



## Work Green at the University of Saskatchewan

The [Campus Sustainability Plan](#) sets a goal that “all members of the campus community intentionally choose and initiate sustainable behaviour in all areas of campus life”. One of the plan’s recommendations is the development of a workplace champions program, one in which “faculty and staff actively initiate and pursue actions that support sustainability at their place of work”. Work Green has been launched as that program. We are asking you, as a supervisor, to encourage and support the participation of a self-identified “champion” who is willing to represent their workplace in Work Green by acting as a liaison between the Office of Sustainability and their workplace.

The following describes the goal, objectives and components of Work Green, as well as the role of the champion.

### ***Program Goal:***

- to establish a culture of sustainability—understanding, values and ethics that lead to environmentally sustainable behaviours—across the U of S campus through education and engagement.

### ***Program Objectives:***

- to provide individual “champions” (faculty and staff) with resources (information, checklists, small grants, etc.) to engage their colleagues in the adoption of practices that reduce use of resources like energy, water, minimize waste and to consider the most sustainable options for purchases and commuting.
- to network these champions;
- to share successes across campus through workplace certifications, news and awards.

### ***Program components:***

- a network of self-identified workplace “champions” who desire to lead the greening of their workplace by acting as a liaison with the U of S Office of Sustainability (USOS) and engaging their colleagues in various initiatives and activities;
- a monthly newsletter, tip sheet and activities provided by the USOS and focused on a particular issue and practices (e.g., minimizing waste and reusable coffee mugs) for champions to use to engage their colleagues in changing workplace practices;
- quarterly meetings of the Work Green champions network and USOS staff;
- a certification system that documents desirable workplace practices in the areas of energy, water, waste minimization, transportation, purchasing and innovation) and acknowledges achievements with certification as a Work Green member, bronze, silver or gold workplace;
- awards for both individuals and workplaces;
- small grants to help finance initiatives;
- sharing Work Green workplace successes through the Work Green website and other communications.

### ***Role of the Champion:***

- leads positive change in their workplace by sharing information on specific sustainability issues with colleagues and engaging them in discussions and activities;
- engages colleagues in changing practices in the workplace (e.g., ensuring floor and desk lamps use only compact fluorescent or LED bulbs, turning lights off in vacant rooms, using reusable coffee mugs and water bottles, setting printers to print on both sides);
- acts as a liaison between their workplace and the USOS (e.g., sharing newsletters, tip sheets with colleagues, contacting USOS on issues that come up, applying to USOS for a grant on behalf of workplace);
- shares progress with their colleagues;
- completes workplace checklist of current practices to provide USOS with baseline when their workplace joins the program;
- shares the individual’s checklist with colleagues and encourages them to complete it;
- completes workplace checklist when seeking a new level of certification (assuming there is consensus to seek re-certification);
- attends quarterly champions’ network meetings;

- shares success stories with the USOS.

Expected time commitment for champions:

- one to two hours to complete the baseline workplace checklist;
- up to two hours per month engaging colleagues in changing practices in their workplace;
- one hour quarterly to attend champions' network meetings.

If, as supervisor, you agree to allow your employee to act as the Work Green champion for their workplace, please complete the information below, sign, scan and email it to: [work.green@usask.ca](mailto:work.green@usask.ca).

**Champion**

Name:

Email:

Phone:

**Workplace**

College/Division:

Department/Unit:

**Supervisor**

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: