).

Table C: Number of Initiatives Scanned

377 INITIATIVES SCANNED	227 INCLUDED	100 EXCLUDED
59 initiatives from 10 Canadian colleges	38	21
195 initiatives from 18 Canadian universities	154	41
8 initiatives from 1 American college	6	2
15 initiatives from 3 American universities	8	7
100 initiatives from 8 international universities	71	29

Source KPU Media



Methodology

Phase 3: Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using a three-pronged approach:

- » Each initiative was categorized against the four domains of KPU's Sustainability Framework: governance, physical campus, academics, and operations.
- » Trends and potential certifications and designations were identified.
- » A prioritization system has been developed to support the classification process, and notable initiatives were marked as follows:

Quick wins

Initiatives that we consider "Potential low-hanging fruit" that can be easily implemented at KPU that (a) do not require extensive resources (financial, administrative, personnel, time, or others); (b) build on existing initiatives; (c) can be replicated at or tailored to KPU; or (d) a combination of these factors.

High impact potential

Initiatives that represent potential amplifiers, and could achieve cross-benefits across the SDGs and/or reach a large audience of beneficiaries, both within the KPU community and beyond.

Inspiring initiatives

Initiatives that provide motivational goals to aspire to, and could be seen as trailblazing efforts that KPU aspires to in the future.

The following sections present the findings of these analyses and the main key learnings from the environmental scan.

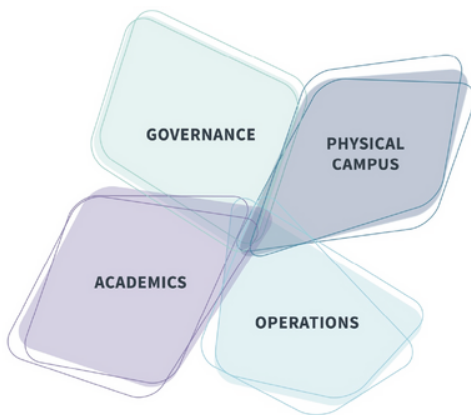


Source Pexels.com

Findings and Alignment With KPU

The findings illustrate trends related to UN SDG-based practices among PSIs and offer perspective and orientation that could guide KPU toward the adoption of additional initiatives in the near or long-term future. This section illustrates and describes broader trends that have been identified in the data analysis, supported with examples of flagship or the most important and representative initiatives, which we believe could represent quick wins or potential for high-impact, and a selection of inspiring initiatives.

KPU Sustainability Framework



Initiatives were classified into one of the four domains in the KPU Sustainability Framework (1. governance, 2. physical campus, 3. academics, and 4. operations), enabling the identification of trends and specific examples relevant to each. The following is a summary of findings per domain. The full list of initiatives per domain can be found in Appendix A.

KPU Sustainability Framework

Governance Domain

Per KPU's Sustainability Framework, the governance domain includes (a) Leadership; (b) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and (c) Communication. Trends in governance include public commitments, designations and third-party recognitions, programs, events, and policies and procedures to further align the university with the SDGs.

- » Public commitments and designations include declaring support for and being a signatory to public local, regional, national, or global goals, such as targets for climate change (e.g., net zero) and energy use (e.g., 100% renewable energy). Common designations include Fair Trade and Living Wage Employer certifications, while recognition can take the form of sustainability-based performance rankings and awards for sustainability and/or social innovation.
- » Programs include PSI-originated ideas and initiatives as well as support for promising sustainability-aligned proposals by the organizations and/or individuals, such as the allocation of non-financial and financial resources.
- » Events consist of individual events (e.g., special guest speaker) and annual or recurring events (e.g., SDG Week, Waste Reduction Week).
- » Policies and procedures include sustainability-related policies and tools such as sustainable infrastructure and construction policies, the issuance of climate bonds to support sustainable construction of new facilities, sustainable investment policies, and the development and use of supplier engagement tools to embed sustainability into the procurement process.



Flagship Initiatives: Governance



Fair Trade Campus designation

Fairtrade Canada, a member of Fairtrade International, is a national, non-profit organization and independent certifier that supports fair terms of trade for small-scale farmers and workers who are disadvantaged by unfair global trade ([Fairtrade Canada](#)). Although several locations on KPU campuses carry a selection of Fairtrade certified products, including coffee and chocolate, KPU is always looking at additional options to further support fair trade products and achieve Fair Trade Campus designation. The University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Guelph are among the first Canadian PSIs to achieve this distinguished designation ([Cite](#)). Some key requirements for achieving Fair Trade Campus designation include the following:

- » Having a steering committee composed of active volunteers and staff
- » Selling Fairtrade certified products at all food service locations across campuses
- » Hosting events and activities to increase awareness about fair trade products

The requirements for achieving silver/gold Fair Trade Certification are even more rigorous than the key requirements listed above and can be found on the Fairtrade website ([Fair Trade Programs](#)). (See Appendix B for additional details.) Simon Fraser University has been recognized by Fairtrade Canada and the Canadian Fair Trade Network (CFTN) for the second year in a row as the first institution in Canada to attain the highest level of Fair Trade Campus designations: the Fair Trade Gold Campus status ([SFU news](#)).

Flagship Initiatives: Governance

Living Wage Employer accreditation

[Living wage employers](#) ensure that all of their direct and contracted employees receive a salary that is consistent with the living wage rate in their particular region. These employers understand that paying a living wage in accordance with the provincial and national guidance from the [Living Wage for families Campaign](#) is a strategic investment that can yield benefits for the economy in the long run. Examples of living wage employers include Newcastle University and the University of Manchester.

Okanagan Charter signatory

[The Okanagan Charter](#) is an international charter aimed at promoting health in universities and colleges. It urges post-secondary institutions to integrate health into all facets of campus culture and to take the lead in fostering health-promoting initiatives and partnerships both locally and worldwide. Signatories include the University of Toronto, McGill University, Queen's University and the University of British Columbia.

Diverse recognition programs, awards, or "idea-funds" for SDG-aligned projects

These focus on recognizing and supporting students in pursuing their ideas outside of academic coursework and research or supporting ideas and projects to help make campuses more sustainable by offering public awards, prizes, or financial support ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. For instance, [the Social Innovation Awards offered by Humber College](#) enables new, sustainable, innovative ideas for products, inventions, and/or solutions that impact at least two of the UN SDGs (a \$500 VISA gift card is provided to successful applicants).



