

## University News

### For immediate release

#### BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY UNVEILS ITS NEW GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SYSTEM

February 11, 2014

Environmental initiative yields impressive results: 66% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an annual savings of 1 million litres of water

At a press conference this morning, Mr. Michael Goldbloom, C.M., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Bishop's University, unveiled the new geothermal energy system on campus, a project in keeping with the university's commitment to adopt responsible management practices to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). **After one year of operation, the results are impressive: the University has saved \$500,000 in heating costs and reduced its GHGs by 66%, in addition to saving millions of litres of water. The opening of the new sports centre will save an additional 6 million litres of water annually, for a total of 7 million litres of water.**

To start, the existing heating system was decentralized and the use of steam was phased out. Twelve mechanical rooms were set up across campus and 25 high-efficiency natural gas furnaces were installed. A condensation system reclaims the energy within an energy loop. The University also upgraded the lighting fixtures on campus, and installed and upgraded electronic controls in buildings, among other initiatives.

Eight million dollars were invested in this new system. The construction and testing took place over a 3-year period in collaboration with the engineering firm Ameresco.

It was within Bishop's University's *Sustainable Development Action Plan* that a proactive decision was made to reduce its GHGs. The Sustainable Development Committee developed an action plan and recorded an inventory of GHGs. The most important step was the installation of the geothermal energy system for the heating and the air conditioning of 25 campus buildings and the new sports centre, which is currently under construction and scheduled to be operational by the end of 2014. The University has taken additional important steps including the collection of organic matter, the elimination of the sale of single-use water bottles on campus. In 2013 the University served as the athletes' village for the Canada Games and played a significant role in the "Sustainable Games" certification.

Mr. Goldbloom thanked the Government of Quebec, represented by Dr. Réjean Hébert, Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister responsible for the Estrie region, for its significant financial support, which made the achievement of this enormous environmental project possible. He also thanked Enviro-Accès and Manon Laporte, Chief Executive Officer, for awarding the University its *Carbon Care* certification.

"Bishop's University has been working diligently for many years to reduce its GHGs. Our GHG inventory has given us a clear picture of where we stand; with this tool, we can now monitor the performance of our new system for years to come. A dozen initiatives have already been implemented. This certification recognizes the important steps we have taken and encourages us to move forward. We are very proud to have met all of the requirements; it is a testament to our hard work and commitment to fight against climate change," stated Mr. Goldbloom.

He also highlighted the work by Ameresco and the Association des Gestionnaires de Parcs Immobiliers (AGPI). Mr. Goldbloom also thanked Gaz Métropolitain and Hydro-Québec for their financial contributions towards the accomplishment of this project.

In conclusion, he thanked everyone on campus who work tirelessly to make Bishop's University an innovative and environmentally responsible institution, especially the members of the Sustainable Development Committee, the Buildings & Grounds department, and its Director, Michel Caron.

Bishop's University has committed to reducing its fossil fuel consumption and to becoming a carbon neutral campus by 2016.

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For additional information :

Chantal Sneath  
Communications Officer  
Université Bishop's  
[csneath@ubishops.ca](mailto:csneath@ubishops.ca)  
819-822-9600, extension 2840

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2600 College St.

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