

Business Board  
May 3, 2006  
Item 7(d)  
Attachment 1



**University of Toronto Environmental Protection Advisory Committee  
Annual Report**

**Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Space and Facilities Planning  
March 2006**

## **Executive Summary**

The Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC), made up of representatives from the administration, staff, faculty, students, alumnae and organizations external to the University plays an important role in coordinating environmental initiatives at the University of Toronto. In particular, EPAC is essential to information exchange between the federated colleges, the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses, student groups and the University administration on environmental issues. Furthermore, EPAC acts as an advisory board for the University of Toronto Sustainability Office, which is currently working to secure sufficient permanent funding to continue its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy and resource consumption at the University. The Sustainability Office was launched with seed money obtained from a grant application submitted by EPAC to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, and the Provost has committed to providing some base support for the office from now on. Finally, EPAC also supplies a great deal of support and advice to various projects, initiatives and organizations working on environmental issues at the University.

The Environmental Protection Advisory Committee looks forward to continuing its work facilitating environmental initiatives and communication across all three U. of T. campuses

### **1. Background**

The University of Toronto's Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) is made up of students, faculty, and staff who meet regularly to advise the University on the implementation of the University of Toronto Environmental Protection Policy (attached, Appendix A). In 2004, a proposal submitted to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund by EPAC was approved to fund a Sustainability Office at the St. George campus. EPAC has since served as an advisory committee for the Sustainability Office, providing a bridge between the operational and academic divisions of the University on environmental initiatives, policies and planning.

Currently, the Sustainability Office (SO) handles the logistics of all EPAC meetings, including minutes and agendas. Due to a lack of capacity in the SO and EPAC, these tasks are accomplished with the help of a group of enthusiastic and talented students. This organizational structure will continue into the foreseeable future.

### **2. Membership**

- Beth Savan – Director, Sustainability Office (Co-chair)
- Ingrid Stefanovic – Director, Centre for Environment (Co-chair)
- Cathy Riggall – Vice-President, Business Affairs
- Elizabeth Sisam – Assistant Vice-President, Space and Facilities Planning
- Ron Swail – Assistant Vice-President, Facilities and Services
- Margaret MacMillan – Provost, Trinity College
- Mary Pickering – Associate Director, Toronto Atmospheric Fund
- Bruce Dodds – Director, Utilities and Building Operations
- Reno Strano – Waste Management Supervisor
- Farouk Kothdiwala – Facilities and Services
- John Bisanti – Chief Capital Projects Officer
- Coralie D'Souza – Student representative, Governing Council
- Chris Caners – Manager, Sustainability Office

- Brent Gilmour – Alumnus
- Aubrey Iwaniw, University of Toronto Mississauga
- Estefania Toledo – Students Administrative Council
- Rob Levan – University of Toronto Environmental Resource Network (UTERN)
- Celine Lestrade – Environmental Students’ Union (ENSU)
- Representative from University of Toronto Scarborough
- Representative from Graduate Environmental Students’ Union (GESA)

### 3. Role at the University of Toronto

EPAC currently acts in several different capacities, following the goals of the Environmental Protection Policy:

- Information Exchange:

EPAC is instrumental in providing and developing links between the operational and academic divisions in the University. Furthermore, EPAC is made up of representatives from across the University spectrum, including the federated colleges, as well as the Scarborough and Mississauga campuses. This is particularly important, as the seed funding obtained from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund does not provide for support beyond the St. George campus. In addition, EPAC has been a forum for information exchange between the new Centre for Environment and other environmental organizations on campus, and provides student organizations such as UTERN and ENSU with a communications channel to the administration.

- Support and Advice

As well as information exchange activities, EPAC has been providing advice for various organizations, initiatives, and reporting exercises. Planning support for the Natural Cities Conference, the Sustainable Energy Fair and Environment Week and the Sustainable Campuses Conference has been provided. EPAC has also played a role advising on the Lighting and Chiller Proposal since 2004. Many of the members of the committee planning that proposal also sit on EPAC. It is likely that EPAC will continue to provide advice and guidance for the Energy Infrastructure Renewal Plan, which is to be initiated in the near future, as recommended by the Business Board as well as the Planning and Budget Committee.

