

**REPORT  
OF THE  
UHEW ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
Spring 2020**

Committee members:

Marc Blanchard (Chair)

Robert Chafe

Richard May

The Environment Committee continues to correspond via email and meet through teleconferences though work schedules have made it difficult for the group to meet as a whole.

We continue to focus on a number of projects.

Brother 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.

To target our employees at home, Brother Richard May continues to lead our initiative to encourage Green activities in or around people's homes. He has worked hard to develop a number of suggestions and ideas that will be sent out to Locals across the country in May in preparation for our second "Environment Month" (June). We will again ask that members send pictures back to the committee to demonstrate some of their "green activities".

Our final project is being led by Brother Marc Blanchard. It is intended 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 in 2019. We hope 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 received some conflicting messages from the PSAC with respect to the proper receiving body for our proposal so things have been somewhat

delayed in receiving a response from the PSAC. The proposal has now formally been submitted to the PSAC AEC and we are expecting a discussion with the PSAC Environment Committee if we are successful at the AEC.

Lastly the committee created and was successful in having Council pass a new policy on Single Use and Limited Use Plastics. The policy requires that the Component and it's Locals eliminate or limit the use and purchase of all single use and limited use plastics when conducting the business of the union.

Go Green!