

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK Climate Change Action Plan

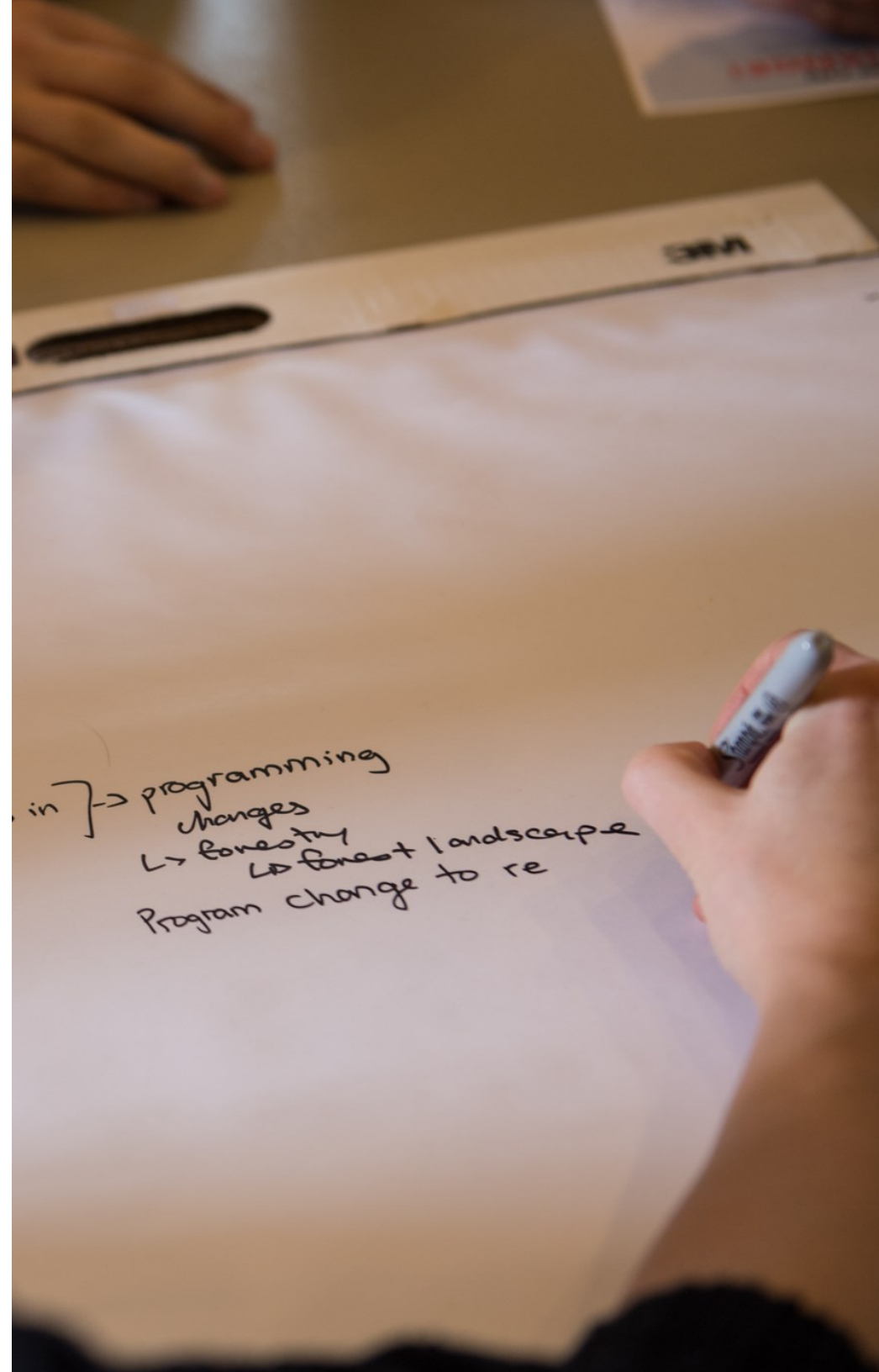


Engagement Sessions

March 18th, 2017

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INTRODUCTION



In 2016, UNB hired a Climate Change Officer with funds awarded by New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund and the UNB Sustainability operating budget to lead the initiative of creating a Climate Change Action Plan. The plan will be institutional wide, representing both the Fredericton and Saint John campuses, with targets outlined and campus specific strategies developed to meet these established targets.

