

# Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) GRANTS 2015

## Final Report

### Title of Project:

Best Practice Cases of Education for Sustainability in Educational Development

### Principal Investigator:

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### Overview of the project:

Sustainability has become an important issue in Canada and globally, and educational developers (EDs) are increasingly asking for assistance in how to incorporate Education for Sustainability (EfS) into their practices. In response, the EDC EfS Action Group was formed in 2013 with a mandate to advance knowledge of the interrelation of environmental, social and economic sustainability topics and pedagogies in teaching and learning within higher education. The three principal investigators, who are members of this group, have found that Canadian EDs want more guidance about how to integrate EfS into their practices, especially using evidence-based approaches.

Presently, sustainability themes are embedded within teaching and research primarily when sustainability is a personal interest of the educator or educational developer. We have identified a need for a more considered and structured approach to integrating sustainability themes, pedagogies and learning outcomes within teaching and learning.

Our aim was to draw out practices of EfS in ED to stimulate and support EDs to incorporate EfS into their practices. We set out to gather practice cases through interviews with expert EfS practitioners and share the results through appropriate websites. We also planned to conduct a literature review in EfS in ED.

We completed the following:

- Interviews using Skype were conducted with 10 people who support faculty in the area of EfS. These interviews were recorded using Ecamm Call Recorder. To keep the project to a manageable size, we focused on national rather than international practitioners; our interviewees all worked at Canadian institutions.
- A website was created to share results of the interviews as openly available resources, and is linked from several other websites including the EDC EfS Action

Group, George Brown College Research and Innovation, the Resource Repository for Sustainability and Leadership, and the UBC Sustainability Initiative. Resources on the website consist of:

- Video clips from the interviews,
- Summary transcripts of the interviews.
- A literature review of EfS in ED was started, and we hope to complete it in the future.

**Educational findings/outcomes**

- The interviews demonstrate a wide diversity of ways in which EDs contribute to EfS, at the institutional level, faculty/department level and course level.
- From the interviews, we have made available a set of video clips and summary transcripts that highlight these practices, and in turn how the EDs support post-secondary teachers to embed sustainability themes, pedagogies and outcomes into their courses and programs.
- See resources at: <http://www.sfu.ca/tlc/resources-and-tools/sustainability.html>

**Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project:**

- Neal, V. & Pivnick, J. Perspectives on Sustainability in Higher Education, BC Festival of Learning, Burnaby, June 2016. The ideas from the interviews helped to inform this workshop and several video clips of the interviews were shown.
- We will be presenting result at the STLHE 2017 conference in Halifax.
- We are considering presenting at future conferences such as World Environmental Education Congress 2017, or others.
- We are considering proposing an EDC Educational Development Guide based on the results of this work.

**Describe how the resource/findings produced by this project will be shared with the EDC community.** (Note: articles or conference presentation are not sufficient dissemination)

- A website has been produced with the video clips and summary transcripts.
- We will promote the website and resources through the EDC listserv.
- The URL for these resources will be posted on the EDC website.

**Budget**

The amount of the original award was \$3,000. There are no funds remaining.

How it was spent	Cost
Research Assistant, undergraduate student, for 120 hrs at \$25/hr including benefits, from Dec 2015 to May 2016	\$3,000