

Sustainability Success Story

Kwantlen Purchases Clean and Green Energy

The Challenge

Kwantlen Polytechnic University has long had a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. We became a BC Hydro Power Smart Partner in 2002 and have since made energy improvements that save over a million dollars in energy costs every three years, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per-cent. We received a Power Smart Certified Customer designation from BC Hydro in 2004 for demonstrating exceptional energy and environmental leadership in the educational sector. In the past 5 years, we have received a national leadership award for being the top Canadian post-secondary institution in the "Going Green" program; designation as a 'Gold' Champion Level Reporter for Canada's Climate Change Registry; and recognition by Natural Resources Canada's 'Energy Innovators Initiative' for our commitment to sustainability.

However, using less has it's limits, particularly with steady economic growth in the province.

"We believe that one responsibility of Kwantlen University is to demonstrate environmental stewardship in our communities. Our first action is to be efficient and use less, but after that we want energy from the cleanest sources. Purchasing Green Power Certificates is a good way to follow through in this commitment." said Skip Triplett, past President, Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

"We know to sustain Kwantlen and support the local and world communities; we must continually pursue fiscally and environmentally sustainable policies and practices,"

Our Solution

Kwantlen saw Green Power Certificates (GPC's) as one way to encourage sustainable energy production. Kwantlen presently purchases enough GPC's to provide at least 50% of the electrical power for the Cloverdale campus and the Surrey campus Buildings A & C expansion projects.



Project Cost, Annual Savings and Other Benefits

<i>Project Cost</i>	Approximately 1 cent per kWh purchased
<i>Environmental Improvement - Greenhouse Gas Reduction</i>	Reduced emissions - about 1 Tonne of GHG per 1,000 kWh
<i>Reduced Environmental Mercury</i>	A kWh of coal-fired electricity (about 10% - 15% of BC consumption) puts substantial mercury in the atmosphere. More efficient products mean less kWh
<i>Water Savings</i>	Because much of BC's electric power is from hydro-electric generation, using green power can mean more water for drinking and other uses.
<i>External Stakeholder Benefits</i>	As green energy sources have greater market penetration, their costs are reduced, resulting in more market penetration, etc.
<i>Other Benefits</i>	Demonstrates Leadership, Commitment, the Sustainability Process, improved Risk Management benefits.