In November 2016, UNB Sustainability hosted a Climate Change Engagement Session. From this session, it was determined that energy, transportation, food systems, waste management, and education and programs are viewed as top priorities for a Climate Change Action Plan. On March 18th, UNB Sustainability hosted focus groups to discuss the priority areas. This information will feed into the development of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Previous Session Summary

The November 2016 Engagement Session was held on both the Fredericton and Saint John session and posed the following questions over a two hour period:

1. How do you think climate change will influence UNB?
2. What actions can help us address climate change on the UNB campus in the next 10 years?
3. What should our next priority actions be for 2017-2020?



Energy, transportation, food, systems, waste management, and education and programs were areas that were discussed frequently at the engagement sessions. These are areas the students, staff, faculty, and community members see as potential areas of concern where UNB could make improvements to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

METHODOLOGY

The engagement session was developed in a focus group style narrowing in on the topics of energy, transportation, food systems, waste management, and education and programs. The purpose of this session was to determine how individuals view the university's environmental performance and gauge their knowledge surrounding university programs and practices. Participants were posed a series of questions surrounding how respective campuses are currently performing. This was followed by educational presentations on the 5 main focus areas. Each of these areas consisted of two different presentations: one to provide broad information on the topic, describing what New Brunswick is currently doing to adapt and mitigate to climate change, and a presentation on what the university is currently doing.

The session was held on March 18th, 2017 on both campuses. The two campuses were connected via video conferencing.

The following questions were asked both before and after the educational presentations:

1. How do you feel UNB is performing in the following areas in the context of climate change, mitigation and adaptation? Energy, Sustainable Food Systems, Transportation, Waste Management, and Education and Programs.
2. What information is this ranking based on?
3. How Confident are you in your ability to rate this focus area?
4. Rate the focus areas in order of importance for a Climate Change Action Plan.



Michael Bourque, the director of integrated resource planning at NB Power, provided a presentation on energy within the province of New Brunswick. Disha Bisto, the Sustainable Energy Analyst on the UNB Fredericton campus, provided a presentation on energy on the Fredericton campus. When individuals were asked how they felt the UNB Fredericton campus is performing in the area of energy both before and after the presentations, majority of individuals indicated that they considered the performance as average.

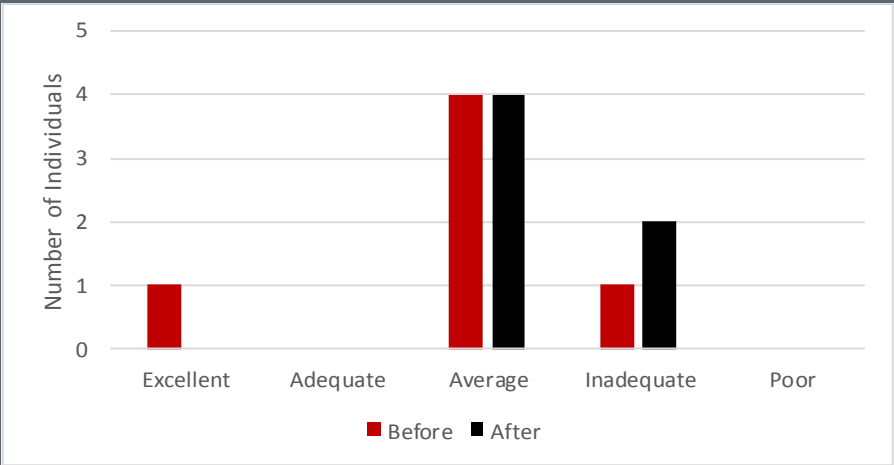


Individuals were asked what information their ranking was based on both before and after the presentations. Before the presentation, majority of individuals responded that they had very little factual knowledge or their ranking was based on conversations around energy. When individuals were asked how confident they felt ranking energy, a clear shift can be seen in the responses as individuals felt more confident after the energy presentations.

