

JULY 1, 2017 – DECEMBER 31, 2018

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Dawson Board of Governors  
declares Dawson College

## Carbon Neutral Forever!



## FOREWORD

The Sustainability Office has worked intensively with the Facilities team, our Quality Assurance & Planning Office and with the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to implement a Sustainability Plan that addresses a bold goal from the 2016-2021 Dawson College Strategic Plan:

**To be a leading post-secondary institution in promoting sustainability in all its endeavours.**

This report outlines the College's accomplishments during the first 18 months of implementing this new sustainability plan and we are well on our way. In 2018, Dawson was awarded the CEGEP Vert's Level of Excellence and in 2020 we will submit documents for audit and expect to receive a Silver or Gold level rating. This will be a significant achievement. We are in the process of tracking, assessing and rating hundreds of criteria within major categories of Academics, Engagement, Operations and Administration & Planning. The commitment of staff in all sectors is changing the way we operate, purchase material and services, and teach about sustainability principles.

Change pulls us all away from the norm and can place us in uncomfortable places. Change can also meet barriers in the form of lack of finances, human resources, knowledge or certain internal operational cultures. Within Dawson however, we have something special. We have a collective will and spirit that supports positive change and ultimately that is the fuel that will dissolve barriers and drive us to a place that we seek - a place that aligns with Dawson's core value of well-being for all, sustainably.

Regards,

*Sustainability Office Team*

*Chris Adam  
Cindy Elliott  
Jenn de Vera*



*Dawson's Co-Lab, with its stunning two-story living wall, is a place designed to host and stimulate creative minds.*

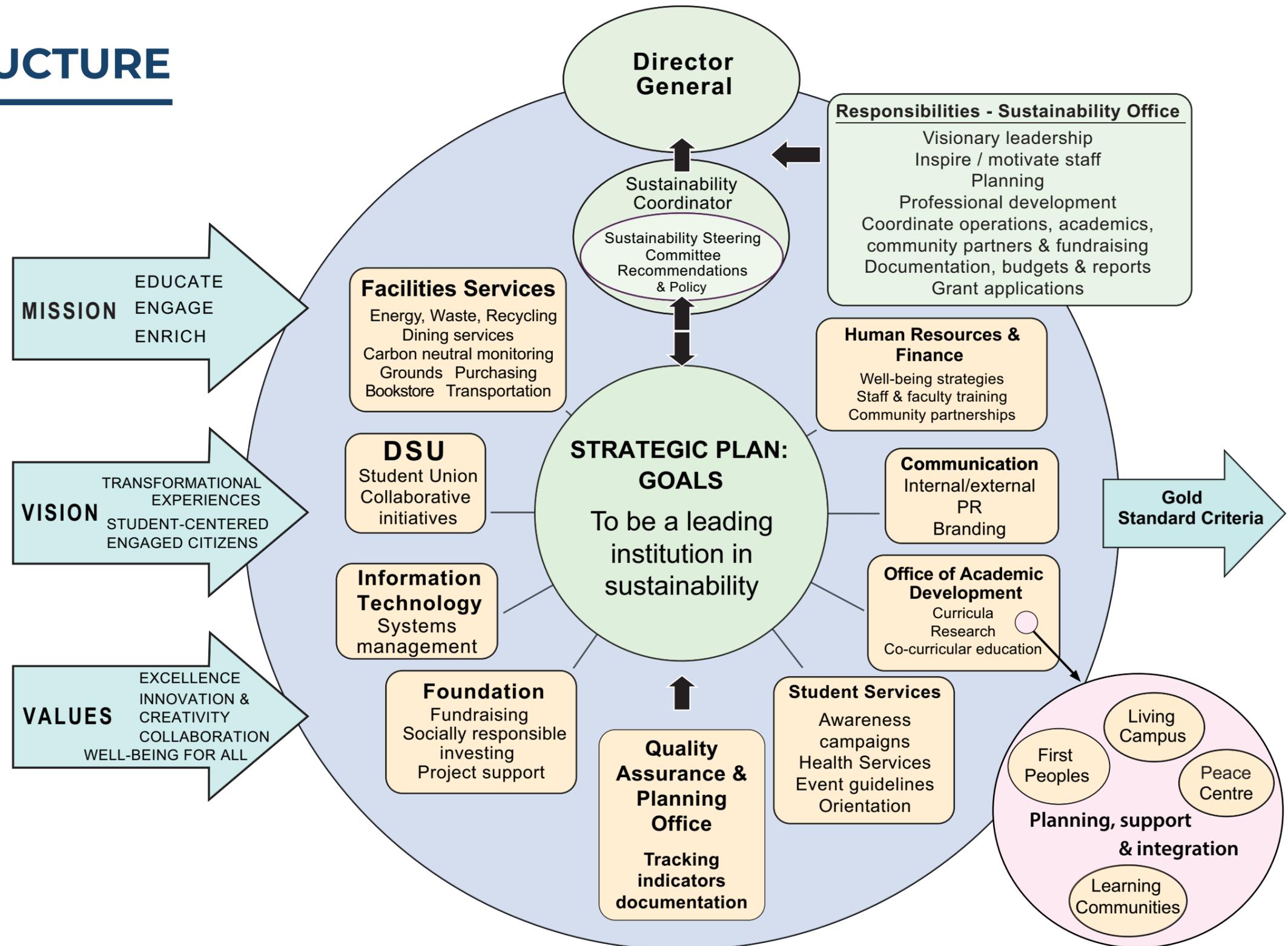
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# Sustainable Dawson

## GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Under the leadership of the Sustainability Office, Sustainable Dawson is comprised of the Sustainability Office team, the Sustainable Dawson Steering Committee, the Quality Assurance & Planning Office, Facilities sustainability representatives, and a support team of students and staff collecting data from all sectors of the College.





Living Campus is a platform that:

- Promotes the use of high-impact educational learning practices and enables teaching, learning and research to take place anywhere on our campus
- Provides opportunities for experiential, global and community-based learning, collaboration, research and connection with Nature

The Living Campus is where high-impact educational practices, the graduate profile outcomes and sustainability meet to promote well-being for all.

### Examples of High-Impact Practices

- Learning communities
  - Collaborative assignments and projects
  - Research
  - Diversity/global learning
  - Community-based learning
- (Kuh, 2018)

### Graduate Profile Outcomes

- Social responsibility and community engagement
- Health and well-being
- Ethical understanding and behaviour
- Teamwork and leadership skills
- Communication
- Critical thinking, problem-solving skills and creativity
- Learning to learn
- Mastery of program competencies
- Quantitative literacy

### Sustainability

- Human physical and mental well-being
- Ecological health
- Social justice
- Secure livelihoods
- Connection to Nature and its positive effect on human well-being
- Sustainable Happiness

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



*Students pause during their “Nature Revisited” paired class, a Phys. Ed. Nature Retreat & English Literary Themes: Into the Wild. Eighteen courses were offered by the Learning Communities project in the fall of 2018.*

# ACADEMICS

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

## Success Indicators

10% of all research is sustainability-related.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: 33% of College research is sustainability related as defined by AASHE

A minimum of two sustainability-focused or related immersive experiences for students are delivered.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: Sustainable Campuses (Mexico); Biology class (Costa Rica)

The disciplines of French, English, Humanities and Physical Education all offer at least one sustainability-focused or related course.

☑ **Accomplished**

Funding for development of sustainability-focused or related courses and/or projects has been secured.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: Sustainability Office allocates 20% of budget to project/course development; Human Resources funding Sustainable Happiness Facilitator Training

An increase in the use of the College campus for teaching and learning.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: Use of grounds by teachers: 84% increase – 38 (2017) ; 60 (2018).  
Use of grounds by students: 55% increase – 1238 (2017); 1917 (2018)

90% of all departments offer at least one sustainability-focused or related course.

☑ **In progress** Metric: 43% of departments

20% of all courses at Dawson are sustainability-focused or related.

☑ **In progress** Metric: 16% - after reviewing 4 semesters of classes

A Dawson College, open-access platform for information about sustainability-related research, has been established.

☑ **In progress** Metric: Feasibility being reviewed

An increase in student and staff sustainability literacy.

**To Be Reviewed**

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

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



*Centre for Training & Development hosts first cohort of Sustainable Happiness Facilitator Training*

# ENGAGEMENT

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

## Success Indicators

An increase in social media interaction to promote awareness of sustainability initiatives.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: weekly Facebook, Instagram, Dawson screens and web content posted since Jan. 2018

An increase in the number of visits to the Dawson sustainability website.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: A 226% increase in web site views in 2018 (benchmark 2016)

Increase in the number of employees who have obtained a Sustainable Happiness Certificate.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: 2017 - 5 employees ; 2018 – 16 employees

Orientation activities for new students and new staff include a sustainability component.

☑ **In progress** Metric: Video and web material ready for April 2019

Increase in the number of sustainability-related outreach initiatives and campaigns for students

☑ **In progress** Metric: 108 activities in 2018 (2018 is benchmark year)

An increase in student and staff participation in sustainability-related events.