Flagship Initiatives: Governance



Source KPU Media

Programs connecting PSI students with volunteer opportunities at community not-for-profit organizations

Students engage in community service learning through volunteering with not-for-profit organizations within the community. Volunteer students offer guidance on sustainability matters within their local community. They are part of a larger network of individuals who are particularly concerned about these issues and committed to promoting effective solutions. They serve as intermediaries between the key players in sustainable development on campuses and the wider university community. For instance, [the Humanity Giving Back program at the University of Manchester](#) offers students the opportunity to help collect food donations.

Sustainable infrastructure and construction policies

As part of institutional renovation efforts, upgrades that focus on a higher level of energy and resources efficiency are prioritized. Enhancements of buildings' efficiency are laid out in internal policies or management systems to provide a framework for monitoring, assessing, and reducing energy, water consumption, and construction-related waste. For instance, [the Harvard Office for Sustainability applies the sustainable green building standards](#) to all capital projects (new construction and major renovations) over \$100,000 and should be included in all Requests for Proposals.

Box 1. Overview of Governance
inspiring initiatives

[Investment strategy and policy at Western Sydney University, Australia:](#)

The university's investment strategy and policy reflect investment principles aimed at strengthening the university's approach to responsible investment and ensuring that environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues are integrated into the development and implementation of its investment portfolios. The university's appointed investment advisor is Mercer, a founding signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment (a United Nations-supported international network of investors committed to investment practices that take ESG issues into consideration [United Nations, n.d.]).

[Certified Climate Bonds secured by Oberlin College and Conservatory, USA:](#)

In 2021, Oberlin secured \$80 million in Certified Climate Bonds to fund its Sustainable Infrastructure Program (SIP).

[Supplier engagement tool of the University of Manchester, UK:](#)

The University of Manchester has developed a free online supplier engagement tool to help the university and its suppliers track their ESG impact. This tool has helped close to 2,000 suppliers to develop an action plan to increase their sustainability efforts.

*KPU Sustainability Framework***Physical Campus Domain**

Per KPU's sustainability framework, the physical campus domain includes (a) Building, Energy, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions; (b) Mobility; (c) Water; and (d) Ecosystem-Based Landscapes. Trends under this domain include sustainable additions and improvements to the campus and its environment, living labs, and resource efficiency measures.



Source KPU Media

- » Additions and improvements to the physical space include diverse, broad, and specific green campus initiatives (e.g., solar roofs, green roofs and walls, wildflower gardens, pollinators and bat-friendly landscapes); a plan for building, maintaining, and enhancing an arboretum (perhaps involving students); and biodiversity initiatives (e.g., growing indigenous plants, marking trees for database and educational purposes, permaculture gardens, rainbow gardens led by refugees and immigrants, biodiversity stewardship sites, etc.).
- » Physical spaces for implementing living labs can be established to provide students, faculty, and staff space and resources to explore, develop, and test sustainable innovations and solutions.
- » Resource efficiency measures cover areas related to buildings' energy efficiency (e.g., Renewable Energy Credits [RECs], real-time energy data, interactive mapping of renewable and alternative energy installations); resource efficiency (e.g., water efficiency, zero waste); and sustainable transport (e.g., public transportation access, active transportation, connecting bike paths, Mobi bike discounts, bike or car sharing).

Flagship Initiatives: Physical Campus

Rain, permaculture, and stormwater gardens

For example, at the [University of Toronto](#), a parking lot was transformed into a stormwater pond, which collects stormwater from campus and naturally filters it before it enters the Credit River. The pond also provides a habitat for wildlife such as birds (e.g., Canada geese, mallard and wood ducks, cormorants, kingfishers, great blue herons) and mammals (e.g., American mink).

Green roofs, green walls, and rooftop solar power

Walls intentionally adorned with vegetation are commonly referred to as green walls, living walls, vertical greenery systems, or vertical gardens. Green walls and roofs create more attractive views in cities and towns, particularly for individuals living in apartments or working in high-rise buildings. Integrating green spaces, both indoor and outdoor, in urban and peri-urban areas can lead to various advantages, including increased property values and improved physical and mental well-being. With the implementation of rooftop gardens or green walls that produce food, people can also enjoy access to fresh produce, promote local food security, and create opportunities for social interaction and community building (Green Communities, 2023). Solar roofs consist of photovoltaic systems with solar panels installed on the roof of buildings; this is commonly referred to as rooftop solar. This system generates electricity from sunlight. Several institutions have adopted one or a combination of these green features. For instance, [Plymouth University showcases an internal and external living green wall](#), covering 80 square meters with over 90 plants per square meter.



Flagship Initiatives: Physical Campus

Living labs

These aim to utilize the campus as a living laboratory to promote sustainable concepts, policies, and practices, and generate tangible impacts on society. “Living Labs offer real-life research opportunities for students and researchers, evidence-based recommendations for operational staff and opportunities for research impact for academics. Living Lab research projects are in their nature collaborative” (University of Edinburgh, 2023, para. 1). For instance, [the Pilikan house by Nova Scotia Community College](#) is a demonstration site aiming to showcase sustainable design and energy efficiency in construction practices.



Source KPU Media

Biodiversity landscapes and initiatives

A landscape that is abundant in biodiversity exhibits a wide variety of species and ecosystems, encompassing endangered species and beyond. The principal objective in such an environment is to preserve and protect it. While resource development activities may be conducted within these regions, the management and extraction of resources will be guided by the goal of safeguarding biodiversity and habitats (Government of Nova Scotia, 2015; e.g., pollinators and bat-friendly campus). For instance, [the Trafalgar Wildflower Garden built by Sheridan College](#) covers 7,000 square feet and is home to 25 native species of wildflowers, grasses, and perennial groundcover. The Wildflower Garden has been created to support pollinators and maintain a healthy ecosystem on campus. It aims to bring the beauty and wonder of nature to campus while fostering a sense of environmental stewardship in the community.

Box 2. Overview of Physical Campus
inspiring initiatives

[Purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates \(RECs\) by Carnegie Mellon University, USA](#)

Carnegie Mellon purchases RECs equivalent to 100% of the university's electricity requirements, and the campus monitors in real time the energy use of their solar array. It is interesting to note that RECs are the instrument that electricity consumers must use to substantiate renewable electricity use claims. (EPA, n.d.)

[Renewable energy use at Western Sydney University](#)

All energy used for campus electricity was from renewable resources accredited by GreenPower (an Australian government-managed renewable energy auditing program), as of 1st July 2021.

