

Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) GRANTS 2012 Final Report

Title of Project: Resource Repository for Sustainability Education and Leadership

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Co-investigators: NA

Overview of the project:

By the end of the project, I wanted to have a link to an online repository of publications and other written material, descriptions of programs and other resources about sustainability education and leadership. That overarching goal has been met. Table 1 notes the large increase in the number of resources during the time of the grant.

The repository is located at <http://cassidyinview.wordpress.com/publications-and-other-resources/sustainability-education-and-leadership/> It is also linked from the EDC resource web page <http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/resources/> (scroll down to Additional Resources then look for Cassidy et al., 2013) and is also linked from the grants web page <http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/grants/> (scroll down to Publications and Additional Resources from projects funded through the EDC Grants Program).

These materials are freely available to EDC and other members of the teaching and learning, scholarship of teaching and learning and educational development communities to help:

- Faculty, graduate students and others who teach to introduce or enhance aspects of sustainability in courses and programs
- Educational developers to design workshops and programs to support faculty, graduate students and others who teach to bring sustainability into their teaching practices
- Directors and associate directors of teaching support centres and senior administrators to be change agents in starting or moving forward with sustainability education and leadership on their campuses.

Table 1: Number and type of resources, and contributors, before and by the end of the project

Timing	Number and type of resources							Number of contributors
	Programs	Organizations	Journals	Journal publications	Books	Other resources	Total	
Before project began	17	10	9	17	8	7	89	21
By the end of project	31	35	20	225	192	49	552	40

Key goals of the project:

Goal 1) Identify and hire one graduate student and one undergraduate student, ideally from different post-secondary institutions

I hired two students, Yona Sipos, Doctoral Candidate, University of British Columbia ysipos@gmail.com who

focused on journals and journal publications and Braydon Walker, 3rd year undergraduate student, Engineering, Carleton University braydon.walker@hotmail.com who focused on programs, organizations and other resources.

Goal 2) Determine protocols and tools by which to conduct our work

Through web meetings and email, we three determined a search protocol, as well as the focus and scope of work for each of us. We also set timelines, checked in, shared ideas and results, refined our lists of material, proofed for URLs, spell-checked, and double-checked that everything made sense to someone looking at it for the first time.

Details of our division of work is noted in the mid-term report, as is the search protocol that others might wish to follow when starting out to find resources online. We used a Dropbox folder to organize our work, including timesheets that the students completed as they did their work, files outlining search protocols and of course the working repository so that each of us could add to only one master file.

Goal 3) Watch for Calls for Proposals to EDC and STLHE conferences, submitting to present about the repository

We did so, we submitted, our sessions were accepted, and we presented at both the 2013 EDC and STLHE conferences. See conference sessions and publications list for more details!

Educational findings/outcomes

Besides the obvious benefit of having so many kinds of resources focused on sustainability in one place and accessible to anyone via the web, it was very gratifying to be able to hire and work with talented students, and have them be an integral part of the project. Their ideas on where to search, what to look for, how to document it and then finish it off with overviews, instructions and search tips truly made this repository what it is. Many thanks to Braydon and Yona. I invited the students to describe their learning during the project. You can read their comments in the mid-term report.

Another benefit of the project was the networks created, some via email and some in person. For example, while browsing the web, one of the students came across an impressive list of books about sustainability in higher education, however it was without attribution. Some sleuthing led us to a team of three people in Washington State who not only gave us permission to use all of their material, but with whom I may work in the future on a conference or workshop session. Another example took place at the 2013 conference. At lunch one day, I was telling a colleague about my recent work on sustainability (plans are in the works to write an article for Faculty Focus and possibly lead an online seminar through Magna). Another conference participant who was sitting nearby could not help but overhear the conversation and when I mentioned AASHE, an organization dedicated to sustainability education and leadership, she showed me her mug with the logo on it. So now I have made another great contact, this time in Tennessee.

Budget

- a. What was the amount of your original award? \$2212.80
- b. How was it spent? Pay to students: \$1990
- c. If you have any funds remaining, describe your plans to make use of them. \$222.80 remains and will be used to purchase supplies for workshops, including flipchart paper, re-usable name tags, Mr. Sketch pens, masking tape and other materials as needed.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project:

Conference sessions:

Who? Us? What can EDs do about the really big issues: global warming and sustainability? Vivian Neal, Simon Fraser University; Alice Macpherson, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Alice Cassidy, University of British Columbia. Educational Developers Caucus Annual Conference, February, 2013

We presented on the state of educational development in the area of sustainability and helped participants consider how to leverage this knowledge at their own institution, and how to share best practices and resources. The resource repository was an important aspect of this session.

Get one, give one: sustainability resources. Alice Cassidy. Roundtable. Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference, Sydney, Nova Scotia, June, 2013.

This session focused on the resource repository, explaining what it is and what it does, I used a card trading game to find out what participants were looking for in terms of resources, what they can share, and what the repository might provide. Interesting discussions shed light on the areas in which people connect aspects of sustainability in their academic lives, including how to reduce use of high-energy lighting in dressing rooms and how to re-use materials on sets in a theatre program, and requests for ideas to bring aspects of sustainability into the curriculum of K-7 curriculum.

Publications:

Cassidy, A., Y. Sipos and S. Nyrose. 2014. Release date: August, 2013. Supporting Sustainability Education and Leadership: Strategies for Students, Faculty and the Planet. Handbook of Research on Transnational Higher Education Management. Hershey, PA: IGI Global. <http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/supporting-sustainability-education-leadership/78122>

In this book chapter, we include resources and summaries produced by Braydon and Yona (the latter who is also a co-author). We cite the EDC grant in the Acknowledgement section.

Other:

EDC Action Group: Education for Sustainability <http://www.stlhe.ca/constituencies/educational-developers-caucus/edc-special-projects-action-groups/> This action group arose as a key result of the above EDC session. We welcome anyone interested in the subject to join this group, by emailing any of the team members listed.

Plans for the future:

1. I plan to submit a paper to CELT based on the STLHE roundtable and associated action group
2. I will email the EDC and STLHE listservs to officially 'launch' the repository; I will also email a few other listservs from which people contributed materials
3. I will email the URL to every person who made a contribution
4. I am working on an article to submit to Faculty Focus about why sustainability matters in higher education, and a future proposal to lead an online seminar on the topic, both through Magna Publications)
5. Even with our careful proofing, I see a few things to update or adjust on the online repository, for example a few resources listed as books are actually journal articles, and a few small formatting details also need to be fixed; I will also keep fine-tuning how people scan through the materials, with easy ways to get back to the main menu, etc. (maybe this means another grant application....)
6. As this is very much a living document, I know there will continue to be materials added as I come across them, and/or those who come across my website contribute

My thanks to the members of the Educational Developers Caucus, the reviewers for the 2012 award, and the EDC executive who work tirelessly on so many important projects. Paola Borin, Natasha Kenny and Tim Loblaw: your help to me for this project is particularly appreciated.