

Douglas College

Bright Minds, Green Campus: Our Sustainable College Journey

To take A LEADING ROLE to transition toward a sustainable economy

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RESEARCH QUESTION

What innovative approaches to curriculum integration effectively assist the transition to carbon neutral society?

Literature Review

In sustainability education, scholars emphasize cross-disciplinary integration. This approach not only enhances students' grasp of intricate environmental issues but also nurtures a sense of personal responsibility. Drawing from Wiek et al. (2011), practical learning experiences, such as student projects supporting private companies, apply sustainability principles in real-world contexts. Collaborative efforts across academia, corporations, NGOs, and government agencies play a pivotal role in holistic sustainable development. Beyond imparting knowledge and skills, sustainability education cultivates values like empathy, social responsibility, and equity.

Reference

Wiek, Arnim, et al. "Key Competencies in Sustainability: A Reference Framework for Academic Program Development." Sustainability Science, vol. 6, no. 2, 2011, pp. 203-218.
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SDG Goals

SDG 4: Quality Education

Integrating sustainability into education promotes inclusive and equitable quality education.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Education fosters responsible consumption and production patterns.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Collaboration with stakeholders enhances sustainable development efforts.

FINDINGS

Douglas College's commitment to impactful collaboration, environmental assessment, sustainability planning, and strategic partnerships has resulted in a silver STARS rating. The college actively champions sustainability initiatives, including upgrading facilities, eliminating single-use plastics, and engaging students in climate change and sustainability issues. Moving forward, Douglas College aims to achieve a gold rating by further integrating sustainability-related activities across curriculum, research, operations, and administration

Collaborating with private companies as strategic partners enhances knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and innovation. These partnerships can lead to joint research, funding opportunities, and community engagement. When documented and reported, they contribute positively to the STARS rating.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Empowering Tomorrow Leader

Integrate sustainability modules into various courses to engage students.

Impactful Collaboration

Facilitate student projects supporting private companies in British Columbia, support companies to conduct environmental impact assessment and develop sustainability plans. This can advocate for sustainability consciousness spreading to business and community.

Strategic Partnership

Collaborate with NGOs and government agencies to host awareness-raising events and competitions.

Sustainable Future

Evaluate the rating of STARS, set up roadmap toward gold

Douglas College Sustainability Policy

Douglas College is committed to promoting environmental sustainability and taking a leadership role in the transition to a more sustainable economy. They are developing an energy-transition plan to substantially eliminate fossil fuel use in campus operations, addressing direct greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2). The college also integrates climate change and sustainability topics into its curriculum, educating students about critical environmental issues. Through community engagement and administrative policies, Douglas can contribute more to positive environmental action beyond its campus. Additionally, the college increased in participating the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), aiming for a gold rating by 2025.