

February 2026

Sustainability Newsletter



As winter lingers in the Okanagan Valley, February presents a significant opportunity to transform introspection into proactive measures. With days gradually lengthening, our community's commitment to sustainability thrives, focusing on energy conservation, waste reduction, and climate initiatives on campus. This month inspires us to adopt practical habits that enhance our resilience during the chill, all while gearing up for the seasons to come.



Throughout British Columbia and Canada, post-secondary institutions are championing sustainability through initiatives in clean energy planning, collaborative research, and student participation. These efforts emphasize the vital link between environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and community health principles that resonate with our college's mission. As winter sets in, energy consumption rises, waste increases, and local ecosystems face added pressures. By prioritizing actionable steps, engaging the campus community, and raising local awareness, we can transform February into a month of intentional strides toward a more sustainable future in the Okanagan Valley.

Practical Actions for February :

1. Reduce Winter Energy Use on Campus and at Home.
2. Minimize Waste and Improve Recycling Habits.
3. Support Sustainable Food Choices.
4. Protect Local Ecosystems During Winter Recreation.
5. Build Sustainable Habits for the Year Ahead.

1. Reduce Winter Energy Use on Campus and at Home

Cold temperatures significantly increase heating demand in buildings, leading to higher energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Improving energy efficiency during winter reduces costs, lowers emissions, and enhances comfort.



What we can do

- Lower thermostats slightly and wear warm indoor layers.
- Close blinds and curtains at night to retain heat.
- Use power bars to fully shut off electronics when not in use.
- Limit space heater use and follow safety guidelines.
- Schedule regular maintenance for heating systems.

Local Tip

Please refer below links for more practical strategies.

1. [FORTIS BC Energy-saving tips and technologies.](#)
2. [BC Hydro Energy-saving tips and technologies.](#)

2. Minimize Waste and Improve Recycling Habits

During winter, waste production tends to rise because of packaging, takeout meals, and seasonal shopping. Cutting down on waste not only saves resources but also helps minimize methane emissions from landfills.



What we can do

- Sort waste correctly using campus recycling guidelines.
- Choose reusable containers, mugs, and cutlery.
- Avoid wish-cycling by learning what truly belongs in recycling bins.
- Repair or donate items instead of discarding them.
- Compost food scraps whenever possible.

3. Support Sustainable Food Choices



Food systems play a major role in greenhouse gas emissions. Opting for local and seasonal produce not only aids BC farmers but also cuts transportation emissions and bolsters food security.

What we can do

- Choose BC-grown and seasonal products.
- Reduce meat consumption by trying plant-forward meals.
- Store food properly to avoid spoilage.
- Use leftovers creatively to reduce food waste.
- Learn about sustainable food labeling.

4. Protect Local Ecosystems During Winter Recreation

Winter ecosystems are sensitive, and wildlife depends on undisturbed habitats for survival. Recreational activities can unintentionally disrupt animals and damage vegetation.



What we can do

- Stay on designated trails when hiking or snowshoeing.
- Keep dogs leashed in wildlife areas.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife and feeding animals.
- Respect seasonal closures and signage.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles year-round.

5. Build Sustainable Habits for the Year Ahead

Sustainability is most effective when built into daily routines. Small, consistent actions lead to long-term environmental and personal benefits



What we can do

- Set realistic monthly sustainability goals.
- Track energy, waste, or transportation choices.
- Reflect on successes and challenges.
- Share ideas with peers and classmates.
- Stay informed about campus sustainability initiatives.

Thank you for reading our February Sustainability Newsletter.

We appreciate your continued interest in sustainability and climate action here in the Okanagan Valley and beyond. Every step from learning and planning to participating in local initiatives helps build a more resilient and sustainable future for our campus and community.

We look forward to continuing this journey together and hope you'll stay connected, involved, and inspired.

For more up-to-date news, upcoming events, and sustainability initiatives, please visit:
<https://www.okanagancollege.ca/sustainability>



Share your thoughts to enhance our sustainability efforts at:



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