**To Be Reviewed**

Awareness of sustainability initiatives has increased among staff and students.

**To Be Reviewed**

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

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



*Volunteer students hang chrysalises in rooftop monarch butterfly nursery. Dawson designated a monarch oasis by City of Montreal*

# OPERATIONS

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

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

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

## Success Indicators

60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Scope 1: Natural Gas + Refrigerants = 70% (benchmark 1990)  
Scope 2: Natural Gas + Refrigerants + Electricity = 51% (benchmark 2010)  
Scope 3: Natural Gas + Refrigerants + Electricity + Waste + Travel = 36% (benchmark 2010)

Reduction in pollutants originating from outdoor equipment.

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Upgraded chillers, protocol followed for refrigerants (recapture)

Landscaping and pest management plan developed for College grounds and biodiversity zones.

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Pending final approval from management

Reduction in amount of paper used at the College.

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Admissions reduced 3.4 million pages 2017, Communications 150,000 fewer brochures 2018, 11,002,232 sheets (benchmark 2007-08); 25% reduction in 2017-18

Increase in student and staff involvement in operations that improve the campus' sustainability efforts

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Facilities Management sustainability tours (infrastructure); 8 facilities workshops for 90 students and presentations for 100 staff; outreach presentations climate change/living campus: 120 professionals

50% of all electronics purchases are energy efficient, end-of-life management (EPEAT) certified.

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: 88% of computers, printers, tablets are energy conservation GOLD level (photocopiers pending...)

70% of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste is diverted from landfills.

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: As per contractor policy

85% of paper used at the College is recycled.

- ✓ **In progress** Metric: Data pending...



*Dawson's carbon neutral forever announcement places it as a leader in Canada in climate change action.*

# OPERATIONS

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

Composting and recycling stations are installed.

☑ **In progress** Metric: 55 of 77 stations installed

40% reduction in waste delivered to landfills.

☑ **In progress** Metric: Percentage of waste diverted from landfill (recycled & composted) 24% (2016-17); 29% (2017-18); 34% (fall 2018)  
Total reduction in waste to landfill 5% (2015-16); 10% (2016-17); 6% (2017-18); 21% (fall 2018)  
(Benchmark 2015-16 tonnage)

A procurement screening process that identifies environmentally and socially preferable products and services is established

☑ **In progress** Metric: Procurement Policy (by-law 10): sustainability statement exists; definition of statement pending...

Decreased water consumption per user and/or per square metre.

☑ **In progress** Metric: Low flow toilets installed, water metres installed and recording consumption data as of Oct. 2018. October water consumption was 9307 cubic metres

All paper used by the College is Sustainable Forest Certified, equivalent or post-consumer.  
**Not achievable**



# PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

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

## Success Indicators

The Sustainability Office, partners and collaborators coordinate college-wide efforts that advance well-being for all, sustainably

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: 108 sustainability activities involving 6000 participants (benchmark 2017-18 academic year)

The measurement of sustainability performance has been implemented using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: STARS Matrix for all College sectors created

Programs that recognize student and staff sustainability accomplishments are established.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: Staff sustainability leadership award created; student award on-going

Student and staff wellness initiatives are implemented.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: Weekly meditation; professional development: sexual harassment workshops for managers, free tuition for staff within classes; goodwill project (volunteering opportunities) under development; monthly health tips; health challenge; reducing stress and anxiety sessions; Sustainable Happiness Certificate, yoga for staff & reduced rates for staff taking fitness classes

External contractors hired by the College pay a living wage to their employees.

☑ **Accomplished** Metric: Cleaning contract employees receive living wage

An increase in the number of initiatives that contribute to staff and student wellness.

☑ **In progress** Metric: Data being collected for benchmark

60% of the funds invested by the Dawson College Foundation are placed in sustainable investments.

☑ **In progress** Metric: Committee formed; Foundation board commitment passed, fund manager secured.

