

**REPORT
OF THE
UHEW Environment Committee
Fall 2019**

Committee members:

Marc Blanchard (Chair)

Robert Chafe

Richard May

The Environment Committee has met once since our last National Council meeting (September 27, 2019) but has corresponded throughout the summer on a number of issues.

We continue to focus on a number of projects.

Robert Chafe has taken the lead on the Green Teams project. This project will target our employees at work with the goal of building workplace teams to encourage green practices on the job. We hope to be able to work with the employer and build on a similar program with Environment and Climate Change Canada. We would like to be able to spread this program to all departments we represent. We will use the UHEW website to help share activities from across the country. We would also like to use these teams to help build a network of environmentally conscious members across the country to help us implement and promote our other projects/campaigns. Our goal is to have 25% of our Locals across the country involved by the end of this year. We would like to have all RVP's promote the idea AGM this cycle. We hope to be able to provide all RVP's with talking points to promote the initiative by October-November of this year.

To target our employees at home, Richard May continues to lead our initiative to encourage Green activities in or around people's homes. He worked hard to develop a number of suggestions and ideas that were sent out to Locals across the country in May in preparation for what we were calling "Environment Month" (June). We had asked that members send pictures back to the committee to demonstrate some of their "green activities" but we were disappointed in the response. This was the first year of our activity and we will review and make some changes to see if we can improve participation for next year.

Our final project is being led by Marc Blanchard. It is intended to be a national campaign and we hope to be able to leverage funds from the PSAC Joint Campaign budget line item. The campaign is called "Goodbye Plastics" and is modelled after the DFO campaign of the same name which recently came to an end last year. We continue to work with DFO and would like to

expand upon the good work that they did. The campaign will challenge both our members and our government to eliminate single use plastics and increase recycling efforts where we cannot eliminate plastic. We will provide alternative products and practical ideas to allow people to easily make the transition. We have submitted a resolution to the National Health and Safety (and Environment) conference asking for support. If successful there we hope to be able to access funds through the PSAC.

The committee has also taken on the challenge of preparing a new policy on single use and limited use plastic for UHEW. We have been working through the summer and will meet prior to the Fall National Council meeting to finalize the wording. We hope to be able to present the policy at council.

Go Green!

Respectfully submitted by
Marc Blanchard
Committee Chair