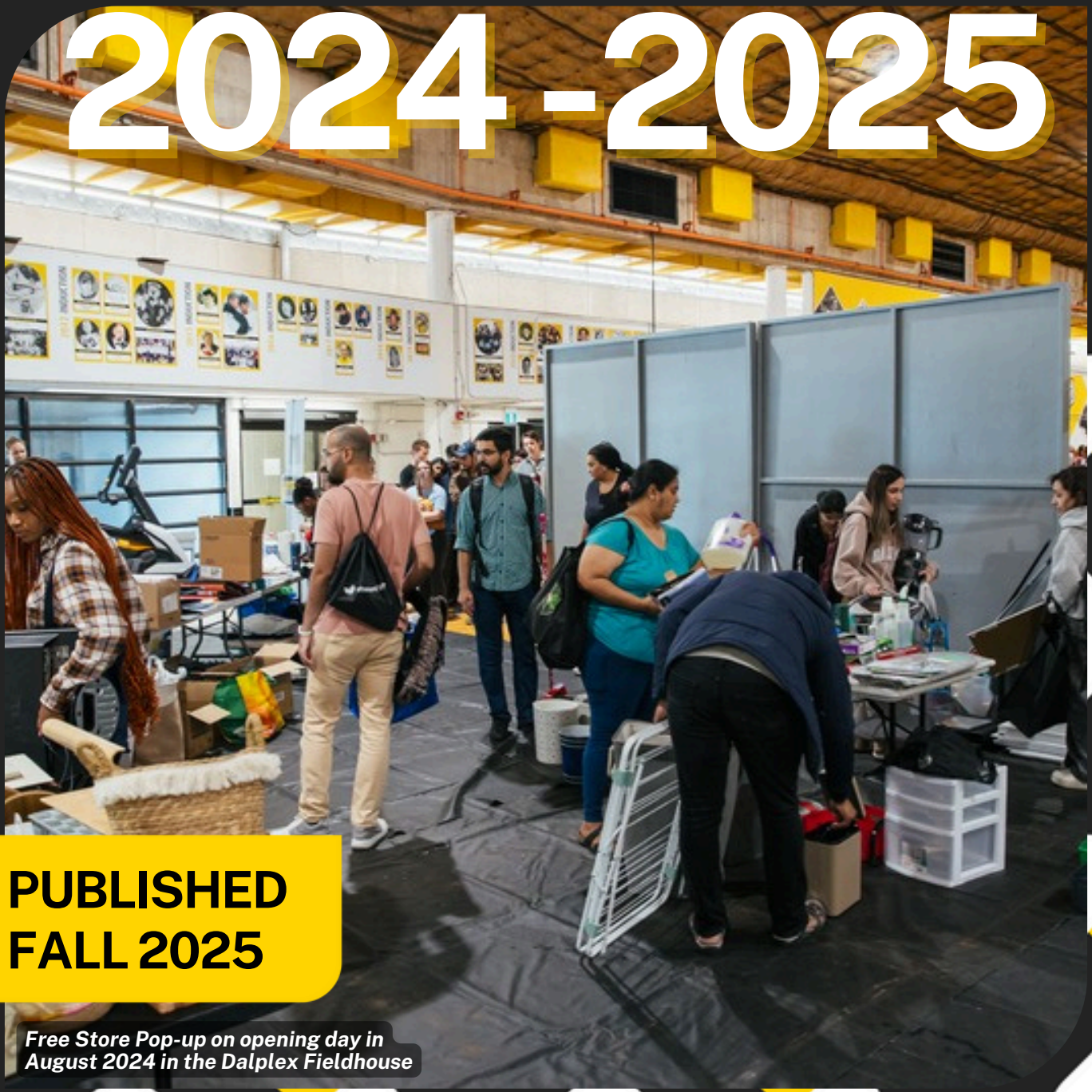
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



PUBLISHED FALL 2025

Free Store Pop-up on opening day in August 2024 in the Dalplex Fieldhouse

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Worried Earth Climate Photo Installation in full bloom by the LSC and Henry Hicks Building



Move-out donations in Shirreff Hall awaiting pickup for the Free Store.

Context

At Dalhousie University, we're committed to bold and transformative actions to create a more sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon campus. Dalhousie's Office of Sustainability (OS) supports the operational side of this work — from decarbonization to sustainable food systems. Supported by partners across the university, we're developing and implementing innovative projects and programs designed to reduce waste, lower emissions, and conserve resources. Through education and engagement, our goal is to empower members of our campus community to take meaningful actions to create a culture of sustainability and achieve our shared goals.

The Office supports university-wide public sustainability reporting that includes the AASHE Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System (STARS) report, QS Sustainability Ranking and the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking (THE IR).

