



A Transformative Approach to Sustainability Across the **Faculty of Arts**

2016 PLAN

Minimize Our Environmental Impact
Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem
Connect and Partner with Community

**Ryerson
University**

**Faculty
of Arts**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ryerson University's academic plan outlines many values including community and sustainability. The inaugural recipient of the RU Sustainable Campus Certification Program, Arts Eco Action represents the Faculty of Arts commitment to, and pursuit of, sustainability under the umbrella of the university's official sustainability plan, "Sustainability Matters." This ensures that Arts Eco Actions are coordinated and respectful of broader university initiatives and work collaboratively in partnership across the university, including Campus Facilities and Sustainability (CF&S), and with members and organizations from communities bordering our campus.

Development of the Arts Eco Action Plan was launched on November 12, 2014. The three pillars of the Plan include:

- 1) Minimize Our Environmental Impact;
- 2) Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem; and
- 3) Connect and Partner with Community

Students are an enthusiastic, driving force in Arts Eco Actions, such as through the student-led Social Ventures Zone, as are faculty from the Environment and Urban Sustainability program.

Through our collective endeavours, interdisciplinary relationships have been forged. A diverse group of 20 Arts Eco Champions, consisting of faculty, staff, and students from across eight departments, exemplify dedication to making a difference at Ryerson University. We look forward to continuing successes as a result of these and other partnerships.

Detailed within these pages are ongoing and upcoming Arts Eco Actions. Impact comes through steady, holistically phased evolution as we formalize local approaches that epitomize innovation, engagement, inclusion, and direct action. In cooperation with "Sustainability Matters," and as the first Ryerson Faculty to have a comprehensive sustainability initiative,



we hope that our objectives and outcomes inspire and inform similar change in others.

As we continue to move forward, lessons have been learned. Among these are the challenges inherent to our physical location. The Faculty of Arts is not responsible for Jorgenson Hall, the operations of the building, or the landscape. Therefore, action items must be done collaboratively with central services or must be scaled. We have learned that communication is key to assessing, monitoring, supporting, and amending eco actions. We will continue to reach out to increase the engagement in our actions. Evaluation is challenging because the Faculty doesn't possess measurement mechanisms such as waste reduction. We will endeavor to develop an evaluative framework to better understand sustainability outcomes achieved.



OBJECTIVES

Commitment to safeguarding sustainability through:

- Reducing energy, waste, and water consumption
- Decreasing our carbon footprint
- Minimizing harm to our environment

Commitment to safeguarding Ryerson's urban ecosystem through:

- Contributing to the well-being of our campus
- Promoting the health of students, faculty, and staff
- Ensuring continued productivity and efficiency through sustainability
- Activating positive change in thought and action

Commitment to safeguarding a shared future through:

- Involving and supporting the broader community and embodying partner engagement
- Providing opportunity for student-led initiatives such as the SocialVentures Zone
- Promoting faculty, staff, and student volunteerism
- Developing and communicating sustainable events

OVERVIEW OF ECO ACTIONS

The following initiatives showcase the Faculty of Arts commitment to the plan's objectives.

O'KEEFE GARDEN AND LANEWAY REJUVENATION

The intention of the O'Keefe Laneway is to transform a challenging space into a welcoming place that is safe and attractive to pedestrians, as well as becoming a vital plant pollinator. The project is a collaboration between the university, community, and business stakeholders, and exemplifies Ryerson's core values as part of its Master Plan: Intensification; People First: Pedestrianization of the Urban Environment; and Commitment to Design Excellence. Innovative, entrepreneurial thinking and civic engagement is changing an underused space into a community asset. See Appendix 1 for links associated with the O'Keefe Laneway project.



Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Offsetting carbon footprint through planting of 25 native perennials
- Attracting pollination species such as bees and butterflies to an urban space
- Increasing and protecting Ryerson's urban forest and vegetation

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Teaming up with: student volunteers; Faculty of Biology and Chemistry; STEPS; Rye's Homegrown interns; Campus Facilities & Sustainability (CF+S)
- Collaborating with community including: Yonge-Dundas Business Improvement Association (BIA); City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam; Spade and Feather, Covenant House

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem through:

- Creating a shared public space that is safe and attractive to pedestrians
- Cultivating and harvesting from the garden as a pillar for environmental education
- Engaging Ryerson students and Covenant House youth through the SocialVentures Zone



CYCLING TO ARTS

Arts Eco Action is developing a cycling promotion campaign with the objective to promote healthier and more sustainable means and paths for faculty, staff, and students to commute to Ryerson. Utilizing a multi-pronged approach through a promotional video, supplementary webpage content, and a green transportation challenge invitation, Cycling to Arts campaign launches Spring 2016.

GERRARD STREET REVITALIZATION

The Faculty of Arts is pleased that the City of Toronto is supporting sustainable transportation through the design and construction of a protective cycling lane on Gerrard Street, extending from Yonge Street to Jarvis Street. It is a compliment to Cycling to Arts .

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Decreasing carbon footprint
- Reducing energy consumption
- Advocating for green transportation

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Teaming up with Transmedia Zone; Cycle Toronto, SocialVentures Zone’s Ride for a Dream; Bateman’s Bicycle Company
- Engaging with faculty, staff, and students through a cycling challenge

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson’s Urban Ecosystem through:

- Promoting sustainable, dependable transit that cuts commuting time to Ryerson
- Advocating for active, healthy lifestyles and opportunities to be outdoors
- Communicating bike routes and on-campus resources, such as where to lock bikes and where to shower

RYERSON'S URBAN TREE STEWARDS



The ash tree comprises upwards of 10 percent of Ryerson's urban forest and represents over 35 percent of the forest's ecological services. However, the emerald ash borer, an invasive species, has infected the current population of threatened and expiring ash trees. In November 2014, students, faculty, and community members gathered to mark the launch of the first faculty-led sustainability plan on campus. Two trees, an eastern redbud and a swamp white oak, along with two shrubs, were planted. This plan will continue to advocate for additional plantings across campus. See Appendix 2 for additional material and links to Ryerson's Urban Forest initiative.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Increasing and safeguarding the future ecological services of Ryerson's urban forest through the planting of native trees and bushes
- Offsetting carbon footprint
- Reducing energy consumption through the shading and cooling effect provided by trees

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Teaming up with over 50 volunteers, who participated in tree and shrub planting ceremonies
- Connecting with Dr. Andrew Millward and his research group, Urban Forest Research and Ecological Disturbances (UFRED) and the group Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem through:

- Creating resilient green spaces
- Improving the integrity and presence of urban forests in cities
- Creating viable ways to raise awareness through the SocialVentures Zone

RYERSON NATURE IN THE CITY - WEB TOOL

A cornerstone project of the Arts Eco Action Plan, RyersonNC emboldens a vision of city building that embraces urban trees as natural capital to be protected and enhanced. Developed by Dr. Andrew Millward the web app www.RyersonNC.ca is a custom tool designed to foster education by providing an interactive platform for users to learn ecological information about a specific tree on campus. See Appendix 2 for additional material/links to Ryerson's Urban Forest initiative.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Tracking the health of Ryerson's urban forest
- Providing ecological data on all individual trees on campus, including age, species, and amount of carbon dioxide consumed

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Involving a new generation of citizens for whom mobile devices are prevalent
- Teaming up with UFRED: Urban Forest Research and Ecological Disturbances and Ryerson geography professor, Dr. Andrew Millward
- Inspiring engagement in contributing to a resilient urban forest through increased stewardship

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem through:

- Linking research with community engagement
- Celebrating our green infrastructure
- Raising awareness of the value of nature in cities

UPGRADE OFFICE PAPER TO ENVIRO PAPER

More than 70 percent of people prefer paper communication over digital. Thus, as part of a university-wide initiative that Arts Eco Action participated in, the upgrade of office paper to enviro paper represents a sustainably sourced, responsibly, and environmentally produced choice with equivalent print performance. Using paper that is FSC, WWF, and ECOLOGO certified ensures reduction of our environmental impact. See Appendix 3 for more information.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Reducing carbon footprint through the use of 30 percent recycled paper in our printers and stationary supplies
- Diverting recyclables from our landfills
- Lessening deforestation practices and CO2 emissions

