

March 2026

Sustainability Newsletter



As winter begins to give way to spring in the Okanagan Valley, March is a month of transition and renewal. Warmer temperatures and longer days provide an opportunity to shift our sustainability focus toward seasonal change, environmental stewardship, and preparation for the months ahead. It is an ideal time to evaluate our daily habits, refresh sustainability goals, and engage with the natural environment as it begins to reawaken.



Across British Columbia and Canada, institutions, communities, and governments continue advancing climate solutions through renewable energy development, energy efficiency initiatives, and sustainable infrastructure investments. These actions highlight the growing recognition that climate resilience and sustainability must be integrated into everyday decision-making.

For our campus community, March offers an opportunity to reconnect with nature, participate in sustainability initiatives, and adopt practices that support environmental health as spring approaches. Whether through conserving resources, supporting local food systems, or protecting natural habitats, small collective actions can help build a more sustainable future for the Okanagan Valley.

Practical Actions for March :

1. Prepare for spring by reviewing energy and water use habits.
2. Participate in campus or community environmental initiatives.
3. Support local and seasonal food producers.
4. Reduce waste during spring cleaning and seasonal transitions.
5. Protect local wildlife and ecosystems as outdoor recreation increases.

1. Transition to Spring Energy Efficiency

As temperatures begin to fluctuate during early spring, energy use in buildings can become inefficient if heating systems continue running at winter levels. Adjusting energy habits during seasonal transitions helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions while lowering energy costs.



What we can do

- Adjust thermostats as outdoor temperatures rise.
- Take advantage of natural daylight instead of artificial lighting.
- Turn off electronics and equipment when not in use.
- Open windows briefly for fresh air instead of increasing heating or cooling.
- Report heating or ventilation issues in campus buildings.

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. Reduce Waste During Spring Cleaning

March often marks the beginning of seasonal declutter and cleaning. Without proper planning, this can lead to increased waste going to landfills. Choosing reuse, repair, and recycling options helps reduce environmental impacts and supports the circular economy.



What we can do

- Donate clothing, books, and household items instead of discarding them.
- Recycle electronics through approved recycling programs.
- Avoid purchasing unnecessary new items when organizing spaces.
- Repair items whenever possible.
- Follow campus recycling guidelines.

Local Tip

The Regional District of Central Okanagan offers recycling and reuse programs for electronics, household materials, and other items that should not go to landfill.

3. Support Local Food and Early Spring Agriculture



Food transportation contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Supporting local food systems reduces transportation impacts while strengthening regional agriculture and food security.

What we can do

- Choose locally produced foods whenever possible.
- Try plant-forward meals several days each week.
- Reduce food waste by planning meals and using leftovers.
- Store fresh food properly to extend shelf life.
- Learn about sustainable food certifications.

Local Tip

The Regional District of Central Okanagan Spring marks the preparation season for local farms across the Okanagan. Supporting local producers and markets helps strengthen the region's food system and economy offers recycling and reuse programs for electronics, household materials, and other items that should not go to landfill.

4. Protect Wildlife During Early Spring

Early spring is a sensitive time for wildlife as animals emerge from winter conditions and begin nesting or breeding. Human activity can unintentionally disturb habitats and affect wildlife survival.

What we can do

- Stay on designated trails when hiking or biking.
- Keep dogs leashed in wildlife areas.
- Avoid approaching or feeding wildlife.
- Respect conservation signage and protected areas.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles.



Local Tip

Many regional parks and natural areas in the Okanagan provide guidance on responsible recreation to help protect wildlife and fragile ecosystems during seasonal transitions.

5. Participate in Campus Sustainability Initiatives

Community participation is essential for achieving meaningful sustainability progress. Campus initiatives, student organizations, and volunteer activities help create awareness while encouraging collective environmental action.



What we can do

- Participate in campus sustainability programs and events.
- Join environmental student groups or volunteer opportunities.
- Share ideas for improving sustainability on campus.
- Stay informed about college sustainability initiatives.

Sustainability Pledge Campaign- Winners Announcement

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sustainability Pledge Campaign at Okanagan College!

We were inspired by the many students who committed to small but meaningful actions that support a greener campus and community. Your pledges demonstrate that real change begins with individual choices and a shared commitment to sustainability.

The campaign officially closed on February 20, 2026, at 4:00 PM, and we are excited to announce the five winners of the \$100 gift cards redeemable at the Campus Bookstores and Campus Market.

- **Farhan Sulaiman Khan**
- **Tiana Langedyk**
- **Julian Aronson**
- **Jennel Eggenberger**
- **Bobbie-Jo Koutsantonis**

Congratulations to our Sustainability Champions! Your leadership sets a powerful example for your peers and highlights the positive impact students can make when they choose to act.

To everyone who participated—thank you for helping strengthen the culture of sustainability at Okanagan College. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved!

Local & BC Sustainability Updates

1. BC Ferries Expanding Hybrid-Electric Fleet

BC Ferries is expanding its fleet of hybrid-electric vessels that combine battery power with traditional engines to reduce emissions and fuel consumption. The shift toward hybrid marine transportation reflects a broader transition toward lower-carbon transportation systems in the region

[Click here for more details](#)

2. British Columbia Moving Toward Permanent Daylight Time

The province has announced plans to permanently adopt daylight saving time, eliminating seasonal clock changes. The decision reflects strong public support and aims to simplify timekeeping while aligning with regional partners.

[Click here for more details](#)

3. Expansion of Renewable Energy Development in BC

The provincial government continues advancing renewable energy projects and transmission infrastructure to increase clean electricity supply and support long-term climate goals.

[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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