



# Sustainability Report 2019

**BOW VALLEY**  
COLLEGE



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## 1.0 Executive Summary

This annual sustainability report is Bow Valley College's approach to capturing and communicating the environmental, social, and economic impacts of our daily operations. Through this process, we aim to be transparent about the risks and opportunities we face as we reduce our environmental impact and enhance our social and community impacts.

In 2019, our sustainability portfolio expanded yet again with the addition of a second staff member to the team, our Sustainability Engagement Assistant. This position was a one-year contract financially supported by Colleges and Institutes Canada's Career Launcher Internship program. With this increased staff capacity, we:

- Launched a Student Sustainability Ambassador co-curricular program;
- Participated in a strategic planning process with the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council;
- Were named as a Finalist in the United Nations Environment Green Gowns Award program;
- Developed an online resource for Bow Valley College instructors to support their efforts to embed sustainability into their classrooms;
- Continued to foster regional, national, and international partnerships;
- Made progress on many other initiatives that are outlined in these pages.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### 1.1 Framework of this Report

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were enacted by the United Nations in 2015. The 17 SDGs drive our sustainability portfolio at Bow Valley College, as we are inspired by their holistic vision for a sustainable world. We first began tracking our progress according to these goals in 2018. In 2019, we took an even deeper look and began to align our efforts with the 169 specific targets that support the broader 17 goals (see the [Global Indicator Framework](#), GIF).

Canada signed onto these goals as one of the 193 signatories. The [Canadian Indicator Framework](#) (CIF) “contains a series of indicators [ambitions] developed by Statistics Canada in collaboration with the SDG Unit at Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and other federal departments”<sup>1</sup>. The Canadian framework complements the global indicators.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada 2019, *Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy*.

Accessed at <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/national-strategy.html#h2.08>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

We recognize that Bow Valley College has a responsibility to support Canada’s efforts in reaching these targets. The national government encourages partners to “use the indicators and targets that are relevant to their own respective realities.”<sup>2</sup> As such, this report is aligned with certain targets from both the international (SDG) and national (CIF) sets of targets (see sidebar for example). Our 2019 sustainability portfolio touched on 14 of the 17 goals, with the heaviest focus on goals 4 (Quality Education) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Please note, this is primarily a narrative report. For specific sustainability indicators not listed here, please see our public Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System ([STARS](#)) report published by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

## 2.0 Operations

### 2.1 Waste and Recycling

Each year Bow Valley College diverts waste from landfills through composting and recycling programs. In addition to collecting paper, cardboard, refundable bottles and cans, metal, and plastic for recycling through centralized bins across campus, we also have specialized recycling programs for ink and toner cartridges, batteries, electronics, pens, fabric, plastic gloves, shredded paper, IV bags, and coffee packs from our Executive office and West Campus.

We work with campus partners to reduce waste generation. Outdated roll-up banners are sent back to our supplier so they can reuse the banner stands. Our campus printer, Rileys, creates notepads out of scrap paper, de-coils notebooks so they can be recycled, and donates supplies to the Laugh n' Learn childcare on site.

SDG 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle.



In 2018, we noticed an increase in contamination of our mixed recycling stream due to the presence of food and liquids. Unfortunately, this trend worsened in early 2019, and by February, our waste hauler had informed us they were no longer accepting our recycling stream as it was too wet for processing at the City of Calgary recycling facility. Until a new solution could be developed and implemented, the contents of our mixed recycling compactor were unfortunately taken directly to landfills. This is apparent in the high waste rate and low diversion rate for January to July 2019 in Figure 1. See section 2.1.1 for how we solved this issue.

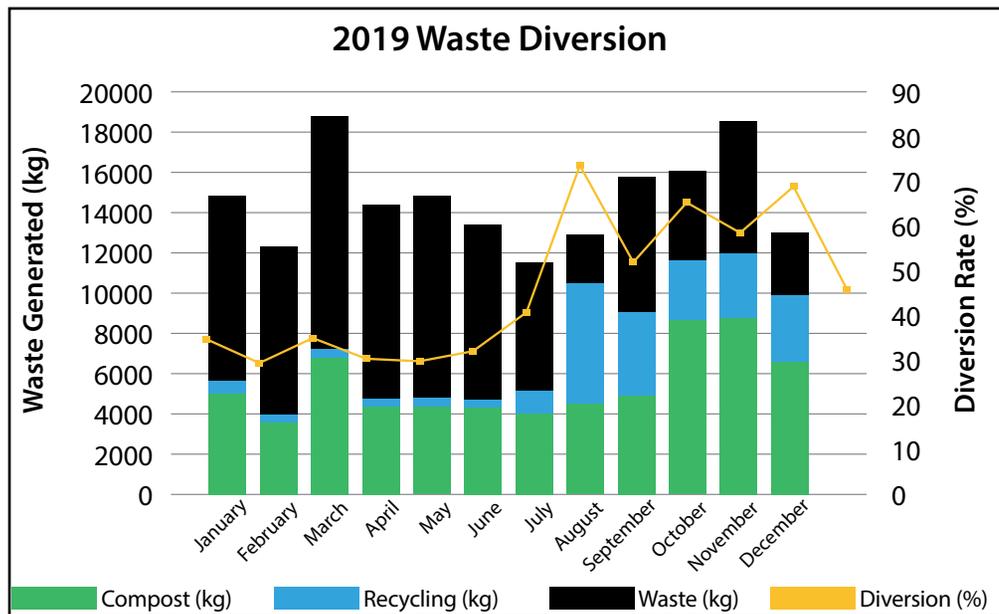


Figure 1: The amount of waste (in kilograms) sent for composting (green), recycling (blue), and to landfill (black) in 2019. The yellow line indicates the diversion rate for each month (percentage of recycling and composting of all waste generated).

Please note, Figure 1 does not include waste generated from regional campuses or bottles and cans, shredded paper, or specialized recycling programs as these are tracked using diverse metrics over various timescales (see chart, below). For example, our seven regional campuses also donate their bottles and cans to local non-profits, but these are not tracked. With specialized recycling programs considered, Bow Valley College's total diversion rate for 2019 is **82.6%**. Despite the contamination setback (see section 2.1.1), this diversion rate is higher than in 2018 (77.2%).

