|  |
| --- |
| Making sustainability part of the curriculum in health promotion programming |
| **Setting/problem**The University of Ottawa has been a leader in sustainability for many years. For instance, they are the 7th Canadian University to become Fair Trade certified and have had a zero-waste dining hall since 2016. Ranking 25th most sustainable university in the world according to the UI Green Metric World University Ranking in 2016, the University of Ottawa aims to continue innovating in this increasingly important field. To support these initiatives, the University of Ottawa Health Services, department of Health Promotion, engaged in various projects. We observed through research and practice that students are for the most part unaware that by harming planetary health, we are also harming our own and that of future generations.**Intervention**In 2013, we established a partnership with the Office of Campus Sustainability and began educating students on environmental health and sustainability via the Peer Health Education Program. We are amongst the only universities in Canada to include “global health and sustainability” in our Health Promotion Curriculum and hope to inspire others to follow suit. Our strategy is not only to avoid “fear-mongering” messaging but also to empower students by allowing them to get involved, advocate and make a difference.**Outcomes**We have been successful in implementing weekly awareness events by creating a Global Health Peer Education team, who have had 20,389 conversations on the topic of environmental health over the last 5 years, focusing on water consumption, green space, climate change, waste management and how all of these relate to both planetary and human health. In addition to awareness campaigns, the University has banned the sale of bottled water on campus since 2010, partnered with a local farm to offer weekly organic baskets to students since 2016 and more recently have installed a hydroponic lab on campus capable of growing 5,000 kg of food year long.**Implications**We believe that making sustainability part of health promotion programming curriculums is what will stimulate the much-needed shift in culture and change in behaviour amongst university students. By sharing our successes, challenges, results and upcoming projects, we hope to inspire other health promoting campuses, organizations, and government to consider implementing or reinforcing their own sustainability practices within health promotion curriculum and programming. **Preferred presentation format**4) Innovation in policy and practice oral |