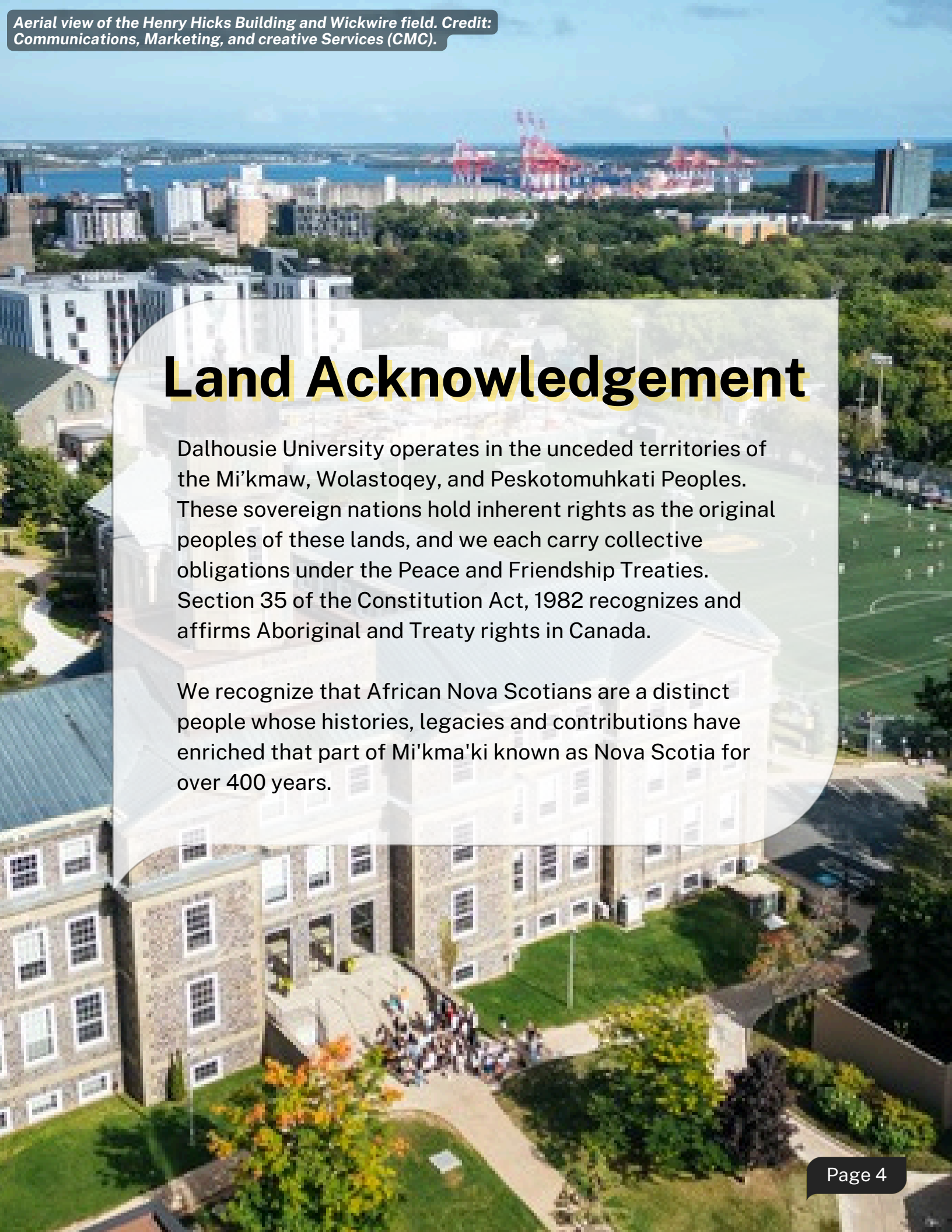
This Annual Report provides a snapshot of progress made on key operational sustainability efforts as identified in the University Sustainability Operations Plan, highlighting key achievements, initiatives and projects undertaken during the 2024-2025 academic year. Broader sustainability reporting is included in international reporting efforts through programs like STARS and THE IR. With our most recent STARS submission in January 2025, Dal achieved a STARS Gold rating. The report can be found here.



OS Team, Summer 2024.
Top (L to R): Amy Dolland, Paige MacCarthy, Raven Freeman Wink, Anna Huber, Yutong Yang. Bottom (L to R): Stephanie MacPhee, Alexa Goodman, Sue Lee. Missing: Lindsay Redding and Stella Eusebius



Location of OS with vibrant pollinator plants.



Aerial view of the Henry Hicks Building and Wickwire field. Credit: Communications, Marketing, and creative Services (CMC).

Land Acknowledgement

Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands, and we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS IN 2024

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

45%
reduction in GHG emissions. Achieved and surpassed 2025 target!

24.5%
of purchases made by Food Services are on plant-based foods.

74%
Dal community members are using sustainable transit for commuting to/from Halifax campuses.

61%
reduction in water use from 2010 baseline.

6%
campus population engaged with OS events and activities.

57%
waste diversion rate.

DESIGNATIONS

FAIR TRADE CAMPUS

Since February 2024

Bee City CAMPUS

Since December 2023

BIKE FRIENDLY CERTIFIED

Since 2016

RANKINGS & AWARDS

THE IMPACT RANKINGS

Dalhousie ranked 88th out of 2,318 institutions in the latest Time Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Dalhousie ranked in 107th globally in the QS Sustainability Rankings.

STARS a program of aashe — GOLD

Renewed until February 2028



Peer educator, Paige MacCarthy, providing waste education to a student at the 2024 Society Expo in the SUB.

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Goal: Work with academic and research efforts by supporting on-campus sustainability class projects, theses, and related research efforts. Employ students all year round to work in the OS.

PROGRESS

- Over 100 students worked with the OS through various means including independent research, coursework, volunteering, and staff positions.
- Summer interns supported a variety of projects and programs on a breadth of topics such as sustainable food systems, reducing food waste, university fleet emissions, Free Store planning, pollinator gardens, and behavior change programs.
- Peer educators organized events and workshops throughout the school year on thematic areas like Fair Trade, Cool (Low Carbon) Foods - plant based diets, and waste reduction, engaging 1525 students, staff and faculty.
- During Sustainability Month (October) the OS teamed up with various departments to host events and deliver programming that followed weekly themes, like Food, Waste, Transportation and Energy. Programming included: Bike workshops with the Bike Center and Next Ride, an increased discount on hot and cold beverages when individuals brought their own mug (BYOM) to select Food Service locations, Sustainable Labs training and Sustainable Event training.
- Students partnered with the OS to divert 829 kgs of clothing and bedding from residences to local charities, including Diabetes Canada and Big Brothers, Big Sisters.
- Hosted the inaugural Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Expo. The full program is available here with highlights and details on page 7.

