

# Sustainability at Brock Year-in-Review 2020

## Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Ratings System

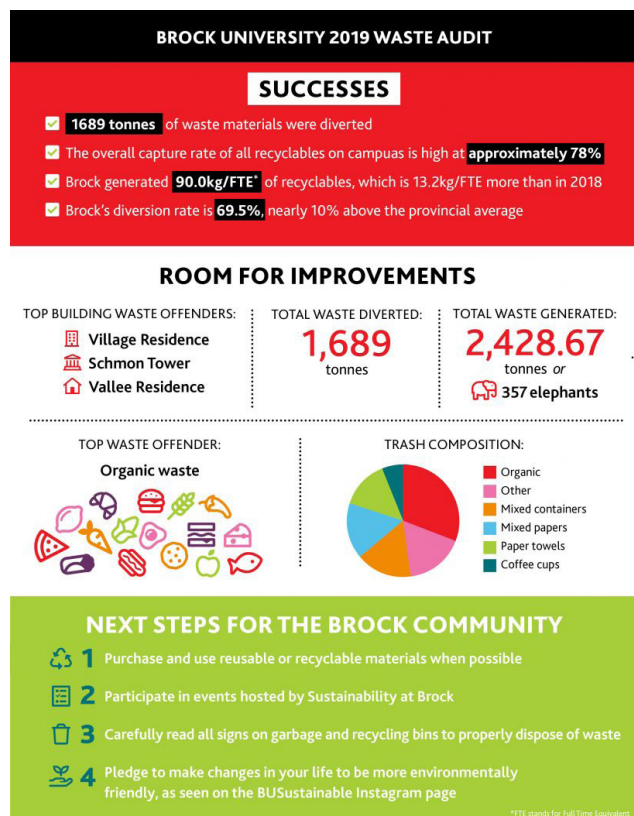
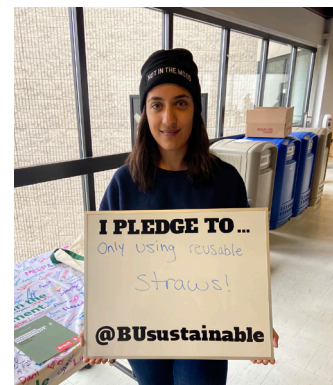
During the second half of 2020, the ESRC and Facilities Management began working to complete the University's first Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). This comprehensive assessment will provide Brock with a starting point in terms of sustainability reporting by denoting baseline numbers for continuous improvement and integrating sustainability into planning and development efforts. The completion of this assessment included conversations with 50+ staff and faculty and the assessment materials were submitted in November 2020. STARS presentations will begin in 2021 to smaller working groups of staff and faculty to facilitate conversations surrounding the successes and areas of improvement within specific departments. The overall goal is to increase collaboration and assist with embedding sustainability across the University.



## Knowledge Mobilization Activities

### Sustainability Pledges

To kick off the new year, we asked students to make pledges to be more environmentally friendly and sustainable in 2020. Students who participated finished the following sentence "I pledge to..." and were encouraged to choose to commit to a big or small change to implement in their lives for the new year. These messages were featured on @BUSustainable social media platforms. The photos on the left demonstrate great examples of ways to implement sustainability in our daily lives!



## Waste Audit Results

The 2019 Waste Audit results were analyzed by research assistants in the Environmental Sustainability Research centre to ensure that they were communicated to the Brock community in an accessible manner, including the creation of an infographic (right). The highlights are as follows:

- Waste diversion rate of 69.5 per cent (nearly 10 per cent higher than the provincial objective)
- Approximately 1688.9 tonnes of waste materials diverted
- Capture rate of all recyclables on campus of approx. 78%
- 11 of 20 divertible materials had a 100 per cent capture rate

## Story Telling Through Blog Posts

We continue to tell the sustainability success stories from across campus and sustainable tips for the Brock community through blog posts and highlighted projects such as the following this past year:

- Leo Leblanc Rowing Centre LED Lighting Upgrade
- Bob Davis & Gym 2 Lighting & Controls Upgrades
- Five Tips on How to Have a Sustainable At-Home Halloween
- How to Reduce Waste During Online School

# Experiential Education for Brock Students

- The partnership has allowed for the hiring of co-op student Elenore Breslow for the summer and fall of 2020. Elenore has been responsible for the completion of Brock's first-ever STARS assessment, including planning, data collection, and reporting of all information related to sustainability on campus. Additional tasks included, supporting FM staff with a LEED EB:O&M feasibility study and assisting with the RFP process for a new environmentally focused project.
- Two RAs were hired for both the winter of 2020 (Erica Harper and Nolan Kelly) the fall of 2020 (Mikellena Nettos and Shannon Ruzgys). RAs are responsible for managing the BUSustainable social media pages, writing accessible blog posts on the Sustainability at Brock website, and help plan events for the Brock community, among additional tasks and duties that may arise.
- On November 16th, 2020, members from the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre presented virtually to Master of Sustainability students in their Foundations of Sustainability Science course (SSAS 5P01) about the Centre's seven innovative community partnerships. The presentation focused on how the partnerships allow Brock students, faculty, and staff to collaborate with partners to move knowledge into action to make an impact within the community.

## The Launch of a New Partnership with WWF-Canada

In September 2020, a formal partnership MOU was signed with World Wildlife Fund-Canada (WWF-Canada) to launch the Living Planet @ Campus Program at Brock University. This new partnership allows students to engage in conservation activities or efforts on campus, in their communities, and even globally through the Living Planet Leader self-guide certification, which is a nationally recognized WWF-Canada certification. Brock will provide opportunities on campus for students to participate in activities that they can then utilize towards fulfilling the certification requirements. To learn more about this new partnership please see the story published in The Brock News.



WWF-Canada and Sustainability at Brock have hosted three events since the MOU was signed in September of 2020:

- Fall Virtual Clean Up and Bio Blitz from September 25 to October 4, co-hosted with Niagara College
- Brock Cares Event held on October 27 highlighted actions Brock students can take to become conservation and sustainability leaders in their communities, check out the blog that was posted about this event
- WWF-Canada Living Planet Leader Webinar on November 5 where Master of Sustainability candidate, Erica Harper, hosted a Brock breakout room for students to discuss future event ideas for the Living Planet @ Campus Program



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