



TO: Business Board

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DATE: February 24, 2011 for April 4, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Facilities and Services Sustainability Report 2010

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Business Board receives reports for information.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

This is the first Facilities and Services Sustainability Report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Sustainability has been an integral part of the Facilities and Services department's core mission of supporting excellence in teaching and research by providing a safe, clean, comfortable, attractive and sustainable physical environment for almost forty years. This report highlights the operations of the department on the St. George campus, the sustainable practices it has instituted so far, the University's performance as a whole, and its plans going forward.

The report includes sustainability milestones that have been achieved over the course of almost four decades at St. George campus which have yielded impressive savings in water, natural gas and electricity. Since 1973, Facilities and Services' activities have resulted in the avoidance of over 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas, saved 60 billion litres of water and 200 million dollars in utility expenses.

The report also identifies awards and recognitions that our institution has received over the years for our efforts in minimizing negative environmental impacts caused by our daily operations. Recently, we have been recognized by the Sustainable Endowments Institute as a "*College Sustainability Leader*" for earning a grade of A- in its most recent survey – a comparative evaluation of campus sustainability activities at colleges and universities across North America.

Guiding the University into the future is *Ontario's Commitment to a Greener World* – a pledge signed by President David Naylor in November 2009. This pledge was signed by the executive heads of twenty Ontario Universities to reinforce their commitment to preserve and protect the environment. The recent activities which have taken place subsequent to the signing of this pledge are also outlined in the report.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Growth in the campus building portfolio and the University's plans to further enhance research intensive and graduate activities are just a few of the challenges that Facilities and Services face ahead as it continues its efforts to implement projects and initiatives that provide a sustainable environment for the University community. Through this report, Facilities and Services hopes to encourage and involve the University community in finding ways to further integrate environmentally responsible activities throughout the institution as look toward the future.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report is for information only.