1525 people
Engaged in events and workshops hosted by peer educators.

829 kgs
Of clothing and bedding collected from residences and donated to charities.



SDGs Expo Set up in the DSU McInnes Room of March 2025.

FEATURE PROGRAM: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Expo

A **conference-style event** showcasing **interdisciplinary efforts** to **advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through **research**, **innovation**, and **community collaboration**. This expo brought together researchers, vendors, and organizations working towards a more sustainable future on and off Dalhousie campuses.

OUTCOMES

68 research posters
From all levels of study

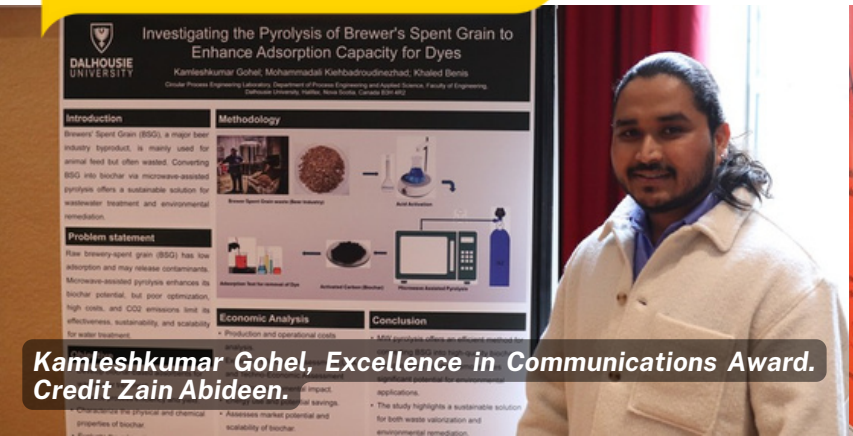


10 disciplines
From natural and medical, to computer science

Matthew Margeson, Most Innovative Research Award winner, with OS ED, Stephanie MacPhee.

34 booths
From innovative solutions to career opportunties

250+ visitors
Over the 3 hour event



Kamleshkumar Gohel, Excellence in Communications Award. Credit Zain Abideen.



Hive to Home Beeswax Wraps product shown with Dal Alum founder Chelsea Schumland

OFF CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS & FUNDING

Goal: Develop and support on-going networks, funding applications, and joint initiatives with community, government, and other external partners. This work supports our collective and university action.

PROGRESS

- The OS continues to contribute to Atlantic Universities and Colleges Sustainability Network (AUCSN), a subcommittee of Interuniversity Services Inc. (ISI), and is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).
- The Executive Director sits as an Atlantic Canadian representatives of the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium (NECSC).
- Members of the OS presented at a variety of conferences and workshops throughout the year including: 2024 Atlantic Solar Summit, Canadian Parking Association, Conference for Atlantic Pathologists, 2024 Education Week – Sustainable Labs Canada (SLCan), and Canadian Association of Pathologists. Presentation topics ranged from agrivoltaics potential in NS, sustainable transportation programs at Dal, and training on our Sustainable Labs Certification Program.

The following external funds (cash and in-kind) were committed for a variety of projects and programs as follows:

- Funding from the Low Carbon Economy Fund, a Federal program that supports large scale carbon reduction projects. In total, $500,000 was committed to Dal through this program for the geothermal optimization project on the Sexton Campus and the Killam Library deep energy retrofit.
- Funding from the Low Carbon Communities program, through the Province of Nova Scotia. In total, $75,000 was received to conduct a feasibility study on agrivoltaics at the AC.
- $15,192 was received to fund student internships: $5,712 was received from the Clean Foundation Clean Leaders Internship program; $4,480 from the Provincial Work Integrated Learning Co-Op Program; $5,000 from a SSHRC grant in partnership with the Agricultural Campus for the Food Impact Network Project.
- $2,000 funding from World Wildlife Fund's Go Wild Grant. Additional plantings in the Shirreff Hall Pollinator Garden and support for the new interpretive signage co-funding by the Faculty of Science.
- $89,275 in rebates were received from Efficiency Nova Scotia for energy projects implemented across our campuses.



Planting event in the Shirreff Hall Pollinator Garden.

Alan Syliboy's work in the The Journey So Far *exhibit at Dalhousie's Art Gallery. Taken on group field trip in June 2024.*



SUPPORTING EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY (EDIA)

Goal: Support institutional EDIA efforts by increasing knowledge and experience of the OS team, integrate into programming, evaluate and identify issues and opportunities.

PROGRESS

- Hires included representation from BIPOC and underrepresented communities (i.e. ethnic minorities).
- Clean Foundation's Clean Leadership Program provided funding to hire a student from an underrepresented group to join our Peer Education team for a summer internship.
- Facilitated learning opportunities for the OS team through a guided visit to Africville and visit to Alan Syliboy's exhibit *The Journey So Far* at Dalhousie's Art Gallery (shown above).
- Integrated accessibility design principles into planning interpretive outdoor signage for the Shirreff Hall Pollinator Garden. Kailey Simon, an indigenous student artist, created Dalhousie-themed pollinator artwork (shown right) paying homage to L'nu culture, which will be featured on the sign, installed in the 25-26 academic year.
- Redistributed approximately $10,000 worth of gently used goods to the student community through the Free Store program, removing financial barriers to accessing household goods, kitchenware, textiles and electronics by providing them at no-cost. See page 10 for more details.