[Western Sydney University's climate commitments](#)

The university has committed to being Carbon Neutral by 2023 and Climate Positive by 2029.

*KPU Sustainability Framework***Academics Domain**

Per KPU's Sustainability Framework, the academics domain includes (a) Ongoing Engagement and (b) Applied Learning. Trends in academics include learning programs, community services, and professional development access for students.

- » Learning programs include SDG-aligned educational workshops (e.g., webinars, sustainability-themed films, sustainability citizen programs and tours) and summer or short-term programs, clubs, or centers dedicated to particular topics and/or demographics (e.g., physical and mental health, accessibility, youth, sexual/gender and racial minorities, women in STEM, first-generation students).
- » Community services and educational opportunities, which are geared toward refugees, immigrants, and indigenous people and can be developed and delivered in partnership with indigenous leaders and communities.
- » Professional development access for students includes internships and programs connecting students with industry opportunities that pertain to sustainability.



Flagship Initiatives: Academics



Source KPU Media

Sustainability programs, educational workshops, and events

Courses and programs (undergraduate and graduate) related to sustainability themes are very common and increasingly available within PSIs' academic offerings. But more targeted summer or short-term programs related to specific skills, trades discovery, and internships to connect students with industry opportunities are worth noting. Additionally, educational workshops/events such as webinars, eco-cinches (movies), sustainability citizen programs, sustainability tours, etc., also appeared to be very common initiatives in other PSIs. For instance, the [HELIX program offered by Seneca College](#) is an innovation and entrepreneurship incubator that provides students, graduates, faculty, and staff, along with members of the community, the opportunity to explore and develop their entrepreneurial mindset.

Sustainability Citizen Program

[The Sustainability Citizen Program from the University of Toronto](#) (U of T) provides students with official recognition for their extracurricular activities related to sustainability. The objective is to establish and provide curricular and co-curricular avenues that enable all students, regardless of their degree program, to integrate sustainability education into their U of T experience while also fostering interdisciplinary competencies.

Flagship Initiatives: Academics

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) partnerships

[WWF](#) provides self-guided certifications that allow students to build skills and experience in sustainability and conservation efforts. For instance, [York University has partnered with WWF-Canada](#) to provide opportunities, provide resources to take action for nature, and support students as they become [Living Planet Leaders](#).

Inclusive initiatives

These initiatives aim to increase awareness and participation of women and other under-represented groups in STEM education and careers, as well as targeted summer or short-term programs, clubs, or centers related to mental health, health, youth, women, indigenous students, women in STEM, first generation students, DEI, kindness/conflict resolution, accessibility, etc. For instance, [the Kindness Project at the University of British Columbia](#) aims to embed more kindness into the academic and world culture, policies, and structures.



Source KPU Media

Flagship Initiatives: Academics

Educational indigenous opportunities for indigenous and non-indigenous students/staff:

Collaborative initiatives with Indigenous communities aim to guarantee that Indigenous students receive academic, cultural, and social support, and are fully integrated into their learning environment. Meanwhile, diverse initiatives aim to expose non-indigenous students and staff members to decolonization, indigenization, indigenous studies, indigenous cultures, arts, and languages. For instance, the [Indigenous Teaching Garden at the University of the Fraser Valley](#) showcases carvings, benches, newly designed walkways, and Indigenous plants and offers a peaceful and reflective space. Likewise, the [Young Indigenous Women's Circle of Leadership at the University of Alberta](#) assists young women in their journey to discover and reclaim their ancestral language and knowledge. Similarly, the University of British Columbia's [Resurgent Indigenous Scholars for the Environment \(RISE\)](#) includes a collective of Indigenous tenure-track faculty and supportive systems that foster indigenous science and discussions on decolonization and indigenization. The collective also provides a space for designing research and teaching projects and it supports Indigenous peoples within campus and beyond.



Box 3. Overview of Academic
inspiring initiatives

[Co-Curricular Record \(CCR\) at Humber College
and University of Guelph-Humber, Ontario](#)

These institutions offer a second set of transcripts that serves as a formal record of student learning that took place outside the classroom. Experiences can include workshops, training, and volunteering, and they must fall within the four-tiered CCR Competency Framework: Meta-competencies, Competencies, Transferable Skills for Employment, and Achievement Statements.

[First Generation Students Union at the University of
British Columbia \(UBC\)](#)

The First-Generation Students Union is a club that supports students who are the first in their families to attend a PSI.

[Western's Ideas for Sustainability & the Environment
\(WISE\) Competition at Western University, Ontario](#)

The WISE Competition is an annual event where student teams can develop and pitch proposals to address environmental concerns.

*KPU Sustainability Framework***Operations Domain**

Per KPU's sustainability framework, the operations domain includes (a) Waste, (b) Food Systems, and (c) Procurement. Trends in operations include materials management, sustainable food-related programs or systems, and sustainable procurement processes and orientations.

- » Materials management includes waste management initiatives (e.g., e-waste collection, food and clothing donation drives, waste reduction events and workshops); single-use plastic reduction (e.g., reusable mugs and cutlery); and repair cafes where people can receive help and information for repairing personal household items and devices.
- » Sustainable food systems include the use of local, organic, Fairtrade certified, and sustainably sourced ingredients in campus cafeterias.
- » Sustainable procurement involves the consideration of environment and social responsibility in vendor selection and purchasing, as well as helping suppliers assess their sustainability and make improvements.



Source KPU Media

Flagship Initiatives: Operations

Waste reduction week

[Waste Reduction Week in Canada](#), a national public awareness campaign on waste reduction (hosted yearly every third week of October), has been engaging Canadians every year since 2001. (Waste Reduction Week has been extended to Circular Economy Month in 2022.) The Circular Innovation Council launched Canada's inaugural public awareness month focused on creating a circular economy, called Circular Economy Month, on October 1st, 2022. The aim is to educate and encourage Canadians to participate in the circular economy.

Disposable and single-use plastic reduction initiatives

The goal is to establish and encourage the use of reusable options in lieu of disposable products, especially single-use plastics. To achieve this, efforts are being made to develop infrastructure that supports reusable alternatives. (E.g., plans to expand water bottle refill stations, provide reusable cutlery and dinnerware, or implement a 25-cent fee for disposable cups are supportive of this objective.) For instance, [at Simon Fraser University, the Re-Use for Good program](#) promotes reusable alternatives to single-use plastics and disposable products while building infrastructure for reusable alternatives. In 2021, the university phased out single-use plastic beverage bottles in vending and dining areas and expanded water bottle refill stations access (168 stations across three campuses).



