



Bee Campus Renewal 2024

Name of College or University

Wilfrid Laurier University

Address

75 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3C5

Website URL

<https://students.wlu.ca/student-life/sustainability/index.html>

Name

Dan McGregor

Applicant's Job Title

Outreach and Programs Officer

Organization or Department

Sustainability Office

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Please add more rows as needed.

Full Name	Role	Email
Dan McGregor	Lead facilitator	

Katarina Milicic	engagement and communications
Eric Meliton	project support
Christine McKinlay	in house apiarist
James Emary	Grounds Manager
Adrian Degasperis	Student support

Briefly summarize your Bee Campus experience.

Our office continues to improve our naturalization efforts at Laurier with the help of other internal departments and student groups. Laurier's students, staff, and faculty have shown great interest and dedication to pollinators on our campus. Earlier this year, Laurier has released the latest iteration of the Sustainability Action Plan which guides environmental efforts on campus for the next five years. One of the priority goals is to achieve a system of open and natural spaces throughout campus, prioritizing pedestrians and a positive, thriving relationship between the built and natural environment. The actions listed under this goal focus on supporting pollinators on campus, introducing more natural spaces, and creating opportunities for the Laurier community to engage with the natural environment.

Over the course of the last year, we have promoted and engaged our community with pollinators on campus. We have held events to teach the Laurier community how to maintain and clean up a garden, plant pollinators, and properly prune trees and shrubs to promote plant health. Through our communications we also raise awareness on pollinators, highlighting our Bee Campus designation in our monthly newsletters, our social media, and in our direct engagement and open houses.

Finally we have now started using jars of honey from Laurier's apiary as gifts for external partners, guest speakers, and student prizes.

Please tell us about any campus initiatives focusing on creating new, improving or maintaining existing habitat for pollinators. This could include work on campus grounds and other areas. If possible, include a plant list.

Over the past year we have been increasing naturalized spaces on campus featuring natural plants rather than manicured flowers in strategic areas around residence buildings, parking lots, and academic buildings. We have also re-planted our pollinator garden and pollinator spiral. we have also started introducing pollinators that are intercropped into our Indigenous garden featuring traditional medicines, a three sisters garden and other produce.

Pollinator plants include:

Yarrow

Pearly Everlasting
Butterfly Milkweed
Bee Balm
White Wood Aster
New England Aster
Feather Reed grass
Purple Coneflower
Salsa Sneezeweed
Sunshine Daydream Sunflower
Pot O'Gold
Latham Raspberry
Hope for Humanity Rose
Cup Plant
Fireworks Goldenrod
Dwarf Goldenrod
Narrow-leaf Ironweed
Cardinal flower
Wild Columbine
Dense Blazing Star
Swamp Milkweed
Culvers Root
Anise Hyssop
Lupine
Beardtongue

Please tell us about any campus initiatives aimed at educating students, faculty staff or the local community about pollinators.

Our office is involved in a variety of class facilitations on campus across a number of departments to have students learn more about pollinators and Laurier's current initiatives. During planting sessions, we also provide education on the importance of pollinators and garden implementation best practices. We also cross promote pollinator events and campaigns that are led by our internal student groups like the EcoHawks and Sustainability Council. Our Indigenous Student Centre has also supported on campus pollinators by hosting a lunch and learn for Laurier's staff and faculty that included the importance of pollinators in supporting food security and food sovereignty, guests of the events also received seeds harvested from plants pollinator plants in our community garden.

Please tell us about your participation in International Pollinator Week celebrations (if applicable) and other pollinator-themed events.

Our office hosted a conference for Ontario's colleges and universities during this week and we did not have capacity to run a pollinator week campaign.

How did your campus promote being a Bee City Campus? For example, signage, website, social media, posters.

We have Bee campus signage in our gardens and naturalized spaces. We also have bee campus information on our staff website, student website, and public facing website. (New versions with the Bee Campus logo are being launched this spring). It is also highlighted in Laurier's Annual Sustainability report.

Our in house apiarist also runs a Laurier apiary instagram account that regularly posts pollinator information, and best practices in bee keeping.

Has your campus posted Bee City Canada signage?

Yes

What are your plans for the coming year? Please attach any documents outlining plans for habitat restoration, new habitat creation, education initiatives and celebrations below.

Over the next year we are planning to convert more spaces on campus to naturalized areas containing giving student groups and offices the chance to lead each planting. Along with each of the plantings we are looking to include more comprehensive signage about pollinators and the importance of naturalized spaces. We are also exploring a project with a student group to create a self guided walking tour of the campus where students can interact with our sustainability initiatives and learn more about them through scanning QR codes.

We are also creating another pollinator committee for the Brantford campus as we pursue an additional Bee Campus designation for the Brantford campus.

How can Bee City Canada help to facilitate your vision of a campus community which supports pollinators?

As we engage more classes and student groups it would be helpful to have a media kit that could provide social media/power point templates, graphics, icons, etc. that match the Bee City branding.

We are also involved in a number of capstones, helping to identify issues that student classes could learn about would also be helpful e.g., impact of community events on pollinators, best practices for grounds maintenance, supporting pollinators while seasons change.

Applicant's Signature

Dan McGregor

Date

2024-04-11