



FOR INFORMATION

TO: University Affairs Board

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AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: The Annual Sustainability Report

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION: The University Affairs Board is responsible for consideration of policy of a non-academic nature and matters that directly concern the quality of student and campus life.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Since its inception in November 2004, the Sustainability Office has assisted the University in making measurable and significant progress towards sustainability. Hundreds of University of Toronto community members have been actively engaged in a vast array of student-initiated sustainability programs across all three campuses. These programs continue to employ a unique fusion of research, actions and education to increase the efficacy of sustainability efforts at this University.

The Sustainability Board was established in January 2007, setting the stage for improved tri-campus co-ordination in the planning and execution of energy and conservation projects. University of Toronto Scarborough established a Sustainability Office in May 2007. At the University of Toronto Mississauga, an Environmental Affairs Office has been in existence since May 2004. As a result of these initiatives, the three campuses were able to undertake a comprehensive energy and resource planning exercise including discussion of a 'revolving' loan fund for environmental projects and have also begun to develop a 'green' standard for capital projects. Grant applications totalling more than \$650,000 were submitted to a variety of agencies this past year.

The Sustainability Offices on the campuses engage in four specific areas:

- the engagement of students, staff and faculty in an effort to reduce resource consumptions;
- the acquisition of outside funding for sustainability initiatives;
- the promotion of the profile of the University as a leader in sustainability research, teaching and practice; and

- the reduction of the campuses' operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions through reduced resource consumption.

The Annual Sustainability Report (attached) provides detail on specific projects, events, initiatives and partnerships (federal, provincial and municipal) that have occurred this year.

The success of the Sustainability Offices continues because of the dedication, knowledge and resourcefulness of students, faculty and staff at each campus.