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Celebrating the change of paper through venues such as Arts Eco Action Twitter feed, Arts Eco Action webpage, and other forms of social media
- Engaging with socially and environmentally sustainable contractors, suppliers, and businesses

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson’s Urban Ecosystem through:

- Utilizing a quality, recycled product that is not discernible from non-recycled
- Engaging faculty, staff, and students in effortless green practices
- Motivating mindfulness to participate in eco actions

E-WASTE PROJECT

E-waste is a huge issue with 140,000 tonnes of electronic waste dumped in landfills annually, or travel thousands of kilometers to be recycled in the developing world. Through an ongoing laptop and E-waste program, the Faculty of Arts, in collaboration with the social enterprise FreeGeek, is upcycling old laptops in a closed loop system that provides jobs to low income people and laptops at a small cost to the 25 percent of Torontonians unable to afford a computer. See Appendix 4 for external information.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Reducing waste consumption
- Decreasing carbon footprint and diverting recyclables
- Providing viable alternatives to standard E-waste lifecycles

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Increasing access to computing and communications technologies for low income people
- Linking the Faculty of Arts’ IT Department with social enterprise FreeGeek Toronto
- Providing low income Torontonians with refurbished and ethically recycled laptops
- Supporting a social enterprise that makes a tangible difference to our local community

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson’s Urban Ecosystem through:

- Decreasing the digital divide by donating and upcycling technology to be used again

WASTE DIVERSION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Faculty of Arts' department floors had a dissimilar waste system and collection schedule. Our waste Diversion Enhancement project commenced April 2015, coinciding with upgraded bins and a new and unified collection schedule. Office recycling began to be collected four times a week and landfill waste was collected once a week. Proper signage for landfill waste, food & beverage container recycling, and paper recycling was introduced and aligned with the new bin system.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Conducting a 2014 waste audit by Green for Life (GFL), illustrating that almost 90 percent of Faculty's landfill waste was recycling and organic materials that could be diverted from landfills
- Engaging in sustainable practices through collection of recycling from offices as well as kitchens

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Engaging faculty, staff, and students with new signage and education
- Working with Campus Facilities & Sustainability (CF&S) to install new and congruent recycling bins in every department
- Sharing our story through Sustainability Matters' interactive platform

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem through:

- Upgrading recycling bins from floors 1 through 10 of Jorgenson Hall and the Student Experience Centre
- Initiating a new system to increase convenient collection of recyclables
- Contributing to well-being of our community

COMPOSTING WITH THE MICROBE HUB

Ryerson produces 289 carbon equivalent tons annually. sixty percent of the materials the Faculty of Arts disposed in the landfill waste stream was compostable material. In response to this, the Faculty of Arts became the first Faculty at Ryerson to start composting via the SocialVentures Zone's student-led startup, Microbe Hub. Microbe Hub exemplifies an inter-disciplinary eco strategy that will generate profit for other sustainability initiatives. See Appendix 5 for more information.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Mitigating methane a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from landfills
- Reducing transportation footprint and energy loss from Jorgenson Hall's organic waste ending up in landfills
- Creating a closed loop composting system which returns nutrients back to the earth

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Incubating a student-led SocialVentures Zone pilot project in a partnership with Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science
- Stimulating experiential learning, innovative thinking, and social entrepreneurship for 12 student volunteers from three different campus Faculties

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson's Urban Ecosystem through:

- Educating faculty, staff, students, and community about the benefits of composting with a vermicomposting system
- Distributing worm castings, an organic garden fertilizer, and expanding sale of worm castings at farmers markets
- Complementing research in the Faculty of Science

PHOTO SNAPSHOTS



Arts Eco Champions



O'Keefe Garden



Composting with Microbe-Hub



O'Keefe Laneway Community Consult



Cycle to Arts Filming



O'Keefe Laneway Cleanup



GREEN MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

In August 2016, the Faculty of Arts will host the International Rural Sociological (IRSA) Conference with 1,200 delegates, and in May 2017 the Faculty of Arts will host Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences with 9,000 delegates. Whether for members from different areas of the Ryerson campus or for international delegates, we take pride in ensuring that these are low-carbon events, meetings, and conferences that align with protecting the environment and encouraging social sustainability. See Appendix 6 for more information about our partner Green Meetings Ninja.

