

April 2026

# Sustainability Newsletter



As spring fully arrives in the Okanagan Valley, April brings longer days, blooming landscapes, and new opportunities to engage with sustainability on and around the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College. This is a time of visible environmental change trees budding, wildlife becoming more active, and the campus community spending more time outdoors.



April also marks Earth Month, a global period of environmental awareness and action. Across British Columbia, institutions and communities are accelerating efforts in clean energy, climate resilience, and waste reduction. These initiatives highlight the importance of local action in addressing global environmental challenges.

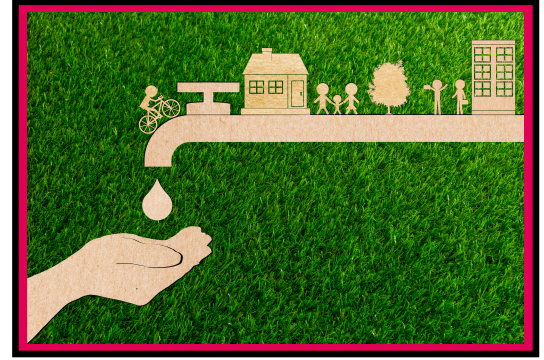
For students, faculty, and staff at Okanagan College, April is an ideal time to move from intention to action participating in campus initiatives, reducing environmental impact, and contributing to a more sustainable Okanagan Valley.

## Practical Actions for April

- Reduce water use as seasonal demand increases
- Participate in Earth Month events on campus and locally.
- Choose reusable items for outdoor activities.
- Support local food systems and early markets.
- Practice responsible recreation in Kelowna's natural areas.

## 1. Water Conservation on Campus

With warmer temperatures arriving in Kelowna, water demand begins to rise. Early conservation efforts are essential in maintaining sustainable water use throughout the dry summer months typical of the Okanagan region.



### What we can do

- Report leaks or excessive water use in campus facilities.
- Use refill stations instead of bottled water.
- Only run full loads in shared kitchens or residences.
- Be mindful of water use in washrooms and common areas.

### Local Tip

Students and staff can explore water-saving tools, rebates, and practical conservation tips through the Okanagan Basin Water Board & RDCO

## 2. Get Involved in Earth Month

April is a key time for environmental engagement at Okanagan College and across the Kelowna community. Participating in events builds awareness and strengthens collective impact.



### What we can do

- Join campus-led clean-up events or sustainability campaigns.
- Attend workshops or information sessions.
- Volunteer with local environmental groups.
- Encourage classmates and colleagues to get involved.

### Local Tip

Look for Earth Month activities happening both on campus and throughout Kelowna, including park clean-ups and environmental education events. Refer RDCO

### 3. Reduce Waste During Outdoor Season



As more people spend time outside, waste especially single-use plastics tends to increase. Making small changes can significantly reduce environmental impact.

#### What we can do

- Bring reusable water bottles, coffee cups, and containers.
- Avoid single-use packaging when possible.
- Dispose of waste properly using campus recycling stations.
- Participate in litter clean-up efforts on or near campus.

#### Local Tip

Popular outdoor areas near Kelowna can accumulate waste during spring. Packing reusable items helps protect these shared spaces. Refer [RDCO](#)

### 4. Support Local Food Systems

April signals the return of local food activity in the Okanagan, including early-season produce and greenhouse-grown products. Supporting local agriculture reduces emissions and strengthens the regional economy.



#### What we can do

- Choose locally sourced food when available.
- Try plant-forward meals a few days each week.
- Reduce food waste by planning meals ahead.
- Support farmers' markets and local vendors.

#### Local Tip

Watch for the reopening of the Kelowna Farmers' and Crafters' Market, a great way to support regional producers and access fresh, seasonal foods.

## 5. Respect Local Ecosystems and Wildlife

Spring is an active and sensitive time for wildlife in the Okanagan. Responsible outdoor behavior helps protect ecosystems and ensures safe coexistence.



### What we can do

- Stay on designated trails in parks and natural areas.
- Keep dogs leashed where required.
- Avoid feeding or approaching wildlife.
- Follow Leave No Trace principles.

### Local Tip

Nearby natural areas such as Mission Creek Regional Park provide excellent opportunities for recreation. Refer RDCO

## Participate in Campus Sustainability Initiatives

Community involvement is key to building a sustainable campus. April is a great time to take part in initiatives led by students and staff at Okanagan College.



### What we can do

- Join sustainability-focused student groups.
- Volunteer for campus environmental events.
- Share ideas for improving sustainability practices.
- Stay informed through campus communications.

### Local Tip

Please refer RDCO

## Local & BC Sustainability Updates

### 1. Expansion of Clean Energy Projects in BC

British Columbia is continuing to invest in renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, and hydro, to meet growing electricity demand and reduce emissions. Many projects also involve partnerships with Indigenous communities, supporting sustainable development across the province.

[Click here for more details](#)

### 2. Increased Focus on Water Conservation in the Okanagan

Water conservation remains a critical priority in the Okanagan due to its naturally dry climate and increasing pressure from hotter temperatures and population growth. Local organizations like the Okanagan Basin Water Board are continuing to invest in water security, conservation programs, and research to protect long-term water supply in the region.

[Click here for more details](#)

### 3. Growth of Community Environmental Programs

The Environmental programs in Kelowna continue to expand, with increased opportunities for residents and students to participate in recycling initiatives, clean-up events, and sustainability education that support a healthier local environment.

[Click here for more details](#)

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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