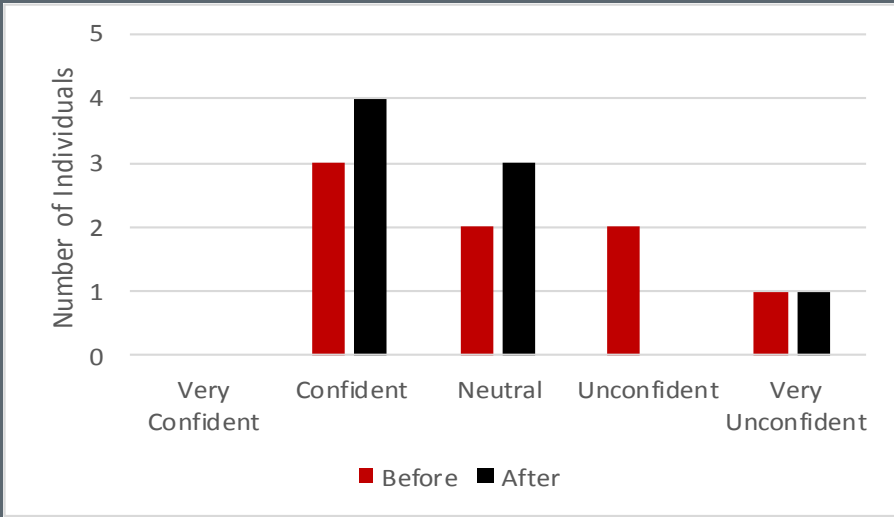
During the round table sessions, individuals indicated the desire for the campus to utilize renewable energy, education around energy saving initiatives, and advocate for NB Power to move towards more renewable energy.

FREDERICTON ENERGY RESULTS

How do you feel UNBF is performing in the area of energy before and after the presentations.

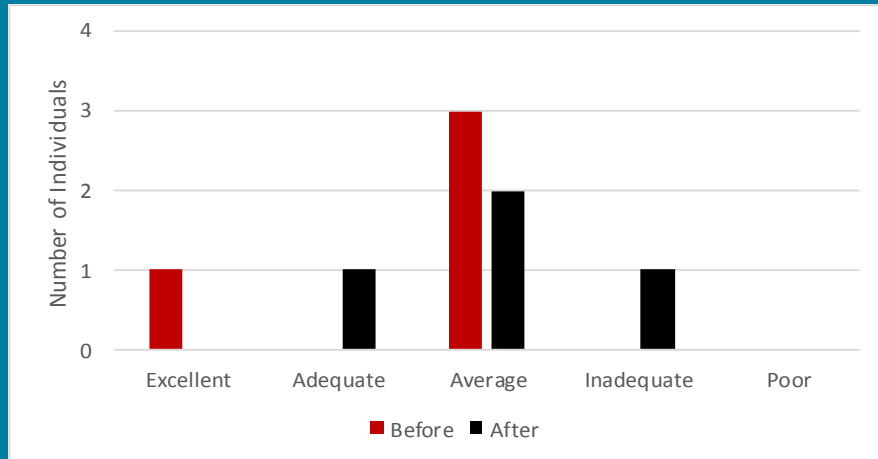


How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of energy before and after the presentations.