Free Store Pop-up on opening day lineup in August 2024 in the Dalplex Fieldhouse. All photos on this page credit Cody Turner via Dal News.

FEATURE PROGRAM: Free Store Pop-up

A hub for redistributing free gently used goods such as household items, kitchenware, school supplies, and more, thus reducing waste, saving individuals money, and contributing to a circular economy.

OUTCOMES

700 visitors
Mostly incoming students

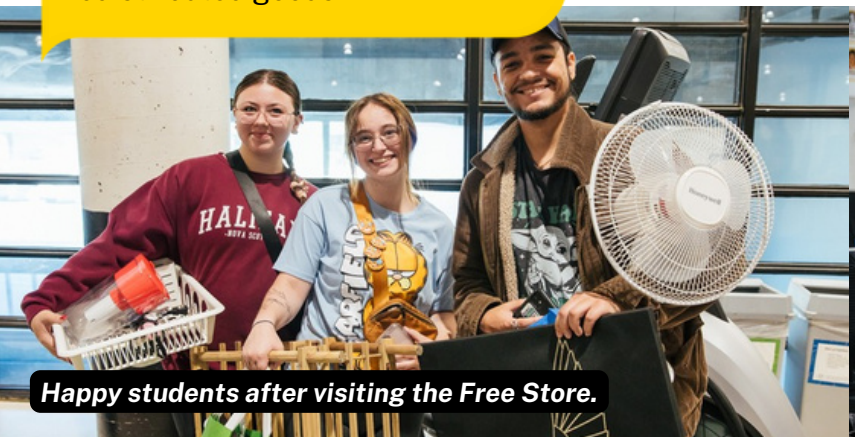


OS Staff Team celebrating a successful first day. L to R: Amy Dolland, Alexa Goodman and Stella Eusebius

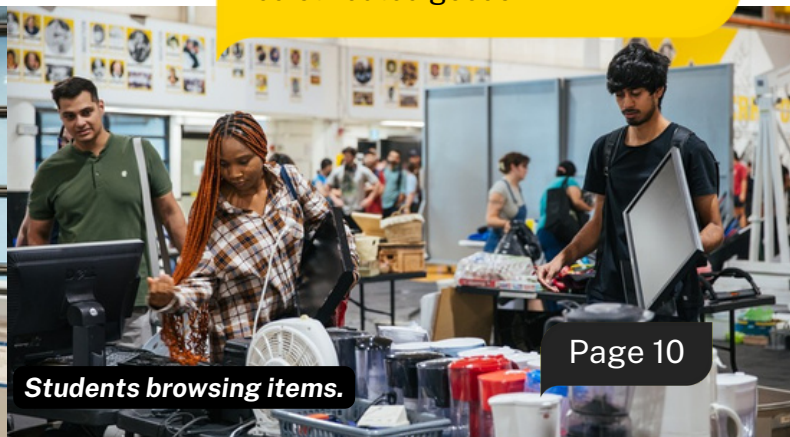
2 days
To clear all stock

$10k
Estimated value of redistributed goods

2.1 tonnes
Weight of redistributed goods



Happy students after visiting the Free Store.



Students browsing items.



Recyclables at Halifax Regional Municipality's Recycling Facility in Bayers Lake, Taken during Sustainability Month fieldtrip. October 2024.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Goal 1: Increased diversion of solid, liquid, and hazardous waste from landfill disposal.
Target 1: 75% diversion from landfill by 2030.
Baseline: 2012 - 60% diversion from landfill; 2020 - 65% diversion from landfill.

Active Programs: Ongoing waste avoidance, reuse (Free Store, Surplus Materials Program) and recycling programs; residence move-out programs; organics, fiber, recyclables, metal, construction and demolition, electronics, appliances, bulb and battery recycling programs offered by Facilities Management. Residence and campus community educational workshops on waste sorting and contamination avoidance. Tours of HRM recycling and organics facilities offered to members of the campus community. Updates to waste signage, education, and additional focus on waste and diversion in the laboratory environment.

Feature Programs: The Free Store - In 2024, the OS piloted a Free Store pop-up during the move-in weekend, redistributing 2.1 tonnes of gently used items left behind during residence move-out. The OS is working to establish this program year-round.

Dalhousie has an active Surplus Materials program, administered by the Procurement Department, that services the Halifax and AC campuses. In 2024, equipment, furniture and supplied totalling more than 33.5 tonnes were redistributed to our campus community through this program.

PROGRESS

57%
Waste diversion rate.
This is a 3% decrease since the baseline year.



67%
Waste diversion rate if wood ash from the AC is included, which is used as farm fertilizer.





International Student Center volunteer playing "What Goes Where?" game during Orientation Week 2024.

Goal 2: Minimize waste generation (includes data from all streams including recyclables, paper and cardboard, organics including food waste, landfill, construction and demolition, universal waste including electronics, biomedical and hazardous); reduce the quantity of purchased materials being disposed of.

Target 2: Increase reduction in waste generated each year over baseline period.

Baseline: 2013 - 85 kgs waste generated/person/year (Halifax); 2020 - 79 kgs waste generated/person/year (Halifax)*

PROGRESS

48 kgs/person
of waste generated in Halifax

44% reduction
in waste generated per person since baseline year



BYOM campaign signage in the SUB made with recycled single-use cups.

