George Brown College’s commitment to applied research in the Green Building Centre is part of a larger strategic focus on sustainability across the curriculum. Our work in advanced construction systems, green energy and computer-enabled, efficient buildings is augmented by a commitment to ensuring graduates from all College programs understand how sustainability relates to their work and their society. As part of this effort the College undertook an audit of sustainability teaching and learning content of all active programs of instruction. The goal of the audit was to render visible all courses that measure students’ acquisition of sustainability skills and knowledge. Every individual learning outcome from every program was assessed for sustainability content.

We now know which of our programs deliver sustainability skills and knowledge, and which specific courses this learning takes place in. As a result of this work we are better able to link our sustainable research mandate to broader industry productivity and graduate preparation.

RESULTS
Sustainability at the outcome level is occurs across all five College divisions.

Ontario’s Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, together with industry, has emphasized the need for graduates to have sustainability skills and knowledge. Integration of sustainability themes at the learning outcome level allows the College to do three key things:

• Provide highly relevant sustainability skills and knowledge to George Brown graduates which are valuable to their employers and communities
• Quantify sustainability-related teaching and learning across programs
• Recognize students’ sustainability skill and knowledge gains through an official “badging” initiative

GREEN BADGES
“Badges” are a way for students to show potential employers what skills and knowledge they bring to the work place, over and above their credential or transcript. Students who complete one of the courses that contain sustainability will receive an electronic badge for their LinkedIn profile, online portfolio or other social media site. This will help graduates translate what they have learned to the workplace, and help employers see that our graduates come not just with the requisite technical skills, but also the people and innovation skills needed to translate these skills into social and economic productivity.

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