- Sustainability Office Advisory Board:

As a result of funding received from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF), EPAC has taken on the role as an advisory body for the Sustainability Office. Due to the mandate of TAF and to the need to focus the limited funds provided, the activities of the SO do not extend to the federated colleges or to the Scarborough or Mississauga campuses. EPAC therefore provides an essential service to the Sustainability Office, acting as a mechanism for reporting and information exchange between the three campuses, the federated colleges, student groups, staff, faculty and students as well as the with operational and academic executives of the University.

In March of 2006 the Vice-President and Provost announced permanent core funding for the Office. EPAC was instrumental in supporting this initiative, and will continue in that role as the

Office is currently seeking to ensure that such funding will be sufficient to support ongoing operational requirements.

In light of these developments, the Sustainability Office is preparing to revise its Strategic Plan to reflect the level and scope of permanent funding committed by the University administration. Currently, the scope and mandate of Office activities are limited due to severe funding constraints. It is expected that EPAC will play a significant role in the redevelopment of the Strategic Plan, which will allow the Office to pursue other sustainability issues, outside the current focus on energy and greenhouse gas emissions, such as paper procurement and environmental policy.

#### **4. Activity Overview 2005-2006**

- Grants
  - Submitted interim reports to TAF, and received further funding installments of \$67,500.
  - Received reports from the SO on other grant activities, including successful applications to EcoAction, Natural Resources Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and the Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment Foundation. Also received reports on pending grant applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – Knowledge Impact in Society, Ontario Power Authority and Ontario Centres of Excellence – ETech.
- Advisory role for SO
  - Funding from TAF lead to EPAC filling the role of an advisory board, providing links to Mississauga, Scarborough, the federated colleges, staff, students, faculty and the operational and academic divisions of the University.
- Energy retrofit proposal
  - Over the past 1 ½ years, EPAC has provided support and guidance to the planning committee for a major lighting and chiller retrofit at the University. In fact, a number of members of the Energy Retrofit Proposal project planning committee are also members of EPAC. Furthermore, it is expected that the collaboration and work between EPAC, Governing Council, Facilities and Services and the Sustainability Office will continue into the future with the development of the Energy Infrastructure Renewal Plan, as recommended by the Planning and Budget Committee as well as the Business Board in early 2006.
- Consultation on specific Sustainability Office projects
  - Two community-based social marketing campaigns, the Rewire project and the Idle Free campaign have received valuable input and direction from EPAC.
  - Consultation on potential funding avenues and permanent location for the Bikechain project, a self-help and cycling repair facility at the University.
  - Provided input for the content and proper distribution of a campus wide survey on energy use and environmental indicators.
- Initiation of University policy review.
  - EPAC initiated a review of University design standards, policies, and procurement procedures to be carried out by members of Facilities and Services

in partnership with the Sustainability Office. This review is expected to have wide-ranging impacts, and will be informed by EPAC throughout the expected year and a half review process.

- Recognition and outreach
  - EPAC also performs important outreach to the City of Toronto and the University community through its recognition of individuals and organizations that show environmental leadership. Four recipients for 2005 were recently announced at the Sustainability Office Open House held in March 2006. The winners were Joanna Angus, Bill Chisolm, the City of Toronto Better Buildings Partnership and Bike Share.
  - Participation of the TAF Associate Director and a staff member of the Canadian Urban Institute on EPAC provide important links for the University to the City and the Urban Institute.
  - Discussions to effectively engage staff and faculty at the University in relevant environmental projects.
  
- Conferences
  - EPAC has also played a role in providing support for numerous conference activities, including the Natural Cities Conference (through the Centre for Environment), the student lead Sustainable Energy Fair and Environment Week as well as the Sierra Youth Coalition's Annual Sustainable Campuses Conference.
  
