

# Green Visions: Cultivating Consciousness, From Personal Lifestyles to Campus Initiatives and Beyond

By Hannah Chu

## Problem Statement

In the contemporary college environment, a significant challenge persists in the disconnection between the growing awareness of environmental issues and the translation of this awareness into tangible, sustainable actions. Despite an increasing recognition of the urgent need for eco-conscious behaviors, colleges often struggle to bridge the gap between individual choices and comprehensive campus sustainability initiatives. This disjunction impedes the development of a holistic, environmentally conscious culture within academic institutions.

The crux of the problem lies in the inadequacy of strategies to synchronize personal eco-conscious behaviors with broader campus sustainability efforts. Issues such as a lack of cohesive educational programs, insufficient involvement of students in decision-making processes, and obstacles in translating awareness into collective action contribute to the challenge. This misalignment hinders the transformative potential of student-led sustainability projects, preventing the creation of a cohesive and sustainable ethos within the college community.

### Quality Education

## Research Focus on UN SDGs:

The research aims to enhance the quality of education by integrating sustainability principles into academic curriculum and fostering a culture of environmental consciousness. This not only equips students with the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable living but also promotes a sense of responsibility towards the global community.

### Sustainable Cities and Communities

The research explores how sustainable campus initiatives can positively impact local ecosystems, offering insights into ways urban areas can coexist harmoniously with the natural environment. This can inform urban planning strategies that prioritize ecological preservation and minimize the impact on ecosystems.

### Responsible Consumption and Production

The research addresses responsible consumption by investigating personal lifestyle choices and their alignment with campus sustainability initiatives. Insights gained can contribute to educational campaigns promoting responsible consumer behavior, reducing waste, and encouraging sustainable choices.

## Douglas College sustainability policy

The "Green Visions" research aligns seamlessly with Douglas College's commitment to sustainability, directly contributing to institutional plans for an environmentally conscious campus. By informing decision-makers, our findings on curriculum integration, infrastructure improvements, and student-led initiatives translate into actionable steps within the college's sustainability policy. This research-driven approach supports academic goals, reduces environmental impact, and fosters a culture of consciousness, setting the stage for impactful, lasting change at Douglas College.

## Literature Review

The study on the assessment of sustainable green campus at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University in Turkey is underpinned by a critical review of pertinent sociological literature, emphasizing the inclusion of disabled students in educational settings. Aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) such as Quality Education (SDG 4) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), the research explores the societal impact of creating inclusive environments for individuals with disabilities. By examining the role of social institutions in promoting accessibility and equality, the study aims to contribute to sustainable development by enhancing the well-being, academic success, and social integration of all students, particularly those with disabilities. Through a focus on the needs and perceptions of disabled students in campus planning, the study seeks to advance the UNSDGs by fostering a more inclusive and supportive educational environment that prioritizes diversity, accessibility, and student empowerment.

Alkan, Y. (2022). Assessment of Sustainable Green campus in terms of students with disabilities and landscaping: çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, çanakkale, Turkey. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 25(10), 11367–11395. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-022-02532-y>

## Action

The "Green Visions" project at Douglas College plans to disseminate its findings through a multi-faceted approach, including a poster presentation event, digital platforms, and targeted workshops for faculty, staff, and students. The project aims to engage key stakeholders, presenting research outcomes to decision-makers for integration into existing sustainability policies. Implementation steps involve curriculum integration, student-led initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and strengthened community partnerships. Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and capacity-building efforts are designed to ensure the successful implementation and long-term impact of sustainable practices on campus. By advocating for policy enhancements and actively involving the college community, the project aspires to contribute to a holistic, environmentally conscious culture at Douglas College, setting a precedent for future sustainability initiatives.

## Research Questions

What are the predominant eco-conscious behaviors among college students?  
How do individual attitudes and values impact sustainable decision-making?  
To what extent are personal lifestyle choices aligned with environmental awareness?  
How effective are existing sustainability initiatives in driving behavioral change on campus?  
In what ways do these initiatives contribute to a culture of sustainability within the university community?

## Contribution

**Students:** The project provides students with a platform to actively engage in sustainability initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards environmental stewardship. It empowers them to lead by example and enact positive change within their communities.

**Universities and Colleges:** Universities benefit from the development of a more sustainable campus culture, enhancing their reputation as socially responsible institutions. The project equips them with valuable insights into effective strategies for integrating sustainability into campus life, ultimately attracting environmentally conscious students and faculty.

**Local Communities:** By fostering collaboration between colleges and local communities, the project promotes shared environmental goals and strengthens community resilience. Partnerships with local businesses and organizations can lead to mutually beneficial initiatives that enhance quality of life and promote sustainable development.