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APRIL 1, 2016 | 080-16

Laurier to transform campuses with sustainable energy management initiative

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is embarking on a sustainable energy management initiative that will include solar wall installations, system upgrades and an energy audit at the university's facilities in Waterloo and Brantford.

The university will fund the project through a 20-year payback agreement that uses the energy savings to pay for the upgrades through an Energy Service Company (ESCO) agreement with Johnson Controls Inc.

"This is the next step in an environmental and energy-management strategy that has already seen great success thanks to the sustainability program at Laurier," said **Jim Butler**, vice-president: finance and administration at Laurier. "Our primary goal is to inspire, educate and prepare students, faculty and staff to engage others in the same energy-efficient practices."

The initiative, led by Laurier's Sustainability Office and Physical Resources, is aligned with Laurier's Sustainability Policy, Sustainability Action Plan, Energy Management Plan and Campus Master Plan.

"This partnership provides an innovative financing solution to confront the substantial impacts of energy consumption, both in financial and environmental terms," said **Claire Bennett**, manager: Sustainability Office. "This issue is more relevant than ever considering recent carbon pricing legislation and the decline of energy security from changing weather patterns, resource availability and associated utility pricing. These drivers have led to an organized and progressive approach to energy management at Laurier."

Renovations will begin April 25. On the Waterloo campus, both the Laurier Library and Bricker Residence will see the installation of a solar wall, in addition to interior upgrades of the mechanical and electrical systems. On the Brantford campus, Grand River Hall will see upgrades to its mechanical and electrical systems.

During construction, an energy audit of all facilities located on both campuses will identify a series of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs). Implementation of the audit recommendations will begin in the fall of 2016.

The ECMs to be evaluated and implemented include more traditional measures such as lighting retrofits with LED technology, low-flow water fixtures, demand control ventilation, retro-commissioning, real-time metering, fuel-switching and heat recovery. Additional innovative technologies and measures will also be explored including combined heat and power with cogeneration and tri-generation, solar photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal, heat recovery/heat pump chillers, ground source heat pumps and energy storage coupled with micro-grid technologies and integration.

The university will be working around academic schedules to minimize impact as much as possible.

For questions, please contact Claire Bennett, manager: Sustainability Office, at cbennett@wlu.ca.

Since 2009, Laurier has worked to reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 18 per cent. For additional Sustainability Office updates please read the [2015 Laurier Sustainability Report](#).

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