Flagship Initiatives: Operations

Repair cafés

At repair cafés, everyone is welcome to receive assistance in repairing their broken household items and, most significantly, gain knowledge from skilled volunteer "fixers" on how to fix items themselves. "Started in Amsterdam in 2009, [Repair Café](#) is a global initiative that aims to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills, and to change society's "throw-away" mindset" (Sheridan College, n.d., "What is a repair café" section.). One example is [Sheridan's College Repair Café](#), which offers repair café events on campus, online, or in partnerships with local organizations.

Collection and donation initiatives

The objective is to promote a culture of waste reduction, reuse, and sharing on campus and beyond by prolonging the lifespan of goods (i.e., food, clothing, small items, etc.). For instance, [Carleton University uses Foodrescue.ca](#) to streamline its weekly food donation. "Canada's largest food rescue organization, [Second Harvest](#) online platform known as FoodRescue is a tool that connects businesses with excess unsold food to local social service organisations who will put it to great use!" (Carleton University, n.d., "Food donation - made easy" section).

Waste sorting guide/portal/game

Students can make use of educational tools to explore recycling and disposal options for various items on campus. Additionally, students can engage in waste sorting games, which are designed to help them rethink their waste. For instance, the [University of Manitoba provides an interactive online Waste Sorting Game](#) to help students understand recycling options and search for appropriate disposal options on campus.

Flagship Initiatives: Operations

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified seafood

The MSC label is spearheaded by the [Marine Stewardship Council](#). “The blue MSC label is only applied to wild fish or seafood from fisheries that have been certified to the MSC Fisheries Standard, a set of requirements for sustainable fishing. Fish and seafood with the blue label comes from a fishery that has been independently assessed on its impacts to wild fish populations and the ecosystems they're part of” (Marine Stewardship Council, 2023, para. 1).

Source Pexels.com



Box 4. Overview of Operations
inspiring initiatives

[Green Restaurant Association \(GRA\)-certified restaurant at Carleton University, Ontario](#)

Carleton is the second Canadian university to have a restaurant certified by the GRA. This certification provides technical guidance to dining establishments that want to assess and advance the sustainability of their operations by creating standards that provide multiple routes for minimizing a restaurant's impact on the environment.

[Soupbar at Humber College](#)

Soupbar at Humber College combines food recycling and inexpensive student nutrition by taking donations from local restaurants and businesses to make nutritious soups, which are available to students on a pay-what-you-can basis.

[Université de Sherbrooke's UI GreenMetric World University Ranking \(WUR\)](#)

Universitas Indonesia's UI GreenMetric WUR evaluates institutions based on green campus initiatives and environmental sustainability. UdeS is the highest-scoring Canadian institution in the 2020 WUR, ranking 14th among the 912 universities from 84 countries listed and 3rd in North America. These results highlight the University exemplary and holistic commitments to incorporating sustainable development principles into its teaching, research, community service, and management activities (Sherbrooke University, 2020).

Table D: Summary of Trends for Each KPU Sustainability Framework Domain

GOVERNANCE	PHYSICAL CAMPUS	ACADEMIC	OPERATIONS
Public commitments	Additions & improvements to the physical space	Learning programs	Materials management
Programs	Physical spaces for implementing living labs	Community services & educational opportunities	Sustainable food systems
Events	Resource efficiency measures	Professional development access for students	Sustainable procurement
Policies & procedures			

Source KPU Media



Findings and Alignment

Public Engagements, Ranking Systems, Declarations, Certifications, and Designations

The environmental scan also revealed relevant sustainability engagements, rankings, declarations, certifications, and designations. While such initiatives generally fall under the governance domain, there are enough examples and data about them to merit discussion in a separate section. Here we provide a shortlist of engagements, certifications, and so forth that KPU can pursue to further its sustainability agenda, align itself with existing sustainability frameworks, and proudly display its commitment to the SDGs.

Highlighted in Table E are the initiatives that (a) are considered to be most closely aligned with KPU existing initiatives, (b) would require the least amount of resources (low-hanging fruit), and (c) are commonly adopted among other PSIs. (Please refer to Appendix C for the full list of public engagements, ranking systems, declarations, certifications, and designations assessed as part of this scan.)



Table E: Shortlist of Engagements, Rankings, Declarations, Certifications, and Designations (When marked with an 'X' the initiative is considered either a 'quick win' or a commonly adopted initiative or both).

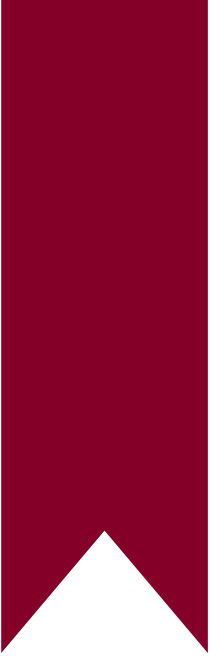
TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS	QUICK WINS	COMMONLY ADOPTED
AWARD	Canada's Greenest Employer	Organized by the Canada's Top 100 Employers project, this award recognizes the employers that focus on environmental awareness in their organizations and have developed exceptional sustainability initiatives (cite)	KPU was awarded this recognition in 2018 and could leverage its previous experience and learning for future recognition.	X	
	CERTIFICATION	Living Wage Employer	Living Wage Employers are responsible employers who pay a living wage to their employees and therefore contribute to long-term prosperity of the economy by fostering a dedicated, skilled and healthy workforce. A living wage is the hourly amount a worker needs to earn to cover their family's basic expenses within their community. It is recalculated on an annual basis to ensure that it accurately reflects changing living expenses.	Steps include: completing an implementation plan and annual recertification; Some examples of living wage employers in the Vancouver region include: British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), Capilano Students' Union, 500\$ for 1,000+ employees.	
WWF - Living Planet Leader		A self-guided certification by which students can find opportunities on campus and in the community to promote sustainability. It will enhance your resume and recognize your campus sustainability achievements.	It seems like an easy process - additional research needed.	X	X

TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS	QUICK WINS	COMMONLY ADOPTED
DESIGNATION	Fair Trade campus	Fairtrade Canada, member of Fairtrade International, is a national, non-profit organization and independent certifier that supports fair terms of trade for small-scale farmers and workers who are disadvantaged by unfair global trade (Fairtrade Canada, 2023).	Yearly renewal required, we would need to investigate fees and process further.		X
DECLARATION	Declaration Globally Engaged Universities	A commitment to educate students about global issues and to discover, produce, and share new solutions to the world's most pressing problems (cite).	3 signatories in Canada (UBC, Western and Dalhousie University) <i>*only 3 Canadian signatories but popular worldwide</i>	X	X
	Climate Emergency	By declaring a climate emergency, an institution/government body admits that it is a state of climate emergency in that particular region and measures need to be taken to address climate change.	Can be an internal declaration such as UBC's .	X	X

TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS	QUICK WINS	COMMONLY ADOPTED
EVENT	SDG Week	Modelled after the United Nations' Global Goals Week, SDG Week Canada provides an opportunity to accelerate action on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across PSIs. Throughout the week of March 6-10, several institutions promote events to advance SDGs.	Yearly event in March. KPU successfully implemented its first edition in 2023 (more details available in the dedicated section on SDG Week in this report).		X
	Waste Reduction Week	Launched in 2001, the Waste Reduction Week in Canada is celebrated across institutions every year in the third week of October. This campaign has seven themes: weekdays engage participants on key waste management issues and material streams: textiles, e-waste, plastics, and food waste; weekend encourages participants to extend the life of these products/materials through the sharing economy, swapping, and repairing (cite).	Yearly event (3rd week of October).	X	X
PUBLIC COMMITMENT	University Climate Change Coalition (UC3)	A coalition of distinguished universities from the United States, Canada, and Mexico committed to mobilizing resources and expertise to accelerate local and regional climate action in partnership with businesses, cities and states, foundations, and other organizations (cite)	Specific eligibility requirements, 5000\$ USD annual fees		X

TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS	QUICK WINS	COMMONLY ADOPTED
RANKING	STARS: The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System	Sustainability measurement and reporting framework for colleges and universities (AASHE, n.d.)	We would need to investigate the resources needed in more details: reporting sustainability initiatives and resources on the reporting tool online (manual) An institution's score is based on the percentage of points it earns by pursuing relevant credits across Academics (AC), Engagement (EN), Operations (OP), and Planning & Administration (PA). Since beginning this report, the Office of Sustainability at KPU has begun the process for STARS and intends to submit for the first time in early 2024.		X
	UI GreenMetric World University Ranking (WUR)	WUR is a ranking on green campus and environmental sustainability through 39 indicators in 6 criteria, it ranks PSIs based on their environmental commitment and initiatives (cite).	Registration and submission of data needed - free of charge but would require resources for the data collection process and review.		X

TYPE	NAME	DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS	QUICK WINS	COMMONLY ADOPTED
SIGNATORY	Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network)	<p>The charter supports gender equality within PSIs. It was established in 2005 to advance employment of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) (cite).</p> <p><i>*adopted by a few institutions—relatively new in Canada)</i></p>	Dimensions Charter in Canada: to foster increased research excellence, innovation and creativity within the post-secondary sector across all disciplines, through greater equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) The underlying principles of this Charter are already endorsed at KPU.		X
	Bee city/ Bee campus	Recognizes PSIs that take measures to advance pollinator habits on campus and increase biodiversity (cite).	Free for the first year - renewal up to a maximum of 1500\$ / year. We would need to investigate if there are preferential fees for universities - the first step involves sending a submission for approval.	X	
	Okanagan charter	A new international charter, an outcome of the 2015 International Conference on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges / VII International Congress, calls upon universities and colleges to promote healthier campuses and healthier communities.	Free.	X	X
	University Global Coalition	A global network of PSIs in partnership with the United Nations (through UNITAR), SDSN, and other relevant organizations, to advance the Sustainable Development Goals both locally and globally through our education, research, and service missions (cite)	The process appears to be free and involve a light workload.	X	X



Key Learnings and Implications for KPU

The findings of the environmental scan were examined through the lens of existing literature on the role of PSIs in sustainable development. This resulted in the following key learnings that can inform how KPU further incorporates the SDGs moving forward. The overlaps among these key learnings speak to the interconnectedness of sustainability efforts and actors.

Promote a focus beyond environmental sustainability

Sustainability is often thought to equate to environmentalism. While the environment is one pillar of sustainability, it is equally important to focus on a more holistic approach to sustainability that encompasses social, governance, economic, reconciliation, and other related factors that strongly influence and support sustainability, any sustainability plan must likewise consider all of them in a holistic manner. Such an approach should be evident not only in the university's plans and actions but also in the language used to enact and promote these plans. For instance, KPU's Sustainability and Energy webpage refers only to recycling, energy efficiency, and carbon neutrality, and the sustainability report posted here was prepared by the Environmental Sustainability Committee. By adding the social and governance pillars to its sustainability focus and adopting language that incorporates these aspects, KPU can make strides toward a more holistic sustainability approach as well as play a role in shifting perception toward a more holistic view of sustainability.

Key Learnings and Implications



Create healthy physical spaces that showcase and embody sustainability

Sustainable physical spaces (e.g., energy and resource efficient, harmonious with nature, biodiverse, accessible, etc.) are one of the most basic ways that organizations can be more sustainable, with high impact potential in the form of a smaller carbon footprint and higher cost savings. In addition, there are broader benefits to having a green campus; it allows PSIs to showcase features of sustainable spaces, contributes to sustainability literacy by demonstrating what sustainability looks like in a real-life physical setting, and inspires the school community (and beyond) to think about and work toward sustainability.

Incentivize transferable skills and student-led solutions for sustainability

The environmental scan revealed numerous student-led sustainability initiatives across the surveyed institutions. Many come in the form of informal co-curricular or extracurricular activities that orient the students' experiences toward sustainability and the SDGs, such as student clubs, volunteering opportunities, internships or work experiences, competitions, awards, and funding for promising ideas. A glimpse of what this could look like at KPU was seen during the March 2023 celebration of SDG Week Canada, with student-led SDG literacy activities occurring throughout the week across all campuses.

Key Learnings and Implications

PSIs are uniquely positioned to leverage living labs

A living lab is a research ecosystem where ideas and innovation can be explored in a real-life environment (European Network of Living Labs, n.d.). In the context of sustainability, living labs can be used to encourage and explore sustainable lifestyles; to document and analyze the benefits, challenges, and barriers of sustainable practices; and to foster collaboration across departments and different stakeholder groups. PSIs are particularly suited to host living labs not only by virtue of being learning institutions but also because they are communities in themselves, with physical space, a population coming from different backgrounds, a governance structure, facilities, and so forth (Kohl et al., 2022). Colleges and universities recognize this, as shown by the trend of living labs discovered in the environmental scan. KPU's own vision includes living labs for applied learning toward sustainability, as indicated in its 2050 sustainability framework (KPU, n.d.).

