



HUMBER



SDG Accord Case Study

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary:

In the Fall of 2022, Humber College made the transformation from disposable containers to reusable ones at several of our cafeterias and dining locations at our North and Lakeshore Campuses. In the effort to reduce single-use packaging waste that ends up in landfills and be more sustainable, two programs were introduced: O2GO at North Campus and Friendlier at Lakeshore. By joining, users avoid single-use items and help Humber improve its environmental impact. In the program's first year, over 250,000 disposable containers avoided landfills thanks to students, staff, and faculty who joined the reusable container program.

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** Humber College has made a significant impact on reducing waste in landfills with the success of its reusable container program. Since the start of the program, over 250,000 disposable containers have been avoided, thanks to the participation of students, staff, and faculty. This initiative is particularly significant, as it aligns with the Canadian government's recent ban on several types of single-use plastics, including plastic food takeaway containers.

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- 2.** Building strong relationships across departments within Humber College is essential to achieving common goals that benefit the entire community. Humber's Office of Sustainability partnered with Ancillary Services and food service provider to identify opportunities to minimize environmental impact, through sustainable waste management strategies. This partnership allowed a more streamlined approach to operations, ensuring that resources are used effectively and efficiently.
- 3.** The Office of Sustainability at Humber College has used the #ReuseHumber campaign to educate and engaging the community about waste management. These include media campaigns aimed at increasing awareness about the proper disposal of waste, reducing waste production, and encouraging recycling through the reusable container programs.

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1.** The Reusable Container Program faced challenges during its inception, primarily with container collection and washing logistics. For instance, at the Lakeshore Campus, the collection boxes provided by Friendlier quickly filled up, leading to an overflow of containers. The Office of Sustainability, BEST janitorial services, and Ancillary Services worked together successfully to address the issue by negotiating an agreement with Friendlier to pick up the containers more frequently.
- 2.** The results of a survey conducted by student researchers explored on the improvements needed to the Friendlier program at Lakeshore. Participants stated that the marketing of the reusable container program was inadequate and insufficient. They expressed the view that there was not enough communication material for the community, which meant that people still didn't fully understand how to use the program. These findings prompted the Office of Sustainability to review and improve the marketing and communication strategies to ensure that the program was more accessible and easier to use for everyone.
- 3.** The success of the reusable container program relied heavily on the food service staff's commitment and involvement in the project. The Office of Sustainability and Ancillary Services created a flow chart that demonstrated the staff's role in the success of the program. The flow chart served as a guide to correct any issues that arose and ensured that the staff members understood their pivotal role in the program.

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

Working to reduce waste on campus is a practice that takes time and the cooperation of many stakeholders on campus. Building connections with campus operations and food service providers, and a commitment to overcome challenges, is essential to any reusable container program's success. A focus on logistics, as well as communications are required in order to ensure that programs run smoothly, and has engagement.