Active Programs: Reduction programs impacting total waste generation include working with food services to reduce single use disposable packing through reuse programs, increasing the bring your own mug (BYOM) discount, embedding robust waste avoidance and reuse practices in flagship programs such as the Sustainable Events Certificate (certified 21 events) and Sustainable Labs Program.

Feature Program: As part of the Food Impact Network Project, post-consumer food waste is being monitored in several dining halls — primarily Howe Hall. This involves weighing food waste at set intervals and photographing plate waste before disposal to identify unavoidable items (e.g., fruit peels, eggshells, bones) vs avoidable items and track broader waste habits and trends. At Jenkins Hall (AC campus), an automatic scale is already in use within the dining hall. Beginning in the 2025–26 fiscal year, automatic food waste scales will also be installed across Halifax campus dining halls.

*AC data are estimations from hauler and lacks accuracy. Halifax Campuses represent 99% of the campus population.



Solar PV array on Art Center.

ENERGY & WATER

Goal: Reduce electricity, fuel, water, and materials consumption

Targets: Electricity and fuel - Hold growth and reduce consumption; Water – 70% reduction from baseline year.

Baselines:

- Electricity: 2010 - 80,265 MWh (4 MWh per person); 2020 - 77,771 MWh (4 MWh per person)
- Fuels: 2010 - 190,000 MWhe (10 MWh per person); 2020 - 155,208 MWhe (7 MWh per person)
- Water: 2010 - 1,200,800 m3 (62 m3 per person); 2020 - 461,868 m3 (22 m3 per person)

PROGRESS

All reductions measured against the baseline year (2010).

Electricity

10% reduction
72,490 MWh

18% per person reduction
3.3 MWh /person

Fuels

33% reduction
127,968 MWh
weather normalized

42% per person reduction
5.8 MWh /person

Water

61% reduction
519,654 m3

68% per person reduction
20m3 /person

Active Programs: Each year several projects are in the planning, implementation or final measurement and verification stage to reduce electricity, fuel and water consumption. Projects in the study or planning phase include feasibility study of agrivoltaics system on Agricultural Campus, energy audits of on-campus houses, variable frequency drives (VFD) installation on hydraulic heat pumps and AHUs, recommissioning buildings, and solar photovoltaics (PV) assessment.

Projects moving into or in the implementation stage include LSC recommissioning, installation of mechanical insulation along the steam distribution system, Dentistry recommissioning, Cumming Hall VFDs for AHU and pump, building envelope upgrades at the Engineering Extension Building and other lighting and recommissioning projects.

Several projects are in the final stages, or the measurement and verification stage including the Killam Library Deep Energy Retrofit, geothermal system optimization at Sexton, building envelope improvements at the McCain, Chemistry Building lighting upgrades, HVAC schedule optimization at CHEB, McCain, Ken Rowe and Mona Campbell, recommissioning studies for the SUB and Ken Rowe and ongoing commissioning. Through our energy management information system (EMIS) we identify ongoing opportunities and issues.

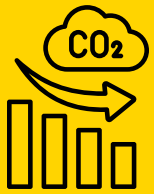
GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS

Goal: Reduce GHG emissions and implement climate adaptation strategies.
Targets (Scope 1 and 2): 30% reduction by 2025 from baseline; 55% reduction by 2030; 80% reduction by 2040; net-zero before 2050.
Baseline GHGs (Scope 1 and 2): 2010: 106,178 tC02e and 6.52 tC02e per person.

PROGRESS

45% reduction
58,645 tCO2e

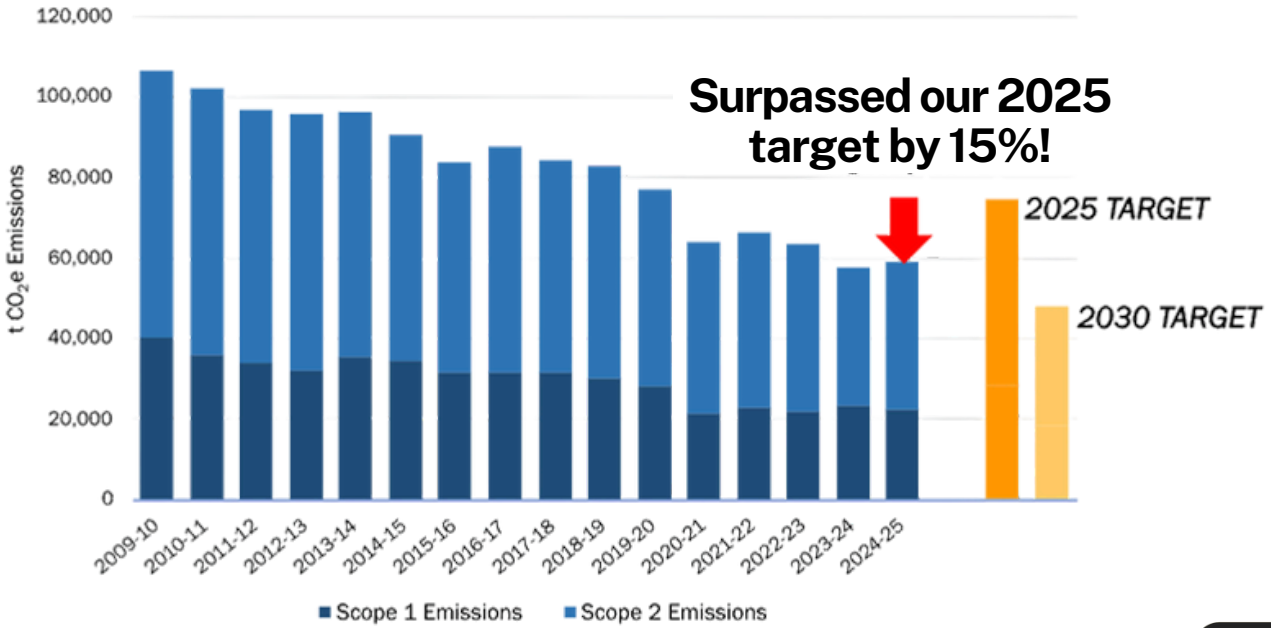
52% per person reduction
2.6 tCO2e/person