Arts Eco Action – Minimize Our Environmental Impact through:

- Striving for zero waste food services
- Sourcing where possible 100% local, seasonal, and sustainable food services
- Utilizing e-ticketing and program information via online platforms
- Neutralizing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Arts Eco Action – Be an Important Community Partner through:

- Involving and harnessing local community businesses to support events
- Developing strong partnerships with groups who have demonstrated expertise in hosting green meetings such as Ryerson’s convocation team, Sustainability Matters, Green Meeting Ninja, and Microbe Hub

Arts Eco Action – Protect Ryerson’s Urban Ecosystem through:

- Exploring offsetting carbon footprint
- Promoting environmentally friendly methods to all delegates, including recycling of name tag lanyards
- Using less plastic-wrapped items
- Promoting sustainable transportation and accommodation to visitors

REACH

We trust each other to do the best we can, not because someone is watching over our shoulders, but because eco actions are necessary. We are encouraged that Arts Eco Actions are having an impact, including:

- Since November 2014, the Arts Eco Action volunteers have grown from six to a team of 20 champions.
- The E-Waste program, in collaboration with FreeGeek, has upcycled 30 laptops. This decreased the digital divide by making 30 laptops accessible to low income Torontonians.
- Since November 2015, Microbe Hub has diverted over 200kg of organic materials from the landfill. This will save the University \$420.00 a year. Approximately 20kg of waste is diverted weekly from the landfill and turned into compost.
- Using calculations from Dr. Andrew Millward's research, carbon dioxide emissions have been reduced through improvement of our urban forest as well as from faculty, staff, and students cycling to work.
- The number of external partners has increased with a total of 21 community partners.
- The number of hours invested by faculty, staff, and students in community initiatives has increased. For example, over the 2015 growing season, 376 volunteer hours were contributed to the O'Keefe Garden.
- The Biodiversity Index, which indicates the number of species divided by the total number of organisms, has improved on the Ryerson campus.
- During the February 2016 Social xCHANGE, hosted by the Faculty of Arts and attended by 200 delegates, social and environmentally sustainable catering companies, Ragging Spoon and Vert Catering, were used. Ragging Spoon is a social purpose enterprise which focuses on community interaction and supporting rehabilitation programs. Vert Catering specializes in local and organic food, waste reduction, and community involvement.