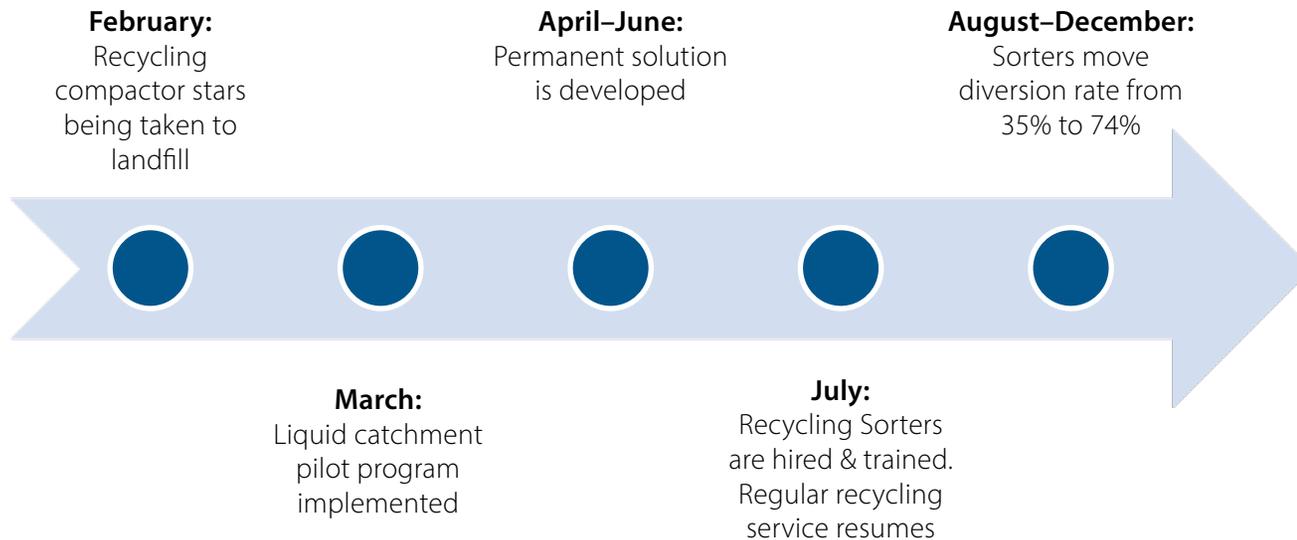
Item	Amount recycled (kg)	Recycler
Shredded paper	312 031	Calgary Archives
Bottles and cans	1626	Vecova Centre for Disability Services and Research
Plastic gloves and IV bags	300	TerraCycle
Coffee packs from Executive office	60	TerraCycle
Electronics	9878	Quantum Lifecycle (formerly GEEP)
Hanging file folders (Fit for Future initiative)	195	Edmonton Reuse Centre
Batteries and pens	210	Staples Canada

## 2.1.1 Recycling Sorters

In March, we introduced a pilot program to test whether collecting liquids in a separate compartment at the bins would reduce the contamination identified in section 2.1. Temporary liquid catchment systems were installed at ten bins for two weeks. A pre- and post-pilot waste assessment was performed by Green Calgary to calculate the contamination rate. Despite the liquid catchment reducing contamination by 14%, the program did not bring the contamination rate within an acceptable range for the recycler and required an additional two hours of custodial staff time per day to manage the bins.

As a more permanent solution, our custodial partner, Eures, hired two part-time Recycling Sorters in July. These Sorters go through every mixed recycling bag collected on campus and sort the contents into the correct stream. The impact of this program has been enormously positive. Since July, all recycling compactor loads have been sent to the City of Calgary recycling facility rather than landfill, and our contamination rate has reached almost 0%. This is also reflected in the increased diversion rate seen from July to December 2019 (Figure 1). The timeline below summarizes our progress on reducing contamination.

In addition to this post-consumer sorting, stickers were added to all public-facing bins, reminding users to keep liquids out of the recycling stream. A video titled 'How to properly dispose of your waste' was added to the resource webpage for new learners.



## 2.2 Water and Electricity

For the first five months of 2019, electricity use was on par with 2018 and lower than the electricity use in 2017. In May, electricity use began to increase, eventually surpassing both 2017 and 2018's use throughout the summer (Figure 2). This is likely due to the increased electricity used for Fit for Future construction work that took place from May to August 2019 (see section 2.4).

Bow Valley College is committed to reducing operational electricity use whenever possible. In 2019 the following energy efficiency measures were implemented:

- Our Information Technology team installed thin client computers in classrooms. Thin clients differ from traditional computers in that all the computational power is done by a central server. Since thin clients are smaller, they consume far less power than traditional computers.
- Campus lightbulbs continue to be upgraded to LEDs.
- All appliances in the Market (the main campus cafeteria) and staff coffee machines were turned off over the winter break. It is unclear whether this initiative had a noticeable impact, as 2019's December electricity use was higher than in 2018 but lower than in 2017. We will continue to expand this winter shutoff procedure in future years, as other post-secondary institutions have found this to be an effective way to conserve electricity.
- Endocubes were installed in fridges in the Market. Traditional fridge thermostats monitor the air temperature of the refrigerator rather than the contents. This results in potentially unnecessary and energy intensive cooling cycles. Alternatively, endocubes measure the temperature of the food within the fridge, reducing the amount of cooling cycles needed.

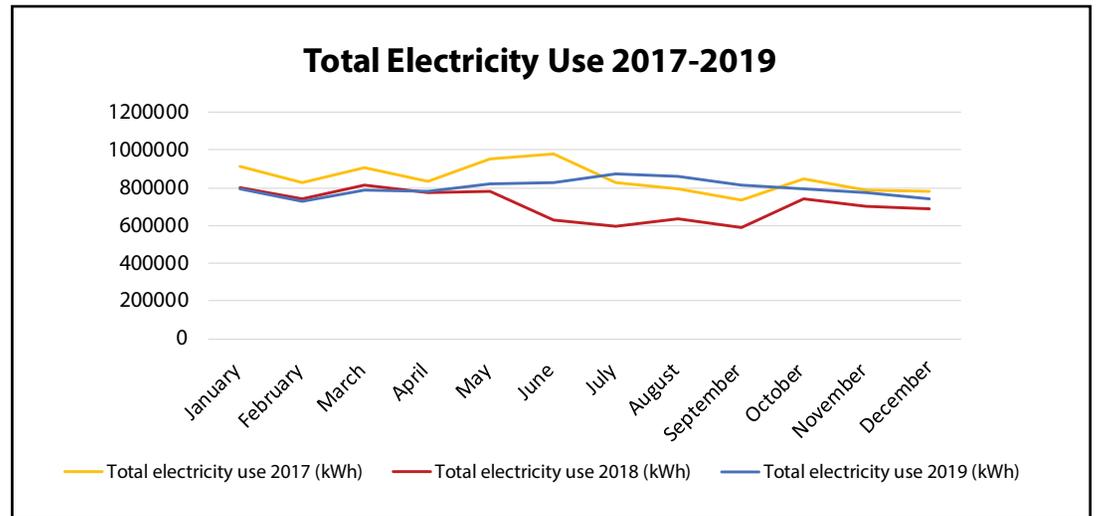


Figure 2: This graph illustrates the total electricity use (in kilowatt-hours) of North, South, and West Campuses for 2017 (yellow), 2018 (red), and 2019 (blue).

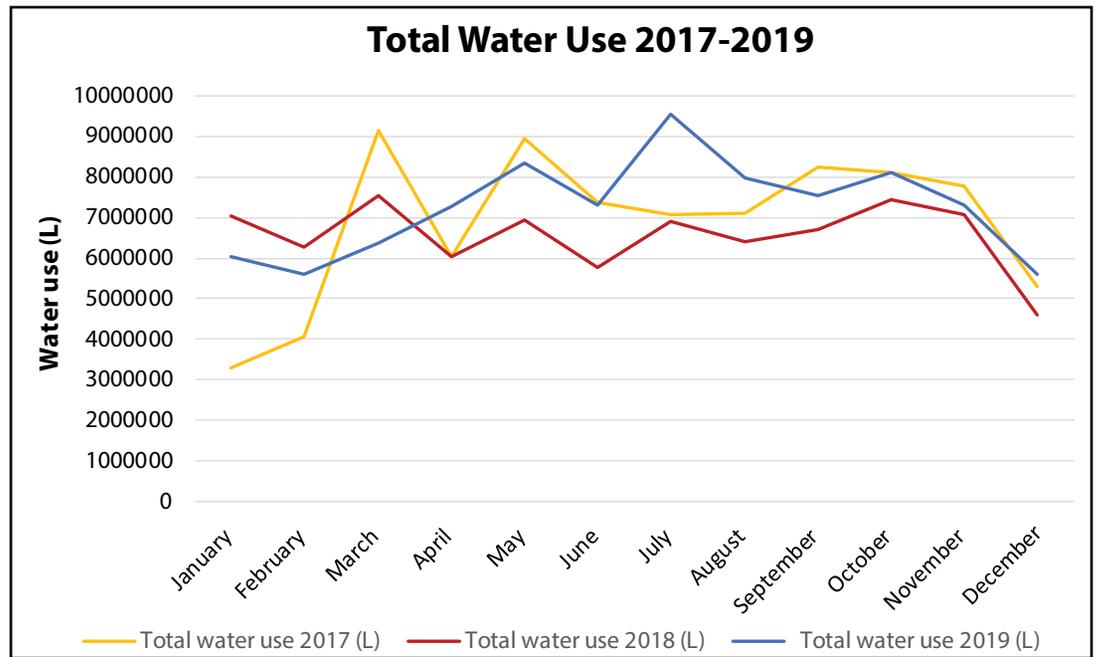


Figure 3: This graph illustrates the total water use (in litres) of North, South, and West Campuses for 2017 (yellow), 2018 (red), and 2019 (blue).

Water use generally followed similar trends to 2017 and 2018, except for an unusually high spike in water use in July 2019 (Figure 3). This is surprising because compared to the previous two years, July 2019 actually had the lowest average temperature at 16.4 °C, compared to 19.0 °C in July 2017 and 17.8 °C in July 2018<sup>3</sup>. However, July 2019 was characterized by large temperature swings, with heat warnings announced across the province after weeks of wet weather. It is likely these temperature swings led to an increase in water use as the air conditioning systems worked to stabilize indoor temperatures.

### 2.3 Food Services

Sodexo Canada is our food service provider. In 2018, Sodexo introduced china mugs to the Market and increased the price of hot drinks when served in disposable cups; customers who bring their own mug or borrow a china mug from the Market pay less for hot drinks than those who take a disposable cup. These reusable cups were used almost 800 times in 2019 and did not need to be replaced. Due to the success of the reusable mug borrowing program, Sodexo plans to introduce reusable plates to the Market in early 2020.

Sodexo is also a supporter of our Fair Trade initiatives on campus, donating supplies and staff time for our Fair Trade coffee breaks and other events (see sections 4.1 and 4.3). To support Nutrition and Hydration week (March 11-15), Sodexo increased the number of plant-based meal options served in the Market for that week.

### 2.4 Fit for Future

The final stage of Fit for Future, a multi-year initiative to rework College spaces, concluded in 2019. As we cleaned and organized numerous storage closets and desk spaces, the sustainability team worked with other College staff on how to dispose of their waste properly. We distributed approximately 75 boxes of office supplies to learners, the Edmonton Reuse Centre, and four non-profit organizations in Calgary. During the deconstruction of temporary walls, our facilities team redistributed the drywall and supports for reuse.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

<sup>3</sup> Historical temperatures for Calgary accessed at <https://calgary.weatherstats.ca/metrics/temperature.html>





### 3.0 BVC Green Committee

The BVC Green committee is a volunteer group of staff, learners and faculty with the mission to advance environmental stewardship and champion a College-wide sustainable culture. In 2019, the committee volunteered 159 hours planning for and participating in twenty events on campus (see section 4.1) and supported the development of the Student Sustainability Ambassadors program (see section 3.1). We were excited to add regional campus Ambassadors to the BVC Green team in 2019. These are staff members in each region that act as sustainability representatives for their campuses.

SDG 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature



### 3.1 Student Sustainability Ambassadors Program

From September to December 2019, six Bow Valley College learners participated in the first iteration of the Student Sustainability Ambassadors program. The BVC Green committee developed this pilot volunteer program based on research that peer-to-peer sustainability outreach programs are highly effective in increasing student sustainability behaviour<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, this project aligns with the College's Open Doors, Open Minds strategic plan by making all learning count, challenging our thinking, and improving the educational experience.



*In exchange for their hard work, Ambassadors were rewarded with a completion certificate, credit on their co-curricular record, and a stipend. Due to the success of this first phase of the program, the Ambassador program will continue in 2020.*

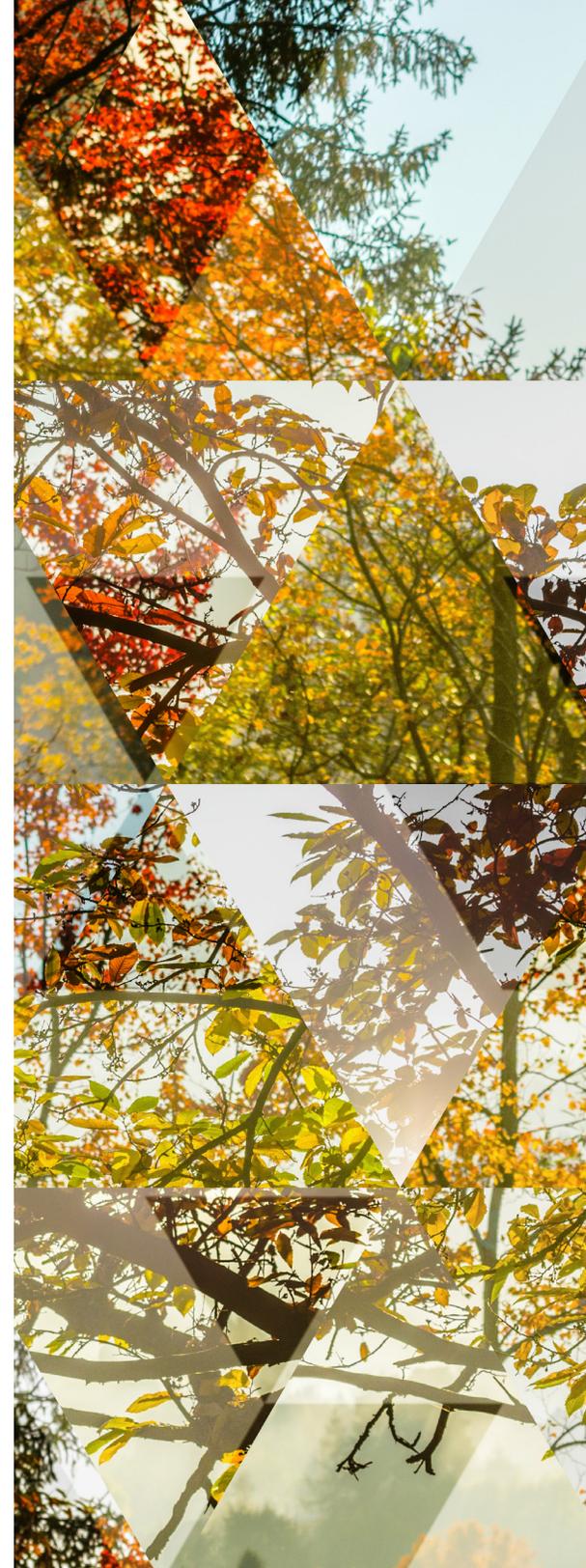
Through this program, Ambassadors:

- Attended weekly meetings where they received lessons on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leadership, Fair Trade, and waste and recycling.
- Prepared and delivered short presentations about the SDGs, which enhanced their presentation skills and deepened their awareness of how these goals align with their coursework.
- Participated in volunteer opportunities.
- Worked on various projects, including “Sustainability Bingo,” a learner engagement event, research on barriers to women’s education in Jordan to support the Research & Innovation team, and research on a community garden for Bow Valley College, providing recommendations based on similar existing gardens.
- Summarized their learning and achievements through written reports and posters, which were shared with the College community through a visual Showcase.

<sup>4</sup> Bloodhart, B., Swim, J.K, and Zawadzki, M.J. (2013).

*Spreading the eco-message: Using proactive coping to aid eco-rep behavior change programming. Sustainability, 5(4), 1661-1679.*

Erickson, C. (2010). *Peer to peer sustainability outreach programs: The interface of education and behavior change. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation. University of Vermont.*





## 4.0 2019 Initiatives

### 4.1 Events

A major part of the sustainability portfolio at Bow Valley College involves the coordination of events and workshops. As much of our work emphasizes behavioural and organizational change, education and engagement with our campus and the wider community is paramount. BVC Green members support the following annual events:

- New Student Orientation, Coffee Kick-off events, Community Volunteer Fair, Financial Literacy Month, and Student Services Expos run by Learner Success Services;
- Welcome Back Bash organized by the School of Foundational Learning
- ELL Prep Day and International Learner Prep Day hosted by the International Education department;
- Program Preview Night and Open House run by the Prospective Student Centre;
- Bow Valley College's Stampede Breakfast; and
- Indigenous Student Welcome organized by Iniiikokaan Centre

The following chart highlights the special events hosted by the BVC Green team in 2019 in collaboration with various partners on and off campus. Between recurring events and special events, the BVC Green team engaged directly with an estimated 3300 people in 2019.



Event	Date	Number of participants	SDG	
<b>Student Sustainability Summit:</b> Co-hosted by the Sustainability Council and Sustain SU (an initiative of the Students' Union) at the University of Alberta, this was a one-day gathering for university and college students from across Alberta. The Summit highlighted research and careers in sustainability and coached students on project development. Red Arrow offered free bus rides to Edmonton for Bow Valley College learners.	February 2	11	SDG 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.	
<b>Nutrition and Hydration Week:</b> The recently updated Canada food guide promotes healthy diets that are also sustainable (for example, plant-based meals). To celebrate this, the BVC Green team and Sodexo hosted a booth promoting the health and sustainability benefits of the Canada food guide recommendations.	March 12-13	55	CIF 3.1: Canadians adopt healthy behaviours	
<b>World Water Day:</b> The City of Calgary Water Services presented in the Intercultural Centre on Calgary's three water systems and what citizens can do to conserve and protect water.	March 28	69	CIF 6.1: Canadians have access to drinking water and use it in a sustainable manner	
<b>Calgary Unplugged: Earth Hour</b> Around the world, people turn off their lights for Earth Hour. BVC Green volunteers helped at the public Calgary Unplugged event on St. Patrick's Island organized by the Arusha Centre. Bow Valley College turned off lights in South and North Campuses from 8pm onward.	March 30	9	CIF 7.1: Canadians reduce their energy consumption	
<b>Earth Day: Climate Stories</b> The <a href="#">Climate Stories Project</a> is an online initiative that "gives a voice to the emotional and personal impacts that climate change is having on our lives" <sup>5</sup> . The Intercultural Centre set up stations where learners could listen to and reflect on climate stories from around the world.	April 3	8	SDG 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	
<b>Bike-to-Work Day:</b> Volunteers tuned up 10 bikes for staff to kick off the spring cycling season. Sodexo donated breakfast to all people who cycled to the College, and the BVC Green team gave a prize to the staff member with the longest cycling commute. A volunteer ran an information booth on cycling safety and where to buy bikes in Calgary. Additionally, our International Education department hands out cycling and walking maps to learners throughout the year.	May 3	28	CIF 3.2: Canadians have healthy and satisfying lives	
<b>Harvesting at the El Daher Farm:</b> Mohamed El Daher is a Bow Valley College alumnus and Syrian refugee who has fulfilled his dream of farming. Members of the BVC Green team and Intercultural Centre's iCan Crew spent a day helping the El Daher family at their farm. Mohamed gives back to his community by donating part of what he grows to the Calgary Food Bank; it has been a way for him to show his gratitude for the help that he received from the Food Bank when he first arrived with his family in Calgary. Read more about this event <a href="#">here</a> .	July 23	14	SDG 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, Indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	
<b>River Cleanup:</b> Volunteers from BVC Green and Learner Success Services picked up 10 kg of litter along the Bow River in St. Patrick's Island.	September 24	7	SDG 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	
<b>Learner Insights:</b> Agne Grabskaite, a BVC Green student volunteer, ran a compost and recycling workshop for other learners in the Intercultural Centre.	September 25	40	SDG 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	
<b>Do-It-Yourself Green Fair:</b> Community partners from Two Wheel View, Leftovers Foundation, Green Calgary, and the City of Calgary Waste & Recycling and Water Services hosted interactive stations to teach practical sustainable skills. Instructors brought their classes, and learners who participated in every station were recognized on their <a href="#">LEAD</a> certificate. This event was extremely popular and had the highest attendance of all BVC Green events in 2019.	October 9	250 (estimate)	SDG 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	
<b>20 Steps to a Greener Home:</b> Our Sustainability Engagement Assistant, Megan Hardman, ran a session for staff in celebration of Campus Sustainability Month. Sodexo generously donated breakfast.	October 15	15	CIF 11.2: Canadians live in healthy, accessible, and sustainable cities and communities	
<b>Social Nature of Climate Health:</b> In recognition of Intercultural Week, our Sustainability Coordinator, Amy Spark, presented on the social justice impacts of climate change. A representative from Fair Trade Calgary shared how buying fair trade products supports producers in countries that are highly impacted by climate change.	October 31	31	SDG 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	
<b>Discovery Hub: Sustainability:</b> The Intercultural Centre collaborated with BVC Green to host a series of interactive exhibits and displays that encouraged visitors to consider how their actions impact local and global communities.	November 19	40	SDG 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	

<sup>5</sup> *Climate Stories Project 2019. Climate Stories Project. Accessed at <https://www.climatestoriesproject.org/>*



## 4.2 Sustainable Procurement

Although daily operations and energy use account for a portion of an institution's carbon footprint, we recognize that most of Bow Valley College's environmental impacts, particularly greenhouse gas emissions, are likely wrapped up in our purchasing behaviour. This is due to the embedded environmental cost of raw material extraction, manufacturing, transporting, distributing, using, and disposing of products. In 2020, we plan to complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory to see if our prediction is correct. In the meantime, we spent 2019 developing a sustainable procurement program.

In 2019, our Purchasing Policy was updated to incorporate sustainability as a major lens by which purchasing decisions are made. The Sustainable Procurement Procedure developed in 2018 was approved by our Executive team in May 2019, and now operates underneath our updated Purchasing Policy. A meeting was held with each department at the College and our regional campuses to review how these sustainable procedures impact their work. Under this new operating framework, three competitive bids were scored with sustainability as a weighted category in 2019. All competitive bids posted by the College in 2020 will incorporate sustainability as a weighted category.

Once we had the relevant policies and procedures in place, we reached out to the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) to support us as we further develop this program. In November 2019, we launched the Sustainable Program Planning Process (SP3) with SPLC. By facilitating four interactive online workshops with our staff from various departments,



the SPLC is helping us develop a long-term, strategic approach to sustainable purchasing. We participated in two workshops in 2019 and will complete the program and officially launch the sustainable purchasing program in 2020. In turn, we have also supported three other post-secondary institutions as they develop their sustainable purchasing programs. We also presented on our initiative at the 2019 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference (see section 7.2).

SDG 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

CIF 12.1: Canadians consume in a sustainable manner.



Part of this process involves engaging our suppliers. Our office supplies and paper vendor, Grand & Toy, hosted a professional development workshop for nine Bow Valley College staff on the pulp and paper industry. The speaker from Boise Paper focused on sustainable forestry, which inspired us to shift our

printer paper orders to 30% recycled paper. Grand & Toy also shared detailed purchasing history for each of our departments, which will help us as we develop yearly tracking metrics.

As single-use plastics have been identified as a major polluter, we worked with our campus partners to become a plastic bag free campus in 2019. Our bookstore, the Market, Fresh Routes Mobile Market (see section 4.4), and the New Student Orientation (NSO) planning team removed plastic bags from their operations and event planning. Recognizing that reusable bags have a large carbon footprint, we aim to make NSO a completely bag-free event by the end of 2020. Our regional campuses also focused on reducing plastics, by running a “bring your own water bottle” challenge and encouraging the use of reusable containers.



SDG 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies, and progressively achieve gender equality.

### 4.3 Fair Trade

Bow Valley College is pursuing Fair Trade Campus designation. Fair Trade supports fairer conditions and better prices for people in the Global South who grow and make our products, “whether it’s the coffee we drink, the cocoa in our chocolate, or the cotton in our t-shirts”<sup>6</sup>.

SDG 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

CIF 2.1: Canadians have access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food.



In 2019, our efforts toward this goal were devoted to creating partnerships and educating the campus community. As our food service providers for staff areas and public-facing areas, respectively, we worked closely with Aramark and Sodexo on providing more fair trade options at the College. We also collaborated with Fair Trade Calgary on multiple campus events, including the Community & Volunteer Fair and Social Nature of Climate Health presentation (see section 4.1).

We engaged learners and staff to increase awareness of and demand for fair trade certified products. With the support of Fairtrade Canada and Sodexo, we hosted two “Fair Trade Coffee Breaks” where we served free fair trade coffee and tea samples. Through the casual, conversational nature of these events, we reached close to 200 learners and staff from across the College.

### 4.4 Food Security

The 2019 learner survey identified food costs as a financial barrier for many Bow Valley College learners. In response, the Food Security Committee was formed, including two members of the BVC Green team. Two major programs were developed and implemented in 2019: Fresh Routes Mobile Market and Open Cupboards.

The Fresh Routes Mobile Market is a weekly pop-up grocery store and social enterprise that offers fresh and affordable food to the College community. Bow Valley College learners volunteer to support this initiative.

The College recognized that learners also want more access to non-perishable food items. The Students Association at Bow Valley College (SABVC) collaborated with the Food Security Committee to set up Open Cupboards, an emergency food hamper program. Each month, staff from a different department collect food and donate it to SABVC, so they can distribute it to learners as needed. These food security initiatives support the College’s Open Doors, Open Minds strategic plan.

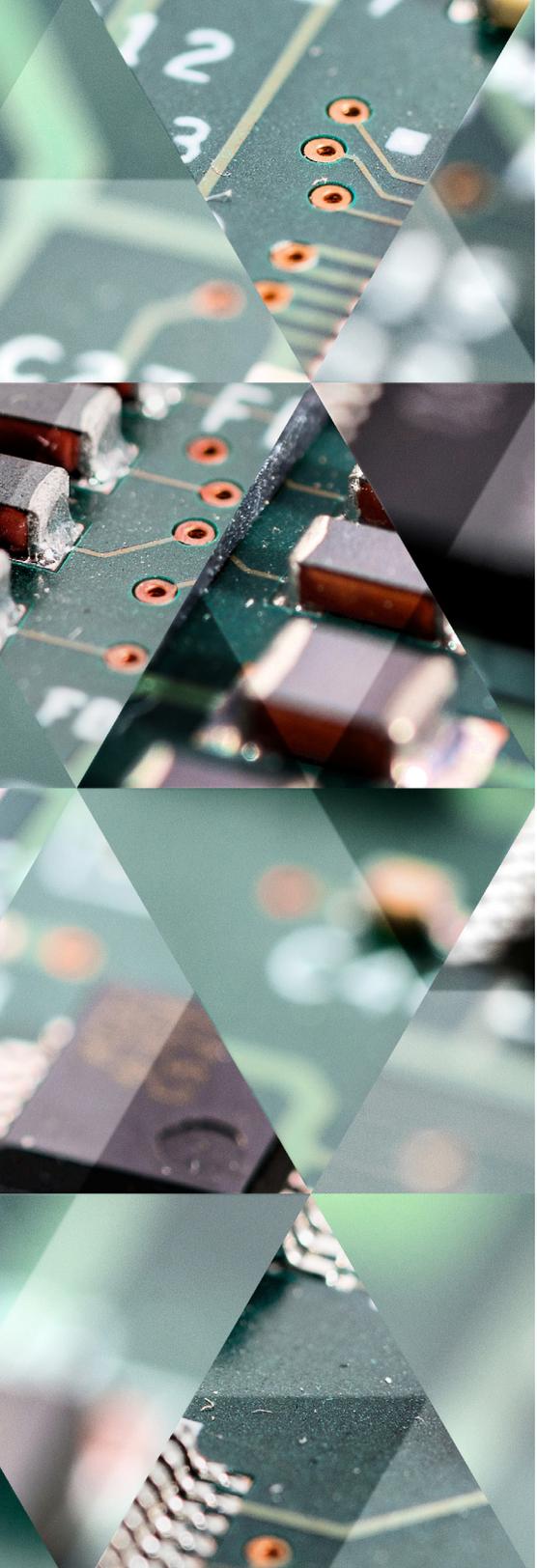


SDG 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

SDG 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle




<sup>6</sup> Fairtrade Canada 2020. Got a Question about Fairtrade? Accessed at <http://fairtrade.ca/en-CA/What-is-Fairtrade/FAQs>



## 5.0 Academics & Research

### 5.1 Sustainability in the Classroom

As an educational institution, our mandate supports almost all targets under SDG #4: Quality Education. We are an access college that creates educational opportunities for immigrants, Indigenous peoples, international learners, persons with disabilities, older workers, and the underemployed. Not only do we teach for sustainable development, but also many of our instructors teach about sustainable development.

In addition to the expertise offered by our instructors, members of the sustainability team were invited to present to 23 classes (504 learners), including Corporate Social Responsibility, Early Learning & Child Care, Social Work, English Language Learning (ELL), and Kitchen and Bath Design.

Instructors also bring in external sustainability experts. For instance, Derek Leahy, Project Director of Rural Routes to Climate Solutions, presented to a Corporate Social Responsibility class about sustainable agriculture. The learners were extremely interested, asked lots of questions, and “shared what was going on in their home countries about sustainable agriculture”<sup>7</sup>.

Our instructors use partners on campus to teach concepts of sustainability as well. Our Library and Learning Commons hosted a book display on sustainability for the fall term. The Intercultural Centre featured sustainability information in their display case and hosted events focused on sustainable development throughout the year (see section 4.1). For their efforts, the Centre was named a finalist for an international [United Nations Education Green Gown award](#) under the “Student Engagement” category.



Additionally, two of our ELL classes took part in an interactive workshop by MOB Honey at the East Village temporary beehive exhibit in September. This unique immersive experience allowed the learners to get up close and personal to honeybees in order to understand their role as a pollinator in the ecosystem.

These types of immersive and real-world classroom experiences support both the College’s Academic and Research Priorities and the Learning Outcomes identified in Bow Valley College’s 2015-2020 Comprehensive Institutional Plan, particularly the outcome to support environmental sustainability (currently in pilot phase).<sup>8</sup>



SDG 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

CIF #4.1: Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives.

## 5.2 Faculty and Staff Professional development

Bow Valley College students are not the only ones learning while on campus. We had multiple professional development opportunities for our staff, faculty, and contractors in 2019:

- In April, Boise Paper presented on sustainable forestry (see section 4.2).
- In June, the Pembina Institute shared insights from the Alberta Narratives Project to 11 staff. The [Alberta Narratives Project](#) is a citizen science initiative that highlights effective climate change communication strategies for Albertans.
- In September, Cascades Recycling led a tour of the City of Calgary's recycling facility for three Bow Valley College staff, one food services contractor, and one custodial contractor. We were able to view the contents of our own recycling compactor and see the massive reduction in contamination due to our industrious Recycling Sorters (see section 2.1.1).
- In October, Megan Hardman gave a presentation on "20 Steps for a Greener Home" to 15 staff in celebration of Campus Sustainability Month (see section 4.1).
- In December, the sustainability team give an update on the sustainability portfolio to 44 members of the Office of the Registrar.



As a result of these initiatives and others, almost one hundred staff and faculty attended sustainability professional development opportunities in 2019. We also answered inquiries about sustainability, such as how to properly dispose of atypical waste products, where to purchase sustainable products, and miscellaneous other queries. In 2019, we answered 152 inquiries: 22% from learners, 67% from staff, and 11% from external members (usually Campus Alberta partners or other post-secondary institutions).

<sup>7</sup> Quote from Chiu School of Business instructor, Tracy Watson.

<sup>8</sup> See page 53 of Bow Valley College's [2015-2020 Comprehensive Institutional Plan](#)



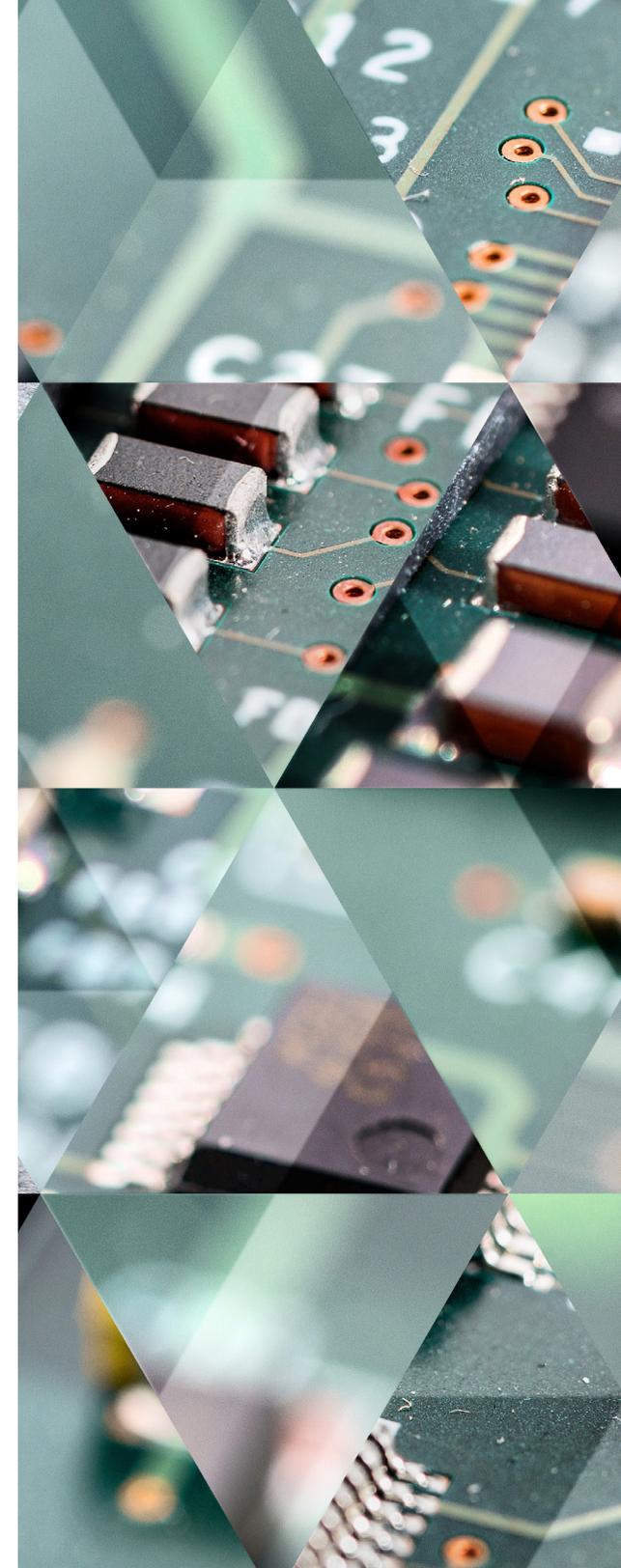
CIF 9.1: Canada fosters sustainable research and innovation.



### 5.3 Applied Research

In 2018, the Sustainability Coordinator (Amy Spark) and an instructor in the Chiu School of Business (Trevor McIvor, now a Teaching and Learning Consultant on the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Team) received a grant from the College's Applied Research department to conduct a literature review on the best practices for incorporating themes of sustainability across curricula. In 2019, we completed the second phase of this research by compiling and developing resources for instructors into a D2L page. In addition to text-based resources, several instructors created videos to share their methods for incorporating sustainability into their classrooms. Trevor and Amy will present on this work through the Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TLE) program early in 2020.

The TLE, Applied Research, and sustainability teams began to work more closely together, as Bow Valley College's [Academic and Research Priorities](#) were updated in 2019. In December, the teams collaborated on an SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant application for Living within Earth's Carrying Capacity, which will be submitted early in 2020.





## 5.4 Entrepreneurship and Training

Bow Valley College has a vibrant [social entrepreneurship](#) program, including capacity building events like WannaB Wednesdays and Innovation Rodeo, and the chance to develop a business idea through programs like VentureQuest and 150 Startups. In 2019, two VentureQuest projects focused on sustainability: an aquaponics business and an agri-tour farm. Enactus is a global non-profit organization that develops business leaders to address social issues. Bow Valley College's Enactus chapter ran a MasterMind event to generate project ideas in January 2019 and invited the College's Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Sustainability Coordinator to act as coaches. Each Enactus project links with the SDGs.

Bow Valley College is one of eight global UNESCO Institutes and Centres in the field of education. UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It works to improve education worldwide through technical advice, standard setting, and capacity building. Under this banner, Bow Valley College is also one of only two UNEVOC Centres in Canada (UNEVOC is a term that combines UNESCO and VOCational education). Through our UNEVOC Centre, we advance and support many international development and contract training projects worldwide. In 2019, the International

Development team had four ongoing projects: skills training in [Tanzania](#) and [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), and education for employment in [Belize](#) and [India](#). We always have projects in the planning stage as well. This year, one of the Student Sustainability Ambassadors contributed to the research phase of a teacher-training development project in Jordan (see section 3.1).

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

SDG 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, including through access

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





SDG 4.C: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

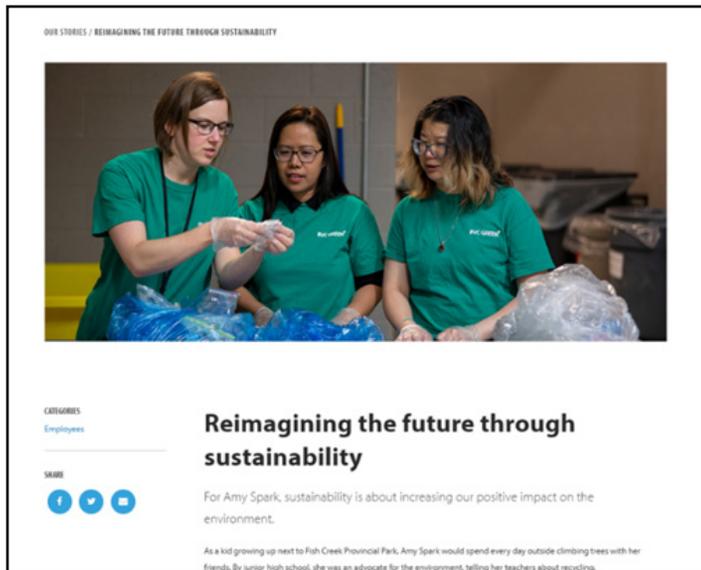


## 6.0 Communications

Communication is key to BVC Green's success. To engage with as many stakeholders as possible, it is essential to keep people informed. To share information about our events, policies, and programs we communicate:

- In many formats: words, images, and videos;
- On many platforms: social media, websites, internal and external newsletters, posters, and TV screens; and
- For many audiences: current and prospective learners, staff, faculty, alumni, community partners, and the public.

Three unique communication initiatives took place this year: Bow Valley College was featured on [The Princeton Review of Green Colleges 2019](#), the BVC Green team was featured as a story on the main College website, and a Sustainable Thanksgiving story was highlighted in the inaugural alumni newsletter. The following chart highlights the results of our ongoing communications activities.



