

Introduction

- ‘Service-learning is an educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service in order to provide a pragmatic, progressive learning experience while meeting societal needs.’ (Wikipedia, 2020)
- This poster will demonstrate how the TRU sustainability office contributes towards a greener environment.

Organization Information

- The sustainability office was started by Tom Owen in 2009, and Jim Gudjonson was appointed as Director of Sustainability.
- Mission- ‘TRU is a comprehensive, learner-centred, environmentally responsible institution that serves its regional, national, and international learners and their communities through high quality and flexible education, training, research and scholarship. (Thompson Rivers University, 2020)
- Vision- ‘Sustainability is at the core of our values. We are regarded among our peers as a leader in sustainability and we proactively identify opportunities for continuous improvement towards sustainability—both on and off campus. We walk the talk with integrity and work together across departments to fulfil our vision.’ (Thompson Rivers University, 2020)
- Values- We strive for energy efficiency, seek to engage the TRU community with sustainability events, and encourage involvement in sustainability projects. We try to further reduce TRU’s carbon footprint on campus and in the community in the areas of energy, water, food, recycling and zero-waste, transportation, reporting, materials and engagement. (Thompson Rivers University, 2020)
- STARS is a reporting tool for universities and colleges to measure their sustainability performance and benchmark it against other institutions. As a charter STARS participant, TRU received a Platinum rating in 2018 with a score of 88.31-the highest ever achieved by any institution. (Thompson Rivers University, 2020)



(<https://pixabay.com/photos/nature-earth-sustainability-leaf-3289812/>)



(<https://www.tru.ca/sustainability/everyday/zero-waste-recycling-composting.html>)

My duties include:

- Attending zero waste stations once a week. During this, I make others aware about the type of waste that should be disposed in each of the specific bins.
- Volunteering with the ambassadors of sustainability office once every week for tabling. In this, I talk with other students about the different sustainability options that are available in TRU. For e.g. rideshare service, eco containers, reusable cups etc.

Reflection on Experience

- My volunteering experience has been wonderful. Almost everyone was easy to approach and very welcoming towards the ideas that I had to share. There were very few people who were not that open-minded and were not interested in what I had to say.
- The experience was both educational and enjoyable. I got to know many new people from different countries, and with different cultural backgrounds. My experience has helped me overcome my shyness and increased my self-confidence. It has made me more outgoing, and my communication skills have also improved.



(<https://pixabay.com/photos/integration-volunteers-hands-tree-3527263/>)

Interview

- This is an interview that I took of a recipient of my volunteering service:

Did you find the things I talked about helpful?

→ ‘Yes. I now know about the different environment friendly options that are available on campus. I am glad that I am now able to give back something to the community.’ (Islam, 2020)

Are you using the rideshare service?

→ ‘I have my own car, so I am not currently using this. But I have told my friends about this who are using it for coming to the university.’ (Islam, 2020)

Conclusion

- Volunteering has given me a feeling of self satisfaction that I have never felt before, and I am proud to be a member of this organization. I want to continue volunteering even after the end of this course. I wish to play a role in making my community a better place. I hope to volunteer at more organizations, so that I can reach out to help more people.

References

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- (2020, March Tuesday). Retrieved from Thompson Rivers University: https://www.tru.ca/__shared/assets/campus-strategic-sustainability-plan-2020-202547354.pdf
- Islam, O. (2020, March Thursday). (A. Ghosh, Interviewer)

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