

OC basking in heat of sustainability award

Okanagan College received an award for sustainability at this year's national Communities in Bloom competition.

The five-bloom rating as a national finalist in the special-attraction category was for the college's 3 Steps Forward program. It focuses on renewable and efficient energy use including green buildings, transportation and sustainable landscape practices.

Judges praised the college for creating a sustainability team and noted its clear vision for a sustainable campus guided by a well-defined sustainability plan. Graham Kershaw, who heads the college program, was thrilled with the results.

"Five blooms out of five? It doesn't get any better than that. We already have many of our initiatives well underway. This plan is making a huge difference," he said.

The award came less than one year after the college completed its plan, although the institution's sustainability efforts go back many years.

— *Daily Courier Staff*

Nov 6 A3