For a living lab to have an impact, it must (a) be supported by senior management who make the SDGs a priority in the PSI's strategy and (b) engage multiple stakeholders toward a common purpose. The learnings and developments from a living lab benefit not only its participants and host institution but the world beyond as well. Sustainable visions can be extended to the wider community, and successful initiatives and efforts can serve as an inspiration and model for other institutions (Purcell et al., 2019).



Source KPU Media

Key Learnings and Implications



Source KPU Media

PSIs have a role to play beyond teaching, training, and research

Teaching, training, and research can contribute to advancing the SDGs by catalyzing transformative change. This requires that sustainability be incorporated systematically and thoroughly into all aspects of academics through curricula, pedagogy, and alignment with graduate outcomes (Holmes et al., 2022). Beyond this, the SDGs can also be transmitted in a more holistic way through the overall student experience (e.g., co-curricular activities), alignment of graduate outcomes with SDGs (e.g., global citizenship), institutional leadership and capacity building to establish an institution-wide slant toward sustainability, and cross-institutional alliances to enable learning transfer and shared frameworks for sustainability actions (Holmes et al., 2022).

These approaches demonstrate that the role of PSIs in advancing sustainability goes beyond formal academic approaches; the SDGs must become part of the institutional agenda. Such a whole-institution approach involves all stakeholders in co-creating and achieving the sustainability vision; requires ample institutional support (technical and financial); and reinforces inter-institutional communication, collaboration, and networks (UNESCO, 2014c, as cited in Kohl et al., 2022). This paves the way for PSIs to go beyond simply implementing the SDGs to become models of sustainability and participants in policy making (Kohl et al., 2022).

Key Learnings and Implications

Model sustainability leadership for transformation and capacity-building

A holistic perspective and actions are a recurring theme in sustainability, as displayed in the previously discussed whole-institution approach. This kind of integrated, comprehensive strategy requires a transformative organizational culture supported by sustainability leadership. Strong top leadership is key, as they have the power to set a mandate and enable the prioritizing and embodying of sustainability (UNESCO, 2012, as cited in Kohl et al., 2022); are in a position to embed sustainability in every aspect of the organization (i.e., purpose, policies, guidelines, operations, programmes, campus, governance, resourcing and incentives, structural changes, etc.); and serve as visionaries who inspire and spur the community to action (Kohl et al., 2022). Leaders at all levels throughout all departments are also important, as they can provide senior leadership with cutting-edge advice on sustainability (living labs potential, funding, research, etc.) and ensure that the sustainability orientation trickles down and permeates every single corner and aspect of the institution.

Source KPU Media



Key Learnings and Implications

Create meaningful partnerships for impacts

Collaboration features prominently across the key learnings, just as it occupies a central role in the SDGs. For PSIs, partnerships and participation in cross-institutional networks and initiatives toward sustainability is strongly encouraged, particularly through SDG 17—Partnerships for the Goals (Holmes et al., 2022). It can include those within the school community (inter-institutional communication, collaboration, and networks); with the local community; and at the national, regional, and global levels (e.g., Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development [RCE], Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education [AASHE]).

A key concept in collaboration toward sustainability is that of co-creation: an approach to knowledge production that considers all users as experts in their own right, with useful and important contributions. To broaden the impact of its actions, a PSI must shift from being a producer of knowledge to being a co-creator, so that the learning and solutions that emerge are more complete, informed by diverse points of view, experiences, and insights (Agusdinata, 2022). Such an approach would help PSIs position themselves as policymaking informants and reinforce the collaboration between academia, government and not for profit organizations.

PSIs do not readily see governments as beneficiaries of their expertise, while government lacks awareness of the breadth and depth of knowledge developments in academia. (Kohl et al., 2022). Institutionalized collaboration would allow the expertise of academia to manifest in more effective, appropriate, well-informed policy (El-Jardali et al., 2018). This would also pave the way for effective, efficient implementation of solutions involving other stakeholder groups, for instance, PSIs creating solutions, the private sector providing funding and professional development opportunities, NGOs administering programs, and government crafting enabling policies (Agusdinata, 2022).



Key Learnings and Implications



Source KPU Media

Communicate clearly and disseminate actively

Progress toward sustainability necessitates effective and active communication. A holistic pursuit of the SDGs requires that sustainability permeate every aspect of the organization, including communications—that is, communications functions should be undertaken in a sustainable manner and produce material that is accessible and uses bias-free language. At the same time, communications has the role of providing and disseminating information about all sustainability initiatives across the institution, through channels such as websites, newsletters, reports, and events.

Again, an integrated approach is important: A scattered approach where different departments each communicate to the public without coordinating with each other is not ideal and is contrary to the character of sustainability. It is important to emphasize that internal communications are just as important as external communications.

Communication and cooperation among departments makes it possible to discover overlaps and opportunities for synergy and results in a unified, complementary external communications effort.

It is important to note that this environmental scan was made possible only because other PSIs publicly disclosed their initiatives. Therefore, KPU should do the same. This is one way to be a good global citizen, embody the spirit of collaboration and transparency, contribute to and further encourage knowledge sharing, and discover potential partnerships.

Other suggestions for KPU include establishing a cross-functional team for the SDGs, publishing a sustainability newsletter (e.g., University of the Fraser Valley), and using Today@KPU as a means of disseminating SDG-related information.

