



King's celebrates Earth Week with LEED Silver designation of Student Life Centre & new environmental partnerships

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London, On.

King's will celebrate Earth Week on Friday April 24, 2015 at 11 a.m. with two special environmental announcements in the Darryl J. King Student Life Centre, 266 Epworth Ave, London. Parking is available on site.

The architect and donors of the Student Life Centre will celebrate the official designation of the building as LEED Silver certified. LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. To receive LEED certification, building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification as deemed by The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC).

Some of the features of the building include a green roof, water conservation via a rainwater cistern, a water and energy efficiency system, lighting on motion sensors, green cleaning program and a design which prevents the roof from creating a heat island effect. Low emitting materials were used for furniture, flooring, paint and adhesives. During construction a waste management program was used. As well, the building is accessible to sustainable transportation. Full details can be found in the LEED education kiosk located next to the Joanne and Peter Kenny Theatre.

At the event, King's Principal Dr. David Sylvester, will also announce a new environmental partnership involving climate change and sustainability. The Talloires Declaration, a ten-point action plan for colleges and universities committed to promoting education for sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities has been signed by King's. Composed in 1990 at an international conference in Talloires, France, this is the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. On signing the Declaration, King's will join over 350 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries who have made the same commitment.

"Care for the environment is a central pillar of King's core values," says Dr. Sylvester. "We pledged to create a sustainable College by building environmental awareness, literacy and capacity. Clearly, the construction of the Darryl J. King Student Life Centre to LEED Silver standard and the work of our campus groups, including The Green Team, demonstrate a deep commitment to sustainability at King's."

The Darryl J. King Student Life Centre was opened on January 8, 2014 as part of a seven year Student Life Campaign which raised \$14.1 million dollars for student aid and construction of the building. Students led the environmental campaign by supporting such features as the green roof.

King's has other environmental initiatives on campus. It has an impressive solar energy system which produces its own power. In the last 12 months, the solar panels in total at King's have produced 24,244 kWh, the equivalent of about 2,500 litres of gasoline or 3.2 tonnes of coal. Since installation, the panels have produced 71,015 kWh offsetting 7,321 litres of gasoline or 9.5 tonnes of coal.

King's also provides sanctuary for species at risk including Chimney Swifts which roost in the Wemple chimney. As well, King's Green Team has planted more than 200 trees on campus, supports recycling and composting programs and plant sales. King's has been introducing propane-powered shuttle buses that service all campuses to help reduce the environmental impact of transportation. Academically, King's offers environmental courses in many different disciplines including Geography, History, Sociology, Political Science and Social Justice and Peace Studies.

Media and interested parties are invited to the LEED Silver plaque unveiling and to tour the building. Architect Richard Hammond of Cornerstone Architects will be on hand to explain the various features.

King's is a publicly-funded Catholic post-secondary institution founded in 1954. King's provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, business, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically-affiliated with Western University. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centered on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

For more information please contact:

Jane Antoniak
Manager, Communications & Media Relations
King's University College
communications@kings.uwo.ca
519-433-3491 x 4384
519-719-9366
@kingsatwestern
www.kings.uwo.ca



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