- Universal Transit Pass
  - EPAC is currently providing strategic advice in the development of a "Universal Pass" system with the Toronto Transit Commission for University students, faculty and staff at the University of Toronto and other post-secondary educational institutions in the Greater Toronto Area.
  
- Information Exchange
  - UTM has provided regular updates on environmental and sustainability activities at that campus.
  - Updates and notices regarding upcoming events, such as conferences and speaker panels have been discussed at EPAC to coordinate organizational efforts.
  - Campus groups, such as UTERN and ENSU have presented regular updates on their activities.

## **Appendix A: University of Toronto Environmental Protection Policy**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, EPAC. UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

#### **A. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY**

PREAMBLE: The University of Toronto is committed to being a positive and creative force in the protection and enhancement of the local and global environment, through its teaching, research and administrative operations. Recognizing that some of its activities, because of their scale and scope, have significant effects on the environment, the University as an institution, and all members of the university community, have the responsibility to society to act in ways consistent with the following principles and objectives:

##### FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- Minimization of negative impacts on the environment
- Conservation and wise use of natural resources
- Respect for biodiversity

##### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

In adopting these fundamental principles, the University will be guided by ethical attitudes towards natural spaces, and will take all reasonable steps to meet the following objectives:

- Minimize energy use, through efficient management and practice
- Minimize water use, through efficient management and practice
- Minimize waste generation through reduction, reuse and recycling
- Minimize polluting effluent and emissions into air, land and water
- Minimize noise and odour pollution
- Minimize and where possible eliminate use of chemicals, including outdoor salt, pesticides herbicides and cleaning agents
- Include biodiversity and environmental concerns in planning and landscape decisions
- Meet and where possible exceed environmental standards, regulations and guidelines

#### **B. IMPLEMENTATION**

To implement this Environmental Protection Policy:

- An Environmental Protection Advisory Committee [EPAC], a committee open to all interested members of the University, will meet several times each year to discuss and advise an EPAC Executive on defined issues consistent with the University Environment Protection Policy.
- The EPAC Executive will consist of representatives of the administrative staff, academic staff, alumni, student representatives and the administration, and will be chaired by a member(s) of the University's academic staff. Membership [see below] on the EPAC Executive will be determined by the Chair(s) of the Executive and the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning, in consultation with members of the University. The term for all appointments will be for one year, renewable, and will be reported to EPAC.

- EPAC through the EPAC Executive will provide advice to the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning on programs to meet the environmental protection objectives. The EPAC Executive will arrange EPAC meetings to provide a forum to exchange ideas with all members of the University of Toronto community. All EPAC meetings will be open to all members of the University of Toronto.
- The Assistant Vice-President, Facilities & Services (F&S) and Chief, Capital Projects Officer will, with input from the EPAC Executive:
  - coordinate the participation of the F&S in the development and implementation of environmental protection initiatives and will liaise with the EPAC and all three campuses on the programs, as appropriate;
  - regularly review University policies and procedures to ensure consistency with this policy;
  - carry out appropriate environmental audits and pilot projects;
  - undertake to inform the University community about this policy and EPAC and how its members, both personally and collectively, can best meet the objectives set forth in the policy;
  - inform all contractors, service operations and users of University facilities that they must comply with requirements of the policy; and
  - collaborate with the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning to issue an annual report concerning the University's impact on the environment, summarizing initiatives undertaken, identifying matters which require particular attention and plans for future initiatives.

### **C. MEMBERSHIP OF EPAC**

The 2005-06 membership of EPAC is:

- Beth Savan – Director, Sustainability Office (Co-chair)
- Ingrid Stefanovic – Director, Centre for Environment (Co-chair)
- Catherine Riggall – Vice-President, Business Affairs
- John Bisanti – Chief Capital Projects Officer
- Elizabeth Sisam – Assistant Vice-President, Space and Facilities Planning
- Ron Swail – Assistant Vice-President, Facilities and Services
- Margaret MacMillan – Provost, Trinity College
- Mary Pickering – Associate Director, Toronto Atmospheric Fund
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