

# Fall 2014 Campus Sustainability Fund Proposal: Trip to the Biosphere in Montreal, QC



**Total amount of money requested:  
\$457.00**

Project Leader: Sierra Doucette

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

### **Goals:**

- To enhance student knowledge of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable development, and natural resource management.

### **Project Justification and Relevance:**

The Biosphere features exhibitions and activities which are entertaining and educational to better understand major environmental issues related to water, air, climate change, the sustainable development and responsible consumption. It is the only environment museum in North America.

The exhibitions currently offered at the Biosphere directly tie into curricula at Paul Smith's. The exhibitions that attendees will have the opportunity to see are:

- A Feast for the Senses (Outdoor exhibition)
- ONE | Outfits from a New Era
- Finding Balance
- + 1°C: What difference does it make?
- Renewable Energy: Time to Decide
- ECOLAB
- Current animated activities:
- Adaptation: The Winning Edge
- Oceans, drivers of climate Wanted: Pollinators

The building itself is also an example of a 'green' building. Although the building was built in 1995, it incorporates various alternative, sustainable technologies. It has wind turbines, green roofs, an indoor garden, a geothermal system, and a wastewater treatment plant.

### **Methods:**

- We will travel to the Biosphere via a PSC-owned van. A certified van driver, Gerard Smith, will drive the vehicle to and from the Biosphere.
- All 12 attendees must have a valid (not expired) passport to cross over the Canadian border.

## BUDGET AND TIMELINE:

Item	Cost
Entrance fee	\$12/person - 12 people - <b>\$144 total</b>
Lunch	\$20/person - 12 people - <b>\$240</b>
Parking	<b>\$16</b> (full day)
Mileage	\$0.50/mile - 114 miles - <b>\$57 total</b>
	<b>Total Cost: \$457</b>

### Mileage Justification:

- The address for the Biosphere building is:

Jean-Drapeau Park, 160 Chemin du Tour-de-L'Isle, St. Helen's Island

The shortest route from Paul Smith's College to the Biosphere is 183 km (about 114 miles). Paul Smith's College provides the van, but we will have to pay \$0.50 per mile. The mileage cost estimate provided in the above table is a slightly high estimate of the cost.

- The entrance fee total cost is also a high estimate. The Biosphere charges only \$10 per person for students 18 and older with a valid ID. I cannot get in contact with someone who speaks English, so I have been unable to determine if US students count. So I'm going with the higher price per person just in case that is what we are charged.

### Schedule (Saturday, November 8th, 2014):

- Leave PSC campus at **8:00 am**. It takes about 2 hours and 45 minutes to get to the Biosphere, including processing time at customs.
- Arrive at the Biosphere environment museum around 11:00 am. The building is open from 10 am to 5pm.
- Leave the Biosphere at 3:00 pm.
- Arrive back at Paul Smith's around **6:00 pm**.