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Source KPU Media

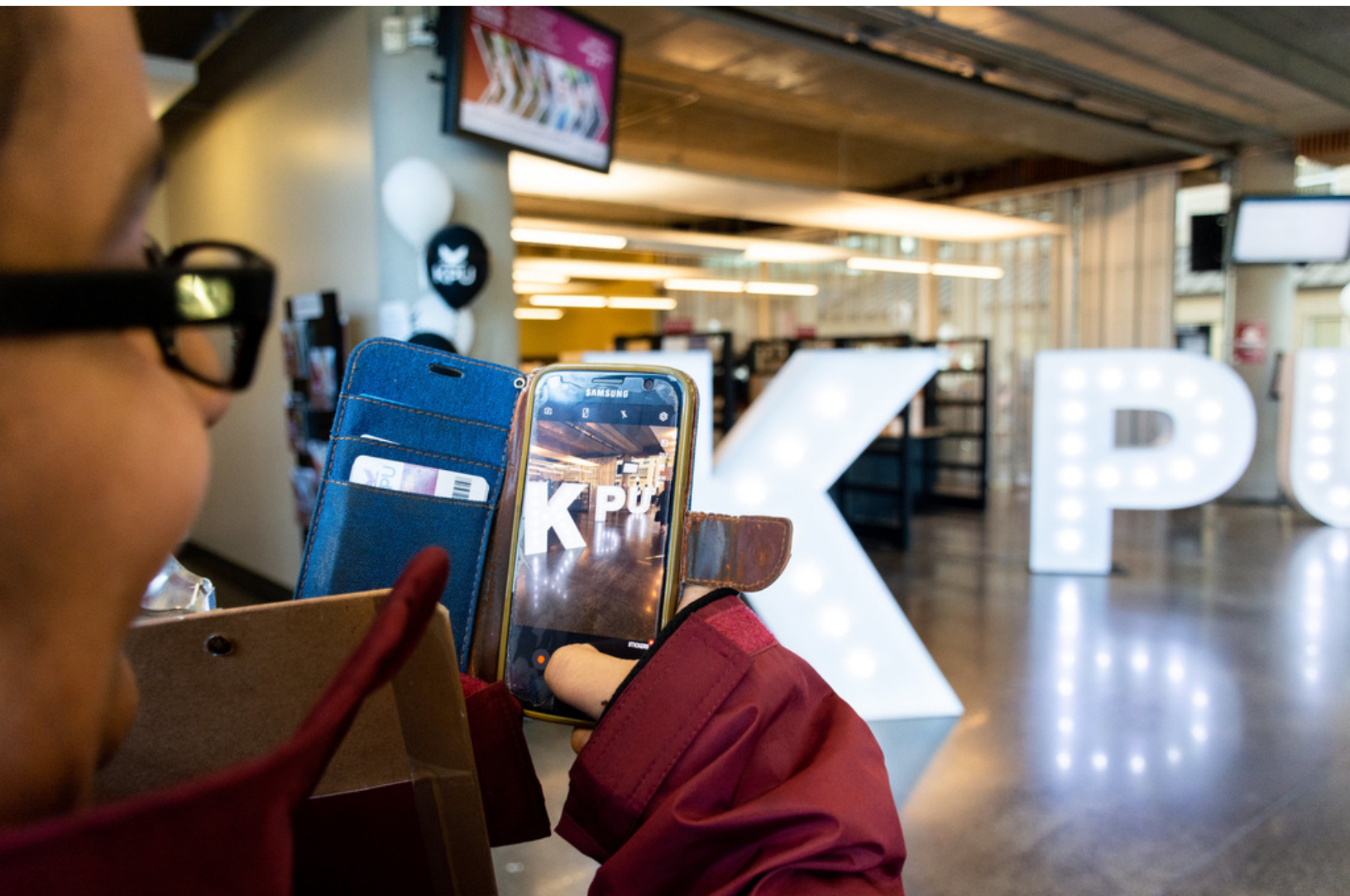


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Source KPU Media



Appendix A: Full List of Initiatives

Canadian colleges

Fleming College

Green Campus
Green Culture

Nova Scotia Community College

Pilikan House
Pack it In - Pack it Out campaign

Seneca College

recycling on campus
Green Citizen Symposium
Pack it In - Pack it Out campaign
Seneca Serves
HELIX
WWF partnerships
STARS

Humber College

Indigenous Education & Engagement
Workshops
IGNITE Soupbar
Okanagan Charter:
'New to Canada'
Youth Transition Program
Pathways to the Trades
Youth Enrichment
'Citizen Science' Project: iNaturalist at the
Humber Arboretum/Humber Arboretum's
iNaturalist Student Challenge
eBird at the Humber Arboretum
Co-Curricular Record
The Sustainability Faculty
Champions/Going Paperless Resource
Social Innovation Awards
Community Partnership Fund
Learning by Leading Program

Selkirk College

Fair Trade Campus Designation
Youth Train in Trades (YTT)
Okanagan Charter

Sheridan College

Mission Zero Freeuse Pop Up Shop
Sheridan Bike Hub
Trafalgar Wildflower Garden
Sheridan Repair Café

Mohawk College

Local Food Framework for Ontario Colleges
Sustainability Initiatives Fund (SIF) Idea Bank.

Canadore College

Fill It Forward

George Brown College

Sustainable Transportation
Bring Your Own Mug

Centennial College

Programs for Impact Entrepreneurship:
SDG Innovation Lab – Sustainability
Innovation Institute
Incubation Experience

Canadian universities

Simon Fraser University

'We are Community': CERi Partners with the BC Poverty Reduction
 Food Rescue
 Citizen Science Approach to Food Asset Mapping
 RADIUS Health Promotion Lab
 RADIUS Refugee Livelihood Lab
 Various Advocacy Resources
 TD Community Engagement Centre
 SOUL Mentorship Program
 Scarborough Charter
 Clean Energy Canada
 Fair Trade Campus designation (Gold)
 Indigenous Art Walk
 Mobi Bike discount
 BYO app (student project)
 Re-use for Good
 mask recycling program
 Science Technical Center Tech repair/recycle

University of British Columbia

Women in Engineering, Science and Technology (WEST)
 UBC Food Security Initiative
 Okanagan Charter
 Zero Waste Food Ware Strategy
 Zero Waste Squad
 A-Z Recyclepedia
 Mobi Bike discount
 SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies) Sustainability Program
 Resurgent Indigenous Scholars for the Environment (RISE)
 Campus Biodiversity Initiative: Research and Demonstration (CBIRD)
 Two-day National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism
 IBPOC STEM Network
 First Generations Students Union
 The Kindness Project
 Youth Climate Ambassadors Project
 University Climate Change Coalition (UC3)

Queen's University

Queen's National Scholar (QNS) program
 Academics 101 Course
 Indigenous Healthcare Resource
 It Takes All of Us
 Providing Equal Access, Changing Hunger Market (PEACH)
 Online EDI student events calendar
 Relevant spaces on/near campus interactive map
 Scarborough Charter

Vancouver Island University

Give a Meal
 VI Solutions
 Good Food Box Program
 Recreation Prescription Project
 VIU Nanaimo campus map
 Trade Discovery Programs
 Trades Foundation Program

