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## Laurier sustainability manager recognized as Emerging Leader at Canada's Clean50 awards

WATERLOO – **Claire Bennett**, manager of Wilfrid Laurier University's Sustainability Office, has been named an "Emerging Leader" at **Canada's Clean50 awards**.

Canada's Clean50 provides annual recognition to Canada's leaders in sustainability for their contributions over the prior two years. The Clean50 Emerging Leaders are selected from people under age 35 whose contribution is outsized compared to their age, and is otherwise based on similar criteria to the Individual Clean50 awards.

"Claire Bennett was chosen after rigorous screening and research by Delta Management, with advice from internal researchers and external advisors, and was among honorees selected from an initial pool of over 500 well qualified nominees," said **Gavin Pitchford**, CEO, Delta Management Group.

Bennett joined Laurier's Sustainability Office in 2011 as a coordinator, and became manager in 2014. During this time, she has helped Laurier reduce intensity-based greenhouse gas emissions by 18 per cent university-wide. She has led major infrastructure and meaningful process improvements, including a substantial energy-management initiative to reduce consumption by over 30 per cent through integrated smart-grid applications, as well as a multi-faceted central waste program that diverts 63 per cent of waste from landfill.

Bennett is also active in community-level leadership, serving as past chair and current member of Waterloo Region's Climate Action Committee. Through her leadership, Laurier has been named a "Top Performer" and "Rising Star" from international sustainability rankers and received the 2015 K-W Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award in Environment and Sustainability.

"I am thankful for the recognition from Clean50 and those who nominated me. My staff and network are key players in this accomplishment," said Bennett. "This award places sustainability in the spotlight as a constructive and necessary field and organizational direction. This award provides energy to continuing this work, which is driven by passion, but also a keen understanding of the state of our planet and its trajectory. A sustainability approach is a profitable one, for both business and individuals."

Bennett will receive the award Sept. 22 at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

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### **About Delta Management Group and Canada's Clean50**

In 2011, leading sustainability and clean tech search firm Delta Management Group founded, and remains the steward of, the Canada's Clean50 awards. The awards were created to annually identify, recognize and connect 50 sustainability leaders from every sector of Canadian endeavor, to facilitate understanding, collaboration and innovation in the fight to keep climate change impacts below 1.5 degrees. Ancillary awards also recognize 10 Emerging Leaders and the Top 15 Sustainability Projects of the year.

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To find more information about the Clean50 Emerging Leaders, visit: <https://clean50.com/about-the-2017-clean-50/clean-50/>.

### **About the Wilfrid Laurier University Sustainability Office**

The Laurier Sustainability Office opened January 2010. The office creates and fosters a culture of sustainability by engaging, promoting and coordinating the sustainability efforts of all stakeholders to develop an environmentally proactive Laurier community. Laurier continues to demonstrate significant commitment to advancing sustainability efforts. The university recently launched the CAB Bike Share Station on the Waterloo campus to provide affordable access to bicycles as alternative transportation to students, staff, faculty and community members. Laurier has also established the Sustainable Hawk Fund, which grants up to \$20,000 annually to help grow sustainability ideas that benefit the Laurier community.

For more information about sustainability efforts at Laurier, visit [wlu.ca/sustainability](http://wlu.ca/sustainability).