



# **The University of Alberta Story of Sustainability .**

Dr. Robert J Summers,  
Director, University of Alberta Sustainability Council



Vistas Dining Room

## **Pre-Summit Workshop I**

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.  
Kinneer Centre, Room 103

### ***Cultivating the Globally Sustainable Self: What It Means, How It's Measured, Why It Matters***

John M. Dirkx, Ph.D., Professor, Michigan State University, Higher, Adult and Lifelong Education and Coordinator, College of Education Online MAED Program  
<https://education.msu.edu/search/Formview.aspx?email=dirkx%40msu.edu>

Craig N. Shealy, Ph.D., Professor of Graduate Psychology, James Madison University  
Executive Director, International Beliefs and Values Institute  
<http://www.ibavi.org/content/craig-n-shealy-phd>









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# University of Alberta





# University of Alberta

## BY THE NUMBERS

Students:

**38,311**  
FROM **148**  
Countries

**388**  
Undergraduate  
Programs

**500**  
Graduate  
Programs

**18**  
Faculties



# Brief History of Sustainability Initiatives





*“Our institutional strategic plan, commits to modelling and advancing sustainability as an integral part of university life.”*

**President David Turpin**









# Program Evolution

2008

2010

2012

2014

2016

2018

## AWARENESS

Sustainability  
Awareness  
Week

Website &  
Newsletter

One Simple  
Act

Campus  
Tours

Week of  
Welcome &  
Orientation

Speaker  
Series

Earth Hour  
Challenge

Student Summit

Green Spaces  
Certification  
Program

Leadership  
Awards

Certificate in  
Sustainability

Workshops

Leading  
Sustainability At  
Work

Eco Move Out

Sustainability  
Scholars

Green Building  
Strategy

Shut  
the Sash

Campus as a  
Living Lab

Green Labs

Sustainability  
Information  
Management  
System

Move In Market

Unit-Level  
Sustainability Plans

**ACTION**







# **Sustainability** Awareness Week October 19–23, 2015



**Speakers, workshops, tours & more!**

**[sustainability.ualberta.ca/saw](http://sustainability.ualberta.ca/saw)**





# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**NOMINATE A SUSTAINABILITY LEADER TODAY**

DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2017



[sustainability.ualberta.ca/awards](https://sustainability.ualberta.ca/awards)







# GREEN GRANTS



**WE FUND SUSTAINABLE CHANGE**

**Get an idea off the ground with Green Grants.**

Improve the university's operational performance, foster campus engagement or demonstrate the viability of best practices and new technologies.

Up to \$2,000 available per project







# SUSTAINABILITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

**WE FUND SUSTAINABLE CHANGE**

**Awards range from \$2,000 to \$50,000**

*Submit your letter of interest by  
the first Tuesday of every month*



Office of  
Sustainability

**[sustainability.ualberta.ca/funding](https://sustainability.ualberta.ca/funding)**



# Zero Waste Stations

- Shift to viewing waste as a resource
- Rolling out across campus
- Aside from mixed paper and organics, recyclables do not have to be sorted





# Green Buildings Initiatives





# THE RESULTS ARE IN!



## ELECTRONICS

**2,890 lbs**

to be recycled by Shanked  
Computer Recycling



## NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND TOILETRIES

**912 lbs**

donated to the  
Campus Food Bank



## EMPTY PERSONAL CARE AND BEAUTY CONTAINERS

**645 containers**

to be transformed into recycled  
plastic by Terracycle



## REUSABLE CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

**2,648 lbs**

donated to Goodwill  
Industries of Alberta



**6,576 lbs**

collected April 16 – May 2





**NEW!**



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



## SIGN UP FOR THE **GREEN LABS LEADERS NETWORK**

Join a growing community, access resources,  
and gain professional development opportunities.

[sustainability.ualberta.ca/greenlabs](https://sustainability.ualberta.ca/greenlabs)



Engagement







CERTIFICATE IN  
SUSTAINABILITY

**Sustainability, it does you credit.**





A photograph of a man and a woman in a library setting. The man, wearing glasses and a grey sweater, is holding an open book. The woman, with long blonde hair and a dark sweater, is looking at the book. Bookshelves filled with books are visible in the background.

*Earn  
a \$5,000  
stipend!*



**SUSTAINABILITY  
SCHOLARS**

*Applied research with a mentor at the City of Edmonton or UAlberta*

Apply by **January 29, 2017** at [sustainability.ualberta.ca/scholars](https://sustainability.ualberta.ca/scholars)

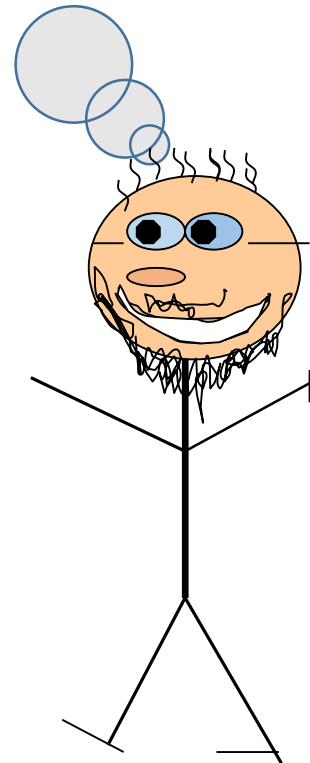


# 2018 Launch of UASC

- The University of Alberta Sustainability Council
- Formed as a result of the Recognition of opportunities for growth in Academic Programing related to Sustainability



In many ways, a core focus of the new unit is to ensure that the University of Alberta is doing the best possible job in ensuring that students are “Cultivating the Globally Sustainable Self”





IBAVI



INTERNATIONAL BELIEFS AND VALUES INSTITUTE

## Rationale for the IBAVI and Summit Series: A Big Picture View

*A critical mass of the world's population must come to understand that the actions, practices, and policies of individuals, groups, organizations, governments, and societies are mediated by beliefs and values that may be highly subjective, non-conscious, and self-serving rather than just, equitable, rational, and sustainable. Such understanding must be sufficiently achieved in the near future by a substantial proportion of the world's population – as well as those who are in positions of relative power and influence – and subsequently translated into relevant actions, practices, and policies.*



# Draft Principles – Student Learning

Every graduating student should leave this campus informed of issues of social, economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability





# Draft Principles – Student Learning

Every graduating student should have critically reflected upon those issues and explored their own (changing) perspectives on them.





# Draft Principles – Student Learning



Every graduating student should be empowered through their degree program to contribute to the transition to a more sustainable and more equitable world.



# Draft Principles – Student Learning

Students who want to become leaders in the transition to sustainability should be provided with academic programming that empowers them to do so.





# Three Key Challenges

1. Plurality of 'Sustainability'.
2. The need to teach students about processes of societal transitions.
3. The need to engage students in ways that facilitate Transformative Learning\*



# Pluralism in Sustainability





# Processes of Transition





# Transformative Learning

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# Next Steps

- Broad engagement with faculty and students
- Building a comprehensive database of courses, instructors, researchers, on campus
- Developing forums for engagement across disciplines and approaches (getting beyond debating definitions).
- Developing new courses
- Expanding enrollment in our certificate program
- Launching 'Sustainability 101' type course and seek buy in to have all students on campus be required to take it
- Continue to expand and further developing experiential learning opportunities.



# Thank You!

Dr. Robert J. Summers (Bob)

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