



Student Participation at the University of British Columbia (SEEDS Program)

SEEDS Program

- Integrates student's sustainability ideas with the staff members' expertise
- Encourages partnerships between operational and academic efforts
- Enables impactful sustainability projects on campus
- Brings together campus operations and academics to develop collaborative solutions to real-life sustainability issues

Re-Use Project: Re- Use of Surplus Furniture at UBC

Objectives

- Reducing the amount of landfill waste
- Introducing a structured process for the re-use of furniture on campus
- Creating a business model to generate revenue for the university
- Holding up to environmentally friendly values

Realization

- Identifying weaknesses in the current re-use system at UBC
- Comparing UBC to other educational institutions
- Researching for "ideal" re-use practices and structural on-campus processes
- Interviewing stakeholders on several campuses in different departments
- Reaching out to possible partners

Challenges

- Grasping the complexity of the problem and getting on overall picture over the different stakeholder's tasks and interests
- Matching other educational institutions' successes to UBC's context
- Proving the financial value of the project due to the lack of data on expenditures on furniture and the amount of furniture that goes to the landfill

Lessons Learnt & Successes

- Need for consulting different stakeholders
- Communication between departments is crucial for a common waste reduction strategy
- On-campus re-use process depends on local factors and the context, no "one-size fits all" solution
- UBC established regular working groups to engage with the issue of re-use, including all relevant stakeholders
- SEEDS Project Report published in the library, contributes to further debate and to the relevance of student initiatives

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Project Report: https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/sustain.ubc.ca/files/seedslibrary/Re-use%20of%20Surplus%20Furniture%20at%20UBC_0.pdf