Active Programs: Climate action strategies are always in the planning and implementation stages as highlighted in the energy and materials reduction sections of this report. Energy consumption and types account for Scope 1 and 2 emissions of fleet, refrigerants, fuel and purchased energy sources (electricity) for heating and cooling. Scope three emissions of commuting, water use, and materials are also highlighted.

Over the past 15 years, Dalhousie has been actively investing in our infrastructure to improve energy efficiency, lower utility costs, and reduce our carbon footprint in alignment with our institutional sustainability goals. As a result of the work done over a decade and a half, alongside the lowering of the carbon intensity of the local electricity grid, we have surpassed our 2025 GHG emission reduction target by 15%, achieving a 45% reduction in emissions since 2010. We will continue to plan and implement projects and programs to decarbonize our campuses, working towards our next target, a 55% reduction by 2030.

Table 1. Year over year reductions in GHG emissions since 2010 baseline.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Goal: Increase renewable energy supply on and off campus.
Targets: 2020 - 20%; 2030 - 90%-100 for electricity through off and onsite purchases.
Baseline: 2010 - 0% renewable energy on campus;

PROGRESS

Active Programs: Currently the University has nine solar installations, a geo-exchange field, and uses sawmill waste for generating heat and electricity. A new solar installation at the Arts Centre was commissioned last year. Work is underway to prepare for participation in the Province's Green Choice Program which will enable customers like Dalhousie to purchase renewable electricity in Nova Scotia. The OS is also actively working on studies and financing for solar PV, geoexchange, and other low carbon solutions. A feasibility study is being completed in the potential for an agrivoltaics installation at the AC.

5% onsite renewable energy

20% including both on and off campus supply



Solar PV array and green roof on IDEA Building. Photo credit: Cody Turner.



Agrivoltaics example. Source: Canva.



Electric vehicles charging at the new Sexton station on Norma Eddy Lane.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Increased travel (commuting and business) through sustainable modes.
Targets: 2020 – 80% of commuting trips made by walking, cycling, transit, carpooling, or remote work; 2030 target - 85% of trips made using sustainable modes of transit.
Baseline: 2010 - 66% of commuting trips made by walking, cycling, transit, carpooling, or remote work.

Active Programs: Several annual programs and assessments are run by the OS and partners including the employee bus program (in partnership with HRM), safe cycling sessions, active transportation planning, annual commuter survey, efficient and low emission vehicle use education. Raising bike awareness was a predominant focus throughout 2024-2025, including events such as e-bike test rides with Next Ride, Learn to Ride and Learn to Repair events with the Dal/King's Bike Centre, and increased advertising of bike secure parking areas (SPAs) to raise bike security awareness. The OS also supported the Bike Society in developing a proposal for a Bike Center on the Sexton campus along Norma Eddy Lane using an upcycled shipping container. Athletics and Ancillary Services provided funding to remove the broken electric vehicle (EV) chargers at Dalplex and install 6 new Flow EV charging stations.

PROGRESS

74%
Dal community members that use sustainable transit for commuting to/from Halifax campuses.

34%
AC community members that use sustainable transit for commuting to/from the AC.

6 New EV Chargers
Installed at the Dalplex.

Dalhousie University Commuter Survey

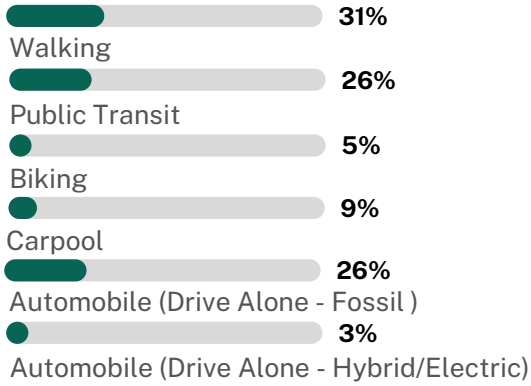
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY

2024-2025

Data is sourced from annual sustainability survey, DalTRAC reports, and commuter GHG emissions data.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

How does our community commute to and from Dalhousie?



74%

Use Sustainable Transport

On Halifax campuses and 34% on the Agriculture Campus.

All campus transportation methods, excluding single-occupancy fossil fuel powered vehicles, are considered sustainable.

How do people travel between Halifax campuses?



70%

Choose walking

As the primary option for travelling between campuses in Halifax, including Studley, Carleton, Sexton, and off-campus health facilities.

How about **secondary modes** (less than 30% of the time) for daily commuting?

This question helps us understand the different ways respondents use transportation in their daily lives.



Public Transportation

Was the **top secondary mode**, used by **29.5%** of respondents.



Walking

Ranked **second** as a secondary mode at **21.9%**.