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

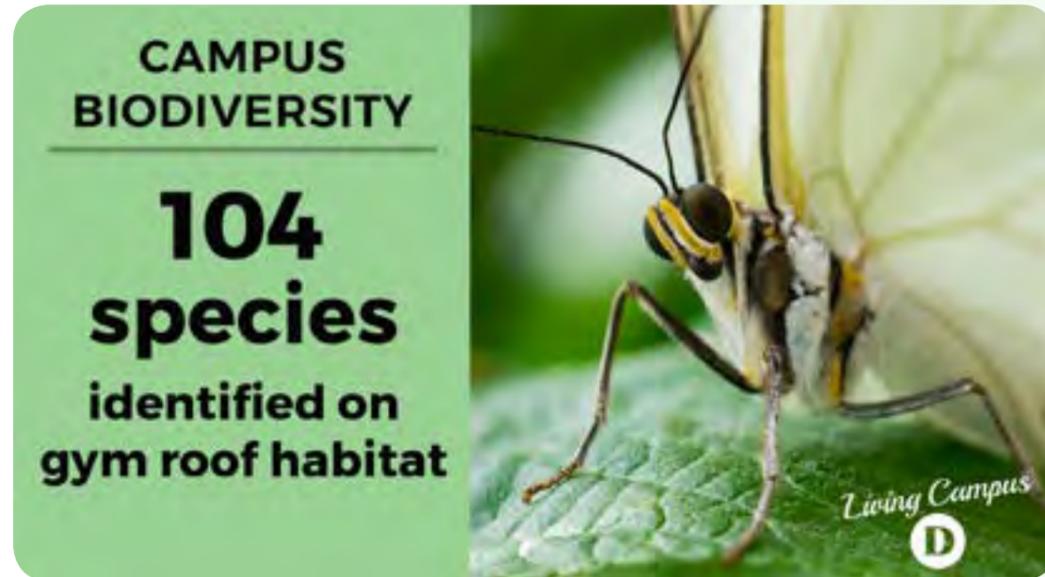
2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
3. Provide coordinated and accessible services to students
5. Be a leading employer dedicated to employee development and engagement
7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all its endeavours



## 2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS

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

The following accomplishments are specific examples of some of the many sustainability initiatives within Dawson College.



### Academics:

- Electronics Engineering class designs solar-powered internet radio station in rural Mexico
- New biology course uses biodiversity zones on campus for course labs
- Concordia/Dawson Partnership - Living Schools Symposium
- Sustainable Happiness course developed (psychology) to be introduced in January 2019
- Mechanical Engineering students developing a compost shredder
- Ebook to be published of Sustainable Campuses research projects
- Two university engineering students working on their thesis – rainwater management at Dawson

### Engagement:

- Centre for Training & Development to host Sustainable Happiness Facilitator Training
- Events with zero waste introduced
- Food Security project is mapping Montreal's urban agriculture projects
- Living Campus platform activities presented as outreach workshops to 15 elementary and high schools
- Peace Centre & Sustainability Office explicitly link objectives

### Operations:

- Student transportation to Dawson = 140,000 km/day – reviewing carbon offset options
- 7500 light fixtures being replaced with LED (32 watts to 8 watts)
- Landscape plan completed
- Climate action plan – draft 1 completed
- Waste management plan – draft 1 completed
- Dawson bicycle ridership study completed

### Planning & Administration:

- Dawson below the AASHE norm of reported staff accidents per year/100 FTE based on 3 year benchmark
- Data on emissions of all staff plane, taxi, train, bus and hotel nights used per year being collected
- Dawson Sustainability efforts featured in Corporate Knights magazine, Globe & Mail & Sherbrooke Record
- New sustainability web site content and instructional videos developed
- All staff of the Quality Assurance & Planning Office complete Sustainable Happiness Certificate
- Dawson to register with the United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative
- Sustainability Policy revision in progress

### **Dawson Sustainability Steering Committee**

Chris Adam - Coordinator, Sustainability Office

Anna-Liisa Aunio - Profile Coordinator, Environmental Studies

Heather Bradley - Department Chair, Physical Education

Tiawenti:non Canadian - Coordinator, First Peoples' Centre

Jennifer de Vera - Program Development, Sustainability Office

Richard Dugas - Information Technician, Sustainability, Facilities

Cindy Elliott - Program Development, Sustainability Office

Gisela Frias - Geography Department, & Coordinator, Sustainable Campuses (Dawson/Mexico Partnership)

Azra Khan - Professional Development, Human Resources

Geoffrey Kloos - Coordinator, First Year Students' Office

Julia Lijerón - Program Development, Office of Academic Development

Ian MacKenzie - English Department, Project Lead - Writing in the Disciplines (WID) & Learning Communities

Katherine McWhaw - Coordinator, Quality Assurance and Planning Office

Aya Chkarate - Sustainability, Dawson Student Union

Véronique Paris - Coordinator of Building Services & Sustainability, Facilities

Diana Rice - Coordinator, Dawson Peace Centre



*Nursing students, one of five classes involved in the Peace Centre's Habitat Restoration Project, plant native species on the gym roof.*

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Sustainability Report 2017 – 2018

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[dawsoncollege.qc.ca/sustainable/](http://dawsoncollege.qc.ca/sustainable/)

**DAWSON**  
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