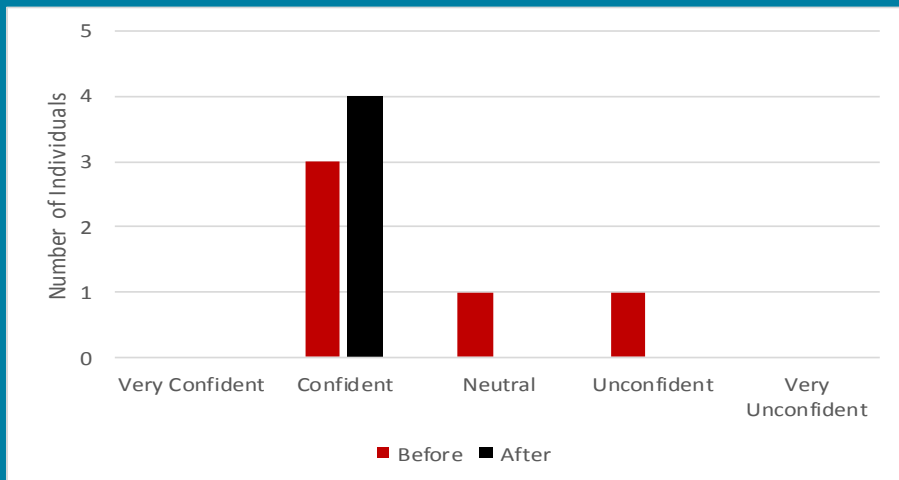


SAINT JOHN ENERGY RESULTS

How do you feel UNBSJ is performing in the area of energy before and after the presentations.



How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of energy before and after the presentations.



Kevin Simpson, the Director of Facilities Management at UNB Saint John, provided a presentation on energy initiatives on the Saint John campus. This presentation was followed by the presentation by Michael Bourque from NB Power. When individuals were asked how the UNB Saint John campus is performing in the area of energy before and after the presentation, most individuals felt the campus' performance is average.

Individuals were asked what information their ranking was based on both before and after the presentations. Before the presentation, majority of individuals responded that they had very little factual knowledge or their ranking was based on bench marking against other universities. After the presentation, the response was based around electricity and heating usage. When individuals were asked how confident they felt ranking energy, all individuals felt confident after the presentation.

During the round table session, individuals indicated the need for lights to be turned off when not in use, heat control, weather sensors for automatic heat adjustment, and powering down electronics when not in use.



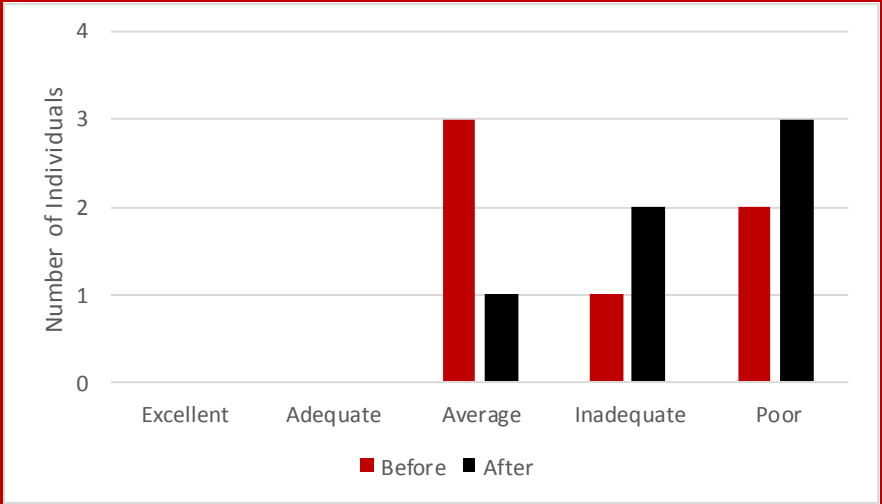
Yuri Yevdokimov, a professor in the engineering and economics departments, provided a presentation on transportation within the province of New Brunswick. He also summarized transportation initiatives on the UNB Fredericton and Saint John campuses. When individuals were asked how they felt the UNB Fredericton campus is performing in the area of transportation both before the presentations, majority of individuals indicated that they considered the performance as average. After the presentation on energy, majority of individuals indicated the performance as poor. When individuals were asked how confident they are in their ability to rank transportation, majority of individuals indicated neutral confidence before the presentation and confident after the presentation. The confidence when answering these questions was largely based on experience with sustainable transportation on campus.

