The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence

Donor Impact Report

LEED Platinum certification achieved

The College recently received LEED Platinum certification for The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence from the Canada Green Building Council. LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - is globally recognized as a means of assessing green building practices and outcomes. Platinum is the highest LEED certification that can be achieved and is a testament to the level of sustainability the College has achieved.

Sustainable Construction Management Technology (SCMT) - The Tiny House

Students in the SCMT program are building a Tiny House (example pictured) that will be designed to provide a sustainable building envelope. It will be equipped with solar hot water heating and electrical panels on the roof to further reduce the environmental impact of the house.

The Tiny House will provide students with the opportunity to perform air quality tests, air leaking tests, and will incorporate different systems including a composting toilet. Essentially this tiny house will have all the sustainability features available to the house as a model for student experiments and can be showcased in the community as well.

B.C. Wine Information Society Sensory Centre

After completing a degree in Business Administration at Okanagan College, Kathleen McCaffrey decided to enrol in the Viticulture certificate program at the Penticton campus, in order to blend her skills in business with her passion for wine. Although still in the early stages of her viticulture career, Kathleen has demonstrated excellence in wine studies and a thirst for continuing her education when it comes to the noble B.C. grape. Kathleen recently toured some of Europe’s finest grape growing regions to learn more about Old World methods of winemaking and is interested in the role of sustainability and organic growing/vinting practices both internationally and right here in the Okanagan.

The BC Wine Information Society supports students pursuing a career in the wine industry with two annual awards of $1,500. A total of $11,000 has been awarded to 10 students since 2007.
A Comparison in Consumption

How we achieved LEED Platinum certification

One of the goals of Okanagan College and The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence is to change people’s attitudes toward sustainability – helping people realize that individuals and organizations can effect changes that are reasonable, valuable and advance the sustainability agenda. Numerous strategies are employed to reduce our environmental footprint.

Irrigation fresh from the treatment plant

With development of The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence, most of the irrigation system at the South Okanagan-Similkameen campus has been changed so that no treated drinking water is used for watering lawns, gardens or flushing toilets. The irrigation system is fed by the City of Penticton’s treated effluent water system (TEW), which operates spring, summer and fall. This reduces the demand for potable water.

Reclaiming heat and energy

The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence has a reverse-flow heat exchanger installed, which means that as warm or cold air is exhausted from the building, about 90 per cent of the energy required to heat or cool that air is recovered and used to temper the incoming fresh air.

Solar flare

The Jim Pattison Centre of Excellence features one of Canada’s largest installations of photovoltaic solar panels, generating approximately 310,000 kilowatt hours of energy a year – often producing more power than can be used by the building they serve. When excess power is generated, it is fed back to the local electrical grid, contributing to the goal of net-zero energy consumption for the building.