University of the Fraser Valley

Sustainable Event Certification
 Social Services Worker diploma – Indigenous Focus
 Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) – Indigenous Focus
 Halq'éméylem lunch hours
 Hyflex course format
 Centre for Accessibility Services – Transition Program
 Centre for Accessibility Services (CAS) – video support
 Friends Without Borders
 Food for All
 Food Asset Mapping
 Age-Friendly University (AFU) Status
 Student Experiences Fund (SEF)
 UFV WEST
 Vitacore Mask Recycling Boxes
 Drawdown Ecochallenge
 Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC)
 Indigenous Teaching Garden
 CityStudio

Trent University

Understanding Homelessness in Canada: From the Street to the Classroom

University of Alberta

The Idea Fund
 The Green Fund
 Dish Zero
 LeanPath technology
 Heroes for Health Grant
 U School
 Humanities Program
 The Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program
 Women in Science and Engineering (UA-WiSE)
 Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science, & Technology (WISEST)
 Young Indigenous Women's Circle of Leadership
 Green Spaces
 Interactive Project Map
 eHUB
 The Shack
 Elko Engineering Garage
 Canada Confesses
 Transition Year Program (TYP)
 Sustainable Swag Purchasing Guide

University of Calgary

Reusable Mug
 Fair Labour Affiliate
 WELab
 U-Connect

University of Toronto

Creating student sustainability employment opportunities
 Social media and campus engagement
 Sustainability Citizen Program
 OnTap: Bottled Water Free Campus
 Waste Reduction Week
 Tree tour to spruce up campus trail
 Free, donated items in store for community
 Stormwater Management

University of Waterloo

Eco-Container
 2-sided printing
 Wetlands
 Fleet Electrification Incentive
 MSC Certified Seafood

Western University

Western Community Garden
 WISE Case Competition
 Bee City Campus
 Sustainability Guide for the Western Community
 United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

York University

Sustainability Innovation Fund
 The Living Planet Leader Certification
 TD Community Engagement Centre
 Earth Week: Plastic Pick-up Social Media Challenge
 Red and White Day - Fair Trade Week event
 Bookstore – Fair Trade and Organic Items
 C4 Classroom

University of Manitoba

UMSU Gardens
 UM Permaculture Garden
 Rainbow Gardens
 Fair Trade
 UM Sort
 Waste Reduction Week
 ReShop

Université Laval

Greenhouse gas offset program
 Terrace My balance
 Woodland cleanup
 ECO-CINOCHEs

Université de Montréal

Student educators program
 Zero-Waste Workshops
 The Xignux-UDEM initiative

Lakehead University

Braun Building Rain Garden
Sustainability Tours
36 Climate Actions campaign
Webinars

Carleton University

Bird Collision Reporting
CUrb (Carleton University Reuse Base)
Certified Green Restaurant
Fair Trade
Buy Local Food
Carleton Waste Wizard
Lug-A-Mug Program
ValidFill: Stay hydrated without the waste!
Food Donation - Made Easy

Université de Sherbrooke

UI GreenMetric World University Ranking
Fair Trade campus Designation
Bee City campus
Sustainable Campus designation
Platinum STARS ranking
Climate Emergency Signatory in 2019
Local public transportation partnership
Bike share program
Sustainable Procurement Policy & Strategy
Sustainable Investment Strategy & Pilot project to evaluate the carbon footprint of the University investment portfolio
Organizational health indicator
Collective gardens & local food on the menu

American colleges and universities

Oberlin College

Sustainable Infrastructure Program (SIP)
Office of Sustainability - project sponsorship
GREEN Edge Fund
Resource Conservation Team,
Arboretum Plan
Community Engagement and Community-based learning & immersion programs

Harvard University

The Harvard Green Campus Initiative (GCI)
The Harvard Office for Sustainability (OFS)

Carnegie Mellon University

Renewable Electricity Credits (RECs)
Students Engagement Programs
STARS Gold Rated
Sustainable Food Systems
Diverse medical and mental health resources available on campus or virtually
Signatory of the University Global Coalition and partner of the the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

International universities

University of Plymouth

Sustainable procurement practices
Develop a 'net positive' framework
The campus waste depot
Maintaining green space on campus
Car Share group

University of St. Gallen

Innovative sustainability-related course offerings
15 student organisations and initiatives
Campus Credits
Reusable Tableware & Lifestyle Menu
Several initiatives including alumni

University of Graz

Fair and Ethical Procurement
Social Engagement Initiatives

ETH Zurich

Sustainable Agroecosystems Group
ETH Week

Western Sydney University

- 100% Electricity from renewable energy
- RCE member and instigator
- Transdisciplinary 21C sustainability minors
- Solar on-campus and solar living lab
- Water Recycling Scheme
- Biodiversity Stewardship Site
- Carbon Neutral by 2023 and Climate Positive by 2029
- Sustainable Investment Strategy
- The Hawkesbury Farm & The Yield Internet of Things (IoT) application
- Urban innovation and entrepreneurship competition

Newcastle University

- Wellbeing support for staff and students
- Graduate Ambassadors
- Athena SWAN Silver
- NU Women
- Rainbow Network
- Women in Sustainability Hub
- Drinking water provision
- Environmental Management System
- Sustainable Construction Specification policy
- Living Wage Employer
- Biofuel combined heat and power unit
- Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Climate Action Plan and Climate emergency declaration
- Social Justice Advisory Group

University of Manchester

- Big Change Society
- Plants for the Future
- Student Action-run Incredible Edible
- Humanity Giving Back & Give it don't bin it
- Parental leave & Shared parental leave (SPL)
- Dragonfly Day
- Reclaim the Night
- Signatory of the Athena Swan Charter
- Equal pay and progression
- Once a Month action group
- Manchester Energy and Environment Society
- SmartWorks
- Accredited Living Wage Employer
- Certified Fairtrade university
- Social Justice Challenge & Sustainability challenge
- Biko Bikes
- Supplier Engagement Tool
- Sustainable Food procurement
- Assessment of climate risks
- 10,000 Actions & Go Green Week
- Eliminating avoidable single-use plastic
- Soil Patrol & Tree Musketeers
- Tree policy
- Policy for Socially Responsible Investment

University of Auckland

- Native Harvest
- Vision Bus Aotearoa
- Te Papa Manaaki | Campus Care
- UniBound academic enrichment programme
- Start-up Interns programme
- BeneFit Programme
- Rainbow Support Worker
- Gus Fisher Gallery Indigenous exhibition
- Velocity Innovation Challenge

[Appendix B: Fair Trade Designation Requirements](#)[Appendix C: Full List of Commitments, Designations, & Certifications](#)