Secondary commute modes were more often sustainable than primary ones.
Try choosing a sustainable option for your next trip!

Calls to Action: How Can We Inspire Sustainable Transportation Choices?

Ideas for sustainable transportation came from 457 survey respondents.



Improve Bike Infrastructure

Respondents asked for all-weather covered bike parking, bike priority rights of way, and other safety-improving infrastructure.



Vehicular Parking Change

Call to disincentivize parking on and around Dalhousie by increasing fees, and reducing amount of parking available.

Discover more about the programs, projects, and accomplishments of Dalhousie's OS, and access the full transportation report on our website.



Bee enjoying a flowering plant on the IDEA green roof.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Increase campus biodiversity and maintain and increase natural spaces.

Active Programs: Each year the OS works with Facilities Management (Environmental Services group), various departments and students to maintain, and add biodiversity to campus spaces and support education efforts. This year's student-led project included expanding the Shirreff Hall Pollinator Garden during Pollinator Week with a new hügelkultur bed and bi-weekly biodiversity sampling to assess effectiveness, inform management, and teach students new skills. Progress was made in identifying areas for additional edible gardens on campus working with student interns and volunteers.

PROGRESS

- Improved coordination and data collection for the Pollinator Program, upheld Bee City Campus designation, and planted a new bed in the Shirreff Hall Pollinator Garden.
- The OS received WWF funding to add additional plants to the Shirreff Hall Garden to expand the diversity of flowering plants and planning is underway to install designated signage for the area in 25-26.



New hugelkultur bed in the Shirreff Hall Pollinator Garden.



Bumblebee on Joe-Pye weed in the Shirreff Hall Garden.

GREEN BUILDINGS

Goal: Buildings achieve high performance green building standards.

Active Programs: New buildings strive to achieve comprehensive green building certifications such as LEED Gold or higher and may also pursue specific certifications related to carbon and energy. Buildings will be built to evolving net-zero standards and meet and beat codes and regulations. Existing building upgrades follow high performance building standards.

PROGRESS

- The Oulton-Stanish Event Centre, slated to be complete by December 2025, was built to consume 28% less energy when compared with the Nova Scotia Building Code. While not LEED certified, many green building principles were followed in its construction such as a high performance building envelope, variable speed drives for pumps and fans, heat recovery ventilation, high performance heat recovery chiller and adiabatic fluid cooler. An all-electric Zamboni was also purchased for the rink.



Oulton-Stanish Event Centre construction in September 23, 2024. Photo by Emm Campbell in Dal News

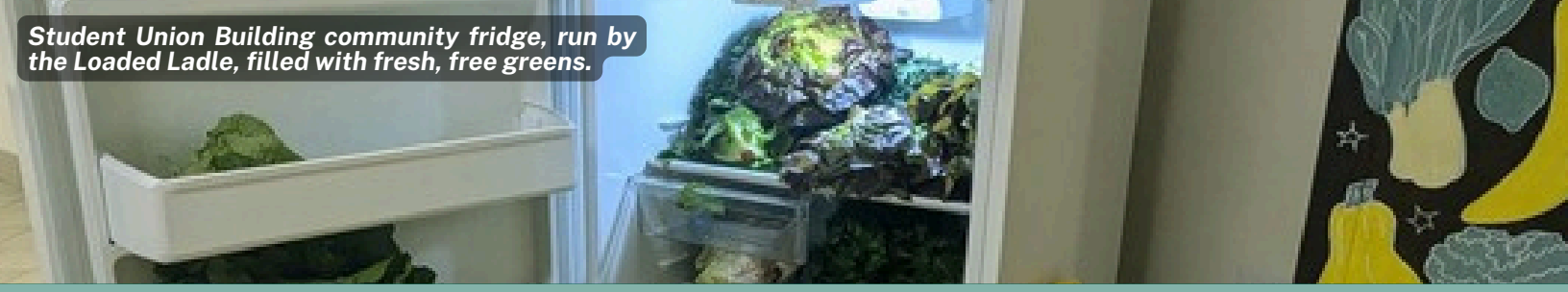
POLLUTION

Goal: Reduce air, water, and land pollution.

Active Programs: The release of air, water (fresh and marine), and land contaminants is assessed through regulatory reporting, audits and assessment. Improving energy efficiency and switching energy sources helps to reduce pollutants along with preventative maintenance of pollution control devices, education, litter clean-up, and proper management of materials such as chemicals.

PROGRESS

- Through the many energy efficiency projects being completed across our campuses, we are reducing fossil fuel consumption and as a result reducing air pollutants. For instance, by making our buildings more energy efficient, we are using less electricity which is generated, in part, by burning coal. With 96% of campus buildings heated via the district steam system, energy efficiency measures also reduce the amount of natural gas burned in the central plant, thus reducing air pollutants.



Student Union Building community fridge, run by the Loaded Ladle, filled with fresh, free greens.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Goal: Transition to more plant-based food offerings.

PROGRESS

24.5%
Of purchases made by Food Services are on plant-based foods.

Active Programs: Ongoing programs and plant-based food offerings are provided in catering, vending machines and dining halls. Current reporting metrics use dollars spent on food to track plant-based food purchases. Other assessments are being examined including by plate, sales, weight or volume. Continued advertising of the Cool Foods Program, aimed to highlight plant-forward and low-carbon meal options.