During the round table session, individuals expressed interest in the integration of car pooling opportunities, increased electric vehicle infrastructure, making the campus more bike friendly and increasing incentives for bike riding.

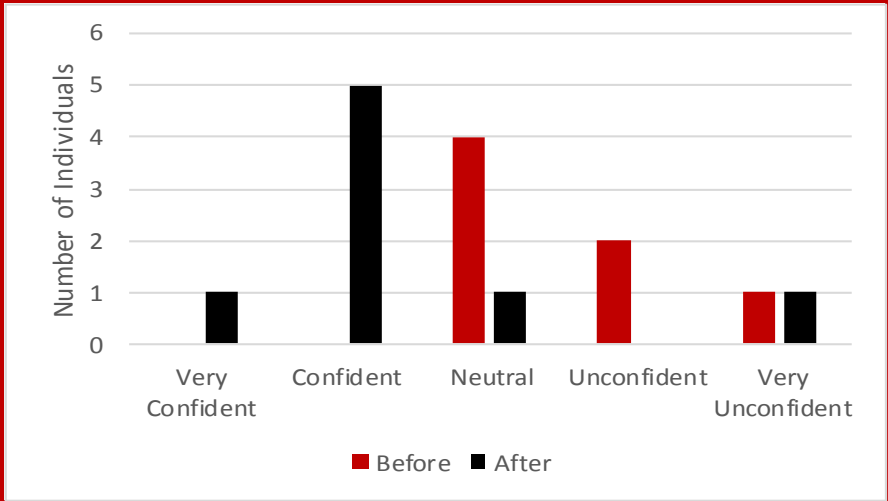


FREDERICTON TRANSPORTATION RESULTS

How do you feel UNBF is performing in the area of transportation before and after the presentations.

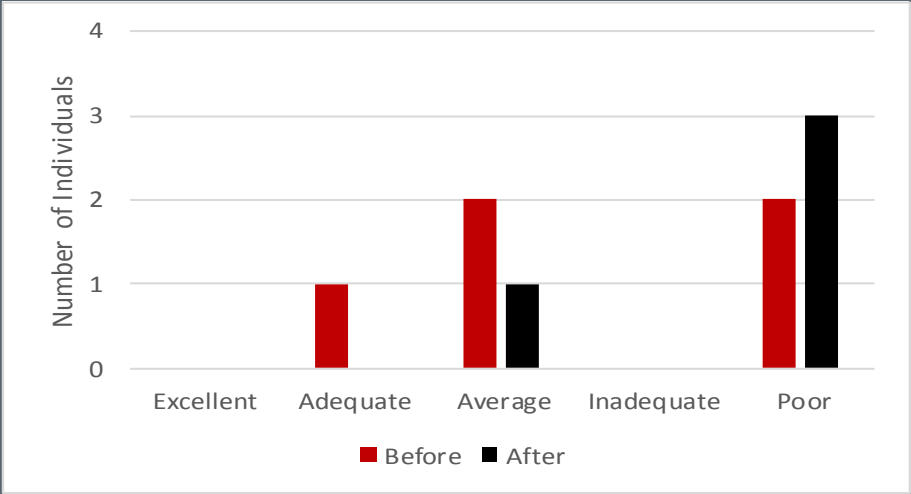


How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of transportation before and after the presentations.