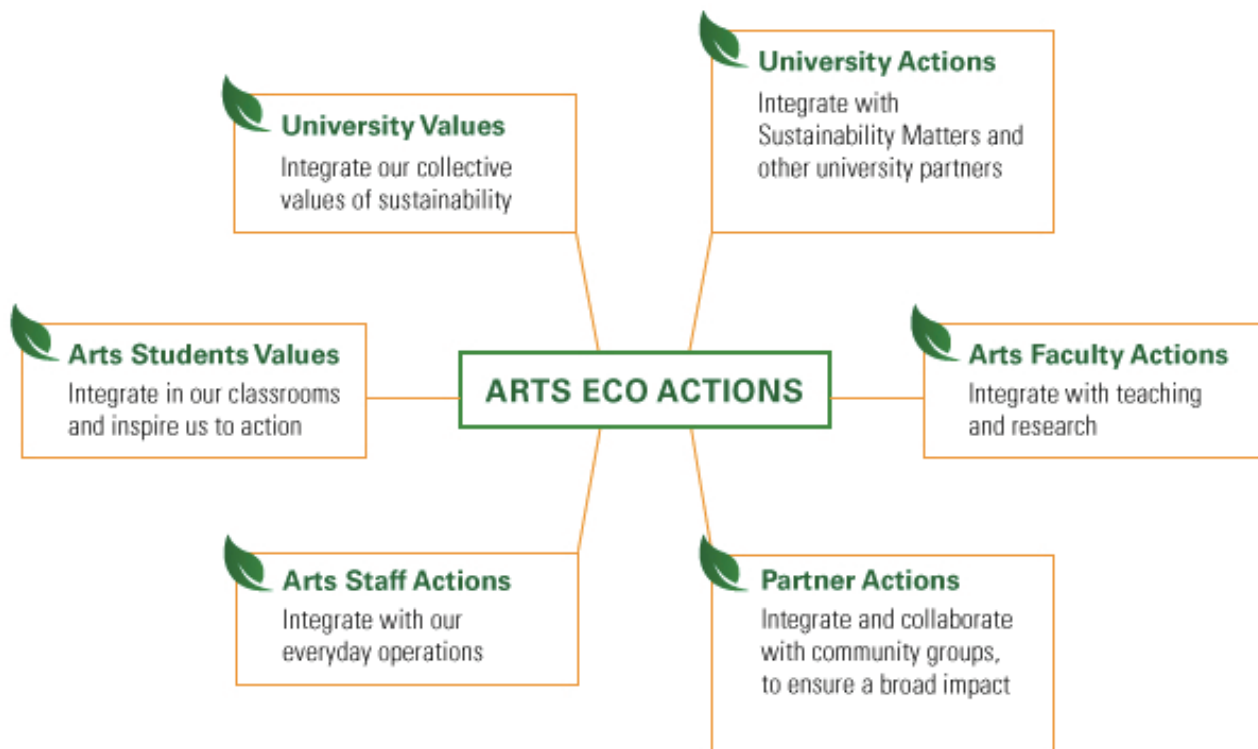


- We continue to strategically engage and communicate stories of sustainability. During the Social xCHANGE, Elle Crevits, from Waterloo University Green House, shared her social enterprise, "Food Not Waste." Also at the Social xCHANGE, different presenters engaged students in social and environmental sustainability.
- At the Jack Layton Leadership School, Microbe Hub provided composting services and diverted 30kg of organic materials.
- In Fall of 2016, Arts Eco Action, the SocialVentures Zone, and OCAD University hope to team up to host a DesignJam, focusing on local Climate Change problems and solutions.

By fostering and encouraging a stimulating, sustainable ecosystem, we enable students, staff, and faculty to make a meaningful and positive impact on the environmental, economic, and social vitality of our city and beyond.

RECOGNITION

Activating Sustainability



Arts Eco Champions

Arts Eco Champions have been instrumental in the development of the priorities and actions as outline in this plan. Current Arts Eco Champions include: representative from the Dean’s office, staff and faculty from departments, and the Student Experience Centre. Thank you to all the Arts Eco Champions:

Department of Economics Champions:

Dahlia Younan

Department of Sociology Champions:

Elizabeth Johnson and Duck Yu

Department of Philosophy Champion:

Ryan Walters

Department of History Champions:

Anne-Marie Donovan and Fatima DaSilva

Department of Geography Champion:

Dr. Christopher Green

Department of Politics Champion:

Dr. Christopher Gore

Department of Criminology Champion:

Sharron Ryder-Turner

Department of Psychology Champion:

Carson Pun

Deans Office Champions:

Sharmaine McKenzie, Monica Jako, Darsan Sivanantharajah, Anne Pringle, and Meg MacLean

Student Experience Team Champion:

Jill Careless

Student Champions:

Sarah Brigel, Erica Angers, and Jennifer Fischer

TIMELINE CHARTS

PROJECT	TO DATE	UPCOMING
O'Keefe Garden and Rejuvenation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 gardening season: hosted garden drop-in sessions for staff and students • Planted perennial pollinator garden • Winterized garden plan adopted • October 2015, hosted O'Keefe Laneway clean up • February 2015, hosted re-envision design completion to revitalize O'Keefe Laneway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue partnership with Rye's Homegrown to develop garden as Ryerson's pollination hub • Collaborate with Spade & Feather for 2016 growing season to provide hops education to volunteers • Implement as possible, O'Keefe Laneway improvements
Cycling to the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling film created with interviews from four faculty and, four staff members and two students • Campaign to create awareness about sustainable transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of campaign, September 2016 • Cycling to Arts celebration hosted by Arts Eco Action
Gerrard Street Revitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for sustainable transportation routes for Ryerson commuters along Gerrard Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to foster relationships with external stakeholders to ensure safe cycling and pedestrian route along Gerrard Street
Ryerson's Urban Tree Stewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 12, 2014, Eastern Red Bud and Swamp Oak trees planted plus two native shrubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2016, expand tree planting initiative to northwest corner of Ryerson's quad. Planting of trees and shrubs to foster and attract butterflies
Ryerson NC- Ryerson Nature in the City- Web Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2014 web app www.RyersonNC.ca was released, a platform that allows users to interact with Ryerson's urban forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to track health of Ryerson's urban forest • Ongoing relationship development with UFRED