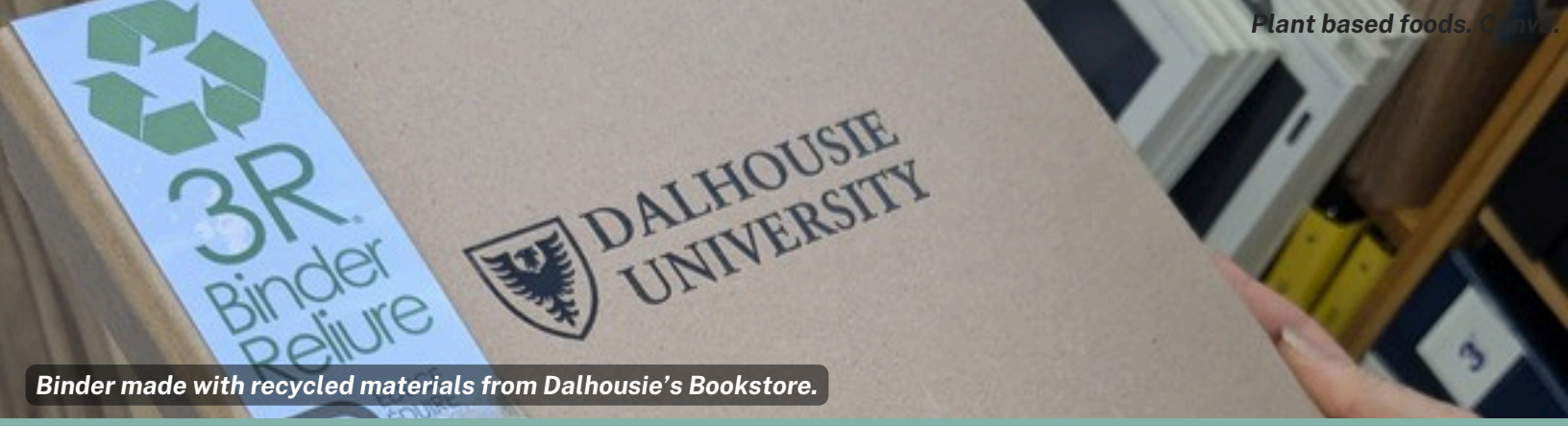
FEATURE PROJECT: Food Impact Network (FIN)

FIN is a two-year research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) that aims to reduce food waste and promote plant-based meal choices in post-secondary institutions and hospitals. Dalhousie University is one of several participating study sites across Canada, where Food Services is contributing data as the test site host (Howe Hall), and the OS is assisting with data collection and recommendations for interventions.



Conducting plate waste audits in March 2025 in Howe Dining Hall.

In the first year of the project (24/25), a Research Assistant embedded in the OS was hired to support on-the-ground efforts, including conducting food waste audits in the Howe Dining Hall and delivering educational programming. These activities are designed to advance the project's core objectives. A survey was deployed to better understand students' food choices and plate waste behaviors in residence dining halls. A total of 53 responses were collected, where results suggest that attitudes are key to shaping both plant-forward eating and food waste behavior among university students. Future work should build on these findings with larger samples, experimental pilots, and real-time behavioral tracking to maximize impact.



Binder made with recycled materials from Dalhousie's Bookstore.

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

Goal: Increase sustainably and ethically sourced products.

Active Programs: Each year, commodity work is being done to increase sustainable and ethically sourced products such as food, travel/fleet, IT/Telecom/AV, stationary, textiles, appliances, professional services, furniture, custodial, energy/water, building/supplies. The OS is connecting with Procurement on new strategies and system opportunities.

PROGRESS

- Dalhousie maintained designation as a Fairtrade Campus, offering ethically sourced coffee, tea and chocolate in all meal halls, food establishments and catering services.

- Dalhousie's Sustainability Policy outlines the requirement around sustainable paper purchasing where 100% post-consumer recycled (PCR) content, third-party certified (if available by suppliers) is encouraged.



Fair Trade chocolate available in campus vending machine in the LeMarchant Place atrium.

44%

Of paper purchased was FSC-certified with 100% PCR content, while the remaining 56% was FSC-certified with 30% PCR content.

Decomposition notebooks and refillable pens made from recycled materials from Dalhousie's Bookstore.

IN SUMMARY

This past year has been marked by exciting milestones, meaningful progress, and a few challenges—all contributing to the continued advancement of sustainability across our campuses. From launching the Free Store and hosting our first SDG Expo to surpassing our 2025 climate target, there is much to be proud of. Together, we've fostered a strong culture of sustainability and action at Dalhousie.

LOOKING AHEAD

The dedication of our staff, faculty, and students—alongside valuable partnerships with units, departments, and individuals across Dal—is essential to achieving our institutional sustainability goals. Looking ahead to the 2025–26 academic year, we're excited to build on this momentum with a focus on the following initiatives:

- Continued expansion of the Sustainable Labs Program
- Development and pilot launch of the new Green Office Program
- Finalization of Dalhousie's participation in the Green Choice Program and the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs) to support our 2030 climate targets
- Further growing the Free Store into a permanent campus program and increasing donation opportunities and operating hours
- Continued planning and implementation of energy efficiency projects to reduce the carbon footprint of built infrastructure on our campuses
- Increased focus on sustainable transportation projects and initiatives to grow the number of individuals commuting sustainably to and from campus
- Continued expansion of native pollinator plants across all campuses
- Strengthening campus-wide waste education and reduction initiatives, including the relaunch of the BYOM campaign and targeted actions to reduce waste stream contamination

As we move forward into this next academic year, we remain steadfast in our mission to create a more sustainable and inclusive future for Dalhousie University and beyond.

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