Social media	Website	Internal communications
<p>BVC Green posts regularly appear on four different social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram &amp; LinkedIn) for four different BVC accounts (main Bow Valley College account, BVC International, BVC Regional, and SABVC)</p>	<p>The BVC Green website had a total of 2253 hits in 2019</p>	<p>Our most popular staff intranet post was about removing single-use plastic milk and cream from staff kitchens</p>
<p>Our reach was 48,447 people (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram &amp; LinkedIn)</p>	<p>Our feature news story about sustainability had 328 hits</p>	<p>On average, learners saw a post about BVC Green in their email newsletter more than once every two weeks</p>
<p>We had 179 posts, the most appearing on the main Bow Valley College Twitter account (71).</p>		<p>Sustainable Thanksgiving feature story was sent to about 15 000 subscribers of the alumni newsletter</p>
<p>We had the most engagement for posts about TD Friends of the Environment funding, Earth Hour Calgary Unplugged event, New Student Orientation waste education, the plastic bag-free campus initiative, and the 2018 Sustainability Report</p>	<p>The 2018 Sustainability Report was accessed 147 times</p>	<p>We displayed 16 full-colour BVC TV ads on 31 TV screens across main campus</p>
<p>35 Tweets were tagged with #bvcgreen in 2019 (up from just 10 in 2018)</p>	<p>The most popular webpage on our site was Waste Diversion with 647 unique page views</p>	
<p>On average, 7% of Tweets on the main Bow Valley College account are related to BVC Green. A peak of 18% was reached for the month of December 2019</p>		



SDG 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



CIF 17.1: Canada fosters collaboration and partnerships to advance the SDGs

## 7.0 Institutional Learning, Engagement and Partnerships

Meeting the targets under the SDGs is not an easy task. It requires education and awareness, leadership, and holistic solutions. One institution cannot tackle these problems alone, which is why Bow Valley College is proud to build partnerships and learning communities regionally, nationally, and internationally.

## 7.1 Calgary Post-secondary Sustainability Community of Practice

Bow Valley College is one of the conveners of the Post-secondary Sustainability Community of Practice. This group consists of representatives from SAIT, the University of Calgary, Alberta University of the Arts, St. Mary's University, Mount Royal University, the Calgary Board of Education, and the City of Calgary. The Community of Practice met three times in 2019, to brainstorm solutions to food waste, gain insights on climate action planning and miscellaneous other challenges.

## 7.2 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

As a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), we have access to many resources on sustainability and the expertise of hundreds of sustainability professionals. In 2019, Amy Spark volunteered as a judge for the Academic Sustainability Awards run through AASHE and spoke at the AASHE conference on our sustainable procurement initiative. This presentation has led to several exciting partnerships that will be explored in 2020.



## 7.3 Sustainable Development Goals

As is clear from this report, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integral to the sustainability portfolio at Bow Valley College. We participated in the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC) Mapping Alberta's Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals Project (Together Alberta initiative). This public engagement initiative was conducted by the ACGC to "bring together Albertans who are contributing to the SDGs, communicate their efforts, and drive further action."<sup>9</sup> Bow Valley College was featured on the project's map, which is accessible [online](#). For our engagement work, we were also featured in the Alberta SDG Network newsletter in May.

In 2019, the College was invited to participate in a working group of Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan), to understand how post-secondaries are using the SDGs in their institutions and to develop resources to aid and further this work. The group meets monthly through conference calls, but also had an in-person at a meeting in Vancouver in October. Our Sustainability Coordinator presented to ten other post-secondary institutions in western Canada on our initial SDG work and potential future projects. These future projects were outlined in a funding proposal to Employment and Social Development Canada in July 2019. If successful, multiple teams at Bow Valley College would collaborate on seven SDG-related projects, including the Prospective Student Centre, School of Global Access, and Iniikokaan Centre. At the time of writing this report, funding is unconfirmed.

## 7.4 Colleges and Institutes Canada

Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) supported Bow Valley College's 2019 sustainability portfolio in several ways. In September, we hired a second full-time contract sustainability staff member with financial support offered through CICan's Career Launcher Internship program. We are a member of the CICan Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (see section 7.3), and a learner in our Business Administration Diploma program, Oanh Ngo, was accepted as a member of the CICan [Student and Alumni Advisory Committee](#). We are excited to further these partnerships with CICan and have applied for a position on their Campus Sustainability Project Working Group under the ImpAct program. Through ImpAct, we hope to develop a comprehensive climate change initiative for Bow Valley College. The details of this program will be announced in 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Alberta Council for Global Cooperation 2019. Together Alberta. Accessed at <https://together.acgc.ca/report>

## 8.0 Financial Reporting

The following chart outlines the financial impacts because of the sustainability initiatives at Bow Valley College in 2019. Note, because we changed printing vendors in 2019 we were unable to compare the cost savings of our eco-printing settings to the 2018 report (\$41 723). However, this is likely similar for 2019 as none of the settings on College printers have changed.

Initiative	Funding source	Amount	Notes
Traditional Medicine Garden for Integrated Learning (section 9.0)	TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	\$7750	This funding is designated for the installation of a sage garden and outdoor classroom space on our South Campus terrace. This project will take place in 2020.
Career Launcher Internship (section 7.4)	Colleges and Institutes Canada	\$15 000	This grant allowed us to hire our Sustainability Engagement Assistant, doubling the sustainability staff at the College.
			Total confirmed revenue <b>\$22 750</b>
Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program (section 7.3)	Employment and Social Development Canada	\$99 576	Funding unconfirmed at the time of writing.
Bottle and can recycling (section 2.1)	Alberta's deposit recycling program	\$59751	All the funds from this program were donated to the Vecova Centre for Disability Services and Research.



## 9.0 Looking ahead to 2020

We are extremely proud of the advancements we made for sustainability in 2019. As we continue to grapple with increasingly more complex and difficult challenges, we are excited about our upcoming initiatives:

- **Climate action.** Although climate awareness was a theme for 2019, it was not a central tenet to our work. This will shift in 2020. Through the CIGan ImpAct program, we aim to develop a comprehensive strategy for climate action at Bow Valley College. We will conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. If we are a successful recipient of the SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant, our Applied Research team will run a research project on effective organizational strategies to tackle climate change. Last, we want to understand more about how climate change may be affecting our learners. Questions on climate change and sustainability will be embedded into our annual learner survey for the first time.
- **Sustainable procurement.** We are pursuing Fair Trade Campus designation. In 2020, we will continue to engage with our suppliers, and publish a transparent Supplier Code of Conduct on our website. We will investigate options for purchasing electricity generated by renewable sources.
- **Enhancing biodiversity.** With the generous support of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, we will install a native sage garden and outdoor classroom on our South Campus terrace. We will investigate ways to enhance our local biodiversity, such as enhancing habitat for native pollinators.