TIMELINE CHARTS

PROJECT	TO DATE	UPCOMING
Upgrade of Office Paper to Enviro Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing on FSC paper in the office and for external specialized printing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continual support for paperless communication and utilization of online platforms
E-Waste Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted 2015 holiday laptop drive. Collected and refurbished over 30 laptops for low income families in Toronto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly laptop drives in partnership with Free Geek Finding new solutions to providing laptops to low-income Ryerson students
Waste Diversion Enhancement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New signage in all department kitchens Investment and implementation of upgraded receptacle system Introduction of office recycling collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boardroom recycling, as possible Department entrance tri-sorting receptacle Expansion of office recycling to Student Experience Centre
Composting with the Microbe Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice a week compost collection in all department kitchens, including Student Experience Centre Approximately 50 Kg of organic materials diverted per month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support student team to expand Microbe Hub beyond Faculty of Arts, through vehicle of SocialVentures Zone
Green Meetings and Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing compost services at some Faculty of Arts led conferences Sourced local food at Social xCHANGE Investigating feasibility plan for low and carbon neutral conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting IRSA and Congress using low-carbon strategies Ensuring green approach to all organized gatherings Creating a plan for green meetings in Faculty conference rooms

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: O’Keefe Laneway Project: Media Sources

1. Ryerson Newspaper: [Design Competition Revitalizes O’Keefe Lane](#)
2. Ryerson Newspaper: [Taking a Stroll down O’Keefe Lane](#)
3. Spacing Magazine: [Brainstorming Begins for O’Keefe Lane Revitalization](#)
4. Faculty of Arts Webpage: [Reimagining O’Keefe Lane Design Competition](#)
5. SocialVentures Zone Webpage: [O’Keefe Laneway Revitalization](#)
6. The Laneway Project: [O’Keefe Lane](#)
7. Ryersonian Newspaper: [O’Keefe Lane Revitalization Project in the Works](#)
8. STEPS Initiative Webpage: [O’Keefe Laneway Revitalization](#)
9. Sustainability Matters: [Design Contest Opens for O’Keefe Lane](#)
10. CBC News Toronto: [From Rodents to Restaurants: Can Yonge Street’s Laneway Be Improved?](#)
11. The Eyeopener: [O’Keefe Laneway Is Getting a Facelift](#)

Appendix 2: Ryerson’s Urban Forest Project/Nature in the City

12. Ryersonian Newspaper: [Fighting the Ash Tree War at Ryerson](#)
13. Arts Eco Action: [Ryerson’s Nature in the City Initiative](#)
14. Sustainability Matters: [Growing Ryerson’s Urban Forest](#)
15. Ryersonian Newspaper: [A Tree App for Ryerson’s Campus](#)

Appendix 3: Paper upgrade to Enviro Paper

16. PrintCan: [Ryerson Students Bust Sustainability Myths](#)

Appendix 4: E-Waste Project: Reduction and Renewal

17. Free Geek: [Facebook Post](#)

Appendix 5: Composting with The Microbe Hub

18. Ryersonian Newspaper: [Students Fill the Gap in Composting Efforts at Ryerson](#)
19. Website: [Council of Ontario Universities](#)
20. Ryerson Today: [A new composting culture, one hungry worm at a time](#)

Appendix 6: Green Meetings and Conferences

21. Green Meetings Ninja: [Outline of Their Website and Services](#)
22. Social xCHANGE: [Information About Its Connection to Green Conferences](#)