

June 2026

# Sustainability Newsletter

**As the Okanagan Valley moves into the heart of summer, June brings vibrant outdoor activity, warmer lake temperatures, and longer evenings across the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College. With students, faculty, and staff spending more time outdoors, June is an excellent opportunity to focus on sustainability through recreation, travel habits, resource conservation, and community well-being.**



June also marks the beginning of a season when environmental pressures in the Okanagan become more visible. Increased tourism, higher electricity demand, growing waste generation, and pressure on natural ecosystems all highlight the importance of sustainable living during the summer months.

Across British Columbia, communities are continuing efforts to strengthen clean transportation, climate adaptation, biodiversity protection, and responsible resource use. These initiatives demonstrate that sustainability is not only about reducing environmental impact. It is also about building healthier, more resilient communities for the future.

For the Okanagan College community, June is a chance to enjoy the outdoors responsibly while continuing to make choices that support environmental stewardship across campus and the wider region.

## Practical Actions for June

- 1. Practice sustainable outdoor recreation.**
- 2. Reduce single-use plastics during summer activities.**
- 3. Support biodiversity and pollinator health.**
- 4. Choose low-impact summer travel options.**
- 5. Stay cool sustainably during hot weather.**

## 1. Practice Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

June is one of the busiest months for outdoor recreation in the Okanagan. Beaches, hiking trails, parks, and lakes attract large numbers of visitors, making responsible outdoor behavior essential for protecting local ecosystems.



### What we can do

- Stay on designated trails while hiking or biking.
- Pack out all garbage and recyclables.
- Respect wildlife and avoid disturbing habitats.
- Use reusable containers and water bottles during outings.
- Follow local park regulations and fire safety rules

### Local Tip

Popular outdoor destinations around Kelowna, including Knox Mountain, Mission Creek, and local beaches, benefit greatly when visitors follow Leave No Trace practices.

## 2. Reduce Single-Use Plastics During Summer Activities

Summer activities often lead to increased use of disposable products such as bottled drinks, takeout containers, and plastic utensils. Small choices can significantly reduce waste generation during the busy summer season.



### What we can do

- Carry reusable water bottles, coffee cups, and shopping bags.
- Bring reusable cutlery and containers for picnics or lunches.
- Avoid individually packaged products when possible.
- Properly sort recyclables using campus and community recycling stations.

### Local Tip

Plastic waste can easily enter Okanagan waterways during summer events and recreation. Reducing single use plastics helps protect lakes and wildlife habitats.

### 3. Support Pollinators and Biodiversity



June is an important month for pollinators such as bees and butterflies, which play a critical role in food production and ecosystem health. Protecting biodiversity helps maintain healthy natural systems across the Okanagan.

#### What we can do

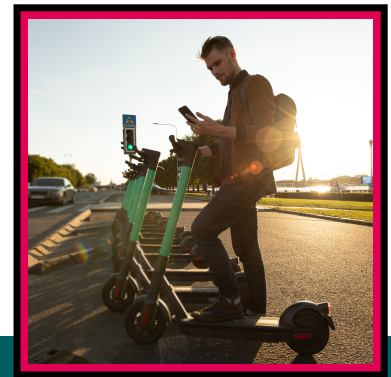
- Avoid disturbing flowering plants and natural habitats.
- Learn about native plants and pollinator friendly gardening.
- Reduce pesticide use where possible.
- Support local farms and gardens using sustainable growing practices.
- Participate in community environmental stewardship initiatives.

#### Local Tip

The Okanagan's unique ecosystems support many important pollinator species that are sensitive to habitat loss and environmental change.

### 4. Choose Low-Impact Summer Travel Options

June often marks the beginning of summer travel and weekend trips. Transportation choices can have a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions and local air quality.



#### What we can do

- Walk, bike, or use public transit for local trips.
- Carpool when traveling with friends or family.
- Combine errands to reduce unnecessary driving.
- Explore local recreation opportunities close to home.
- Consider active transportation for short distance travel.

#### Local Tip

Use the GoOC

Android



Apple



## 5. Stay Cool Sustainably During Summer Heat

As temperatures begin rising across the Okanagan, cooling demand increases in homes, residences, and campus buildings. Simple actions can improve comfort while reducing energy use.



### What we can do

- Use fans and natural airflow before relying on air conditioning.
- Close blinds during peak afternoon heat.
- Stay hydrated using refill stations instead of bottled water.
- Wear lightweight clothing appropriate for warm weather.
- Turn off unnecessary electronics that generate heat.

### Local Tip

Kelowna can experience extended periods of summer heat. Efficient cooling practices help reduce energy demand and environmental impact during hot weather.

## Participate in Campus Sustainability Initiatives

Summer sustainability efforts continue across the Okanagan College community.

Staying engaged helps strengthen environmental awareness and encourages collective action on campus and beyond.



### What we can do

- Participate in campus sustainability events and programs.
- Volunteer for local environmental clean up initiatives.
- Share sustainability ideas with classmates and staff.
- Stay informed about campus sustainability projects and achievements.

### Local Tip

Please refer SustainOC & RDCO

### 1. BC Communities Expanding Urban Tree Canopy Programs

Communities across British Columbia are increasing investments in urban tree planting and green infrastructure to reduce heat impacts, improve air quality, and strengthen climate resilience in urban areas.

[Click here for more details](#)

### 2. Okanagan Water Quality and Conservation Initiatives Continue

Regional organizations throughout the Okanagan continue working on lake protection, water conservation education, and long-term water sustainability planning to support healthy ecosystems and communities.

[Click here for more details](#)

### 3. Major Wind Energy Project Planned Near West Kelowna

A major new wind energy project planned near West Kelowna could become one of the largest wind farms in Canada. The project highlights BC's continued investment in renewable energy and cleaner electricity to 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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