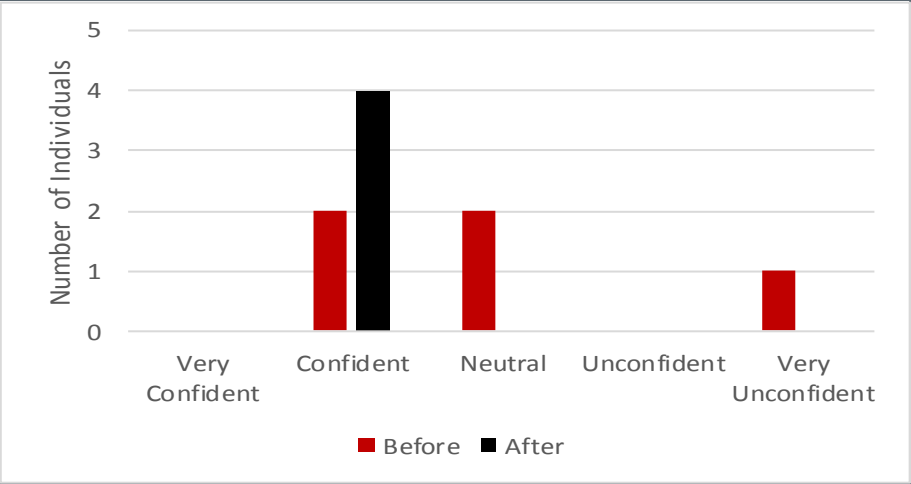


SAINT JOHN TRANSPORTATION RESULTS

How do you feel UNBSJ is performing in the area of transportation before and after the presentations.



How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of transportation before and after the presentations.



Individuals were asked how they felt the Saint John campus is performing in the area of transportation. The initial response was split between a ranking of average and poor. Following the presentation by Yuri Yevdokimov, majority of individuals ranked transportation as performing poor. Overall, individuals felt more confident in their ability to rank transportation after the presentation. This ranking was largely based on personal experience with transportation on campus.

During the round table session, individuals discussed the opportunity for a bike share program, improving safety for cyclists, a car pool system, hybrid or electric car parking incentives, anti idling policies, and promotion of bus usage.



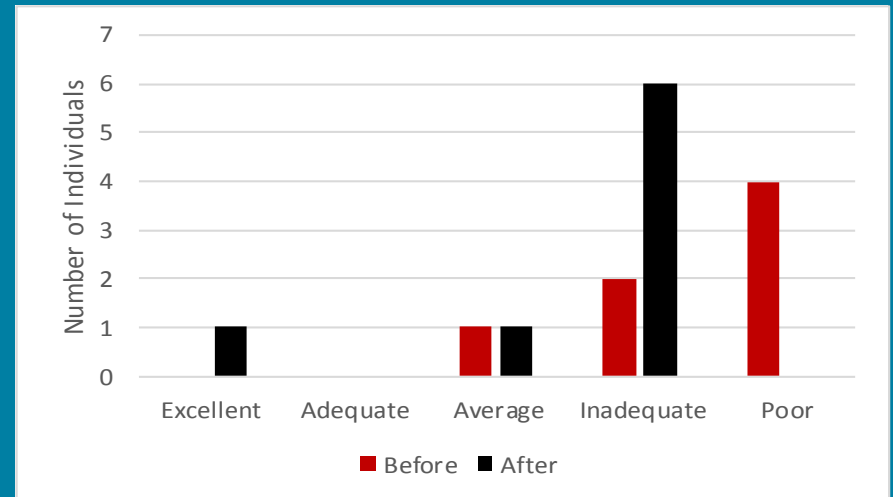


Morgan Brophy, a Masters in Environmental Management student, provided a presentation on sustainable food initiatives on the Fredericton campus. When individuals were asked how they felt the campus was performing in the area of food, before the presentation majority of individuals indicated poor. Following the presentation, individuals indicated that the Fredericton campus' food initiatives were inadequate. The majority of confidence in people's responses remained confident following the presentation. Individuals expressed they are directly engaged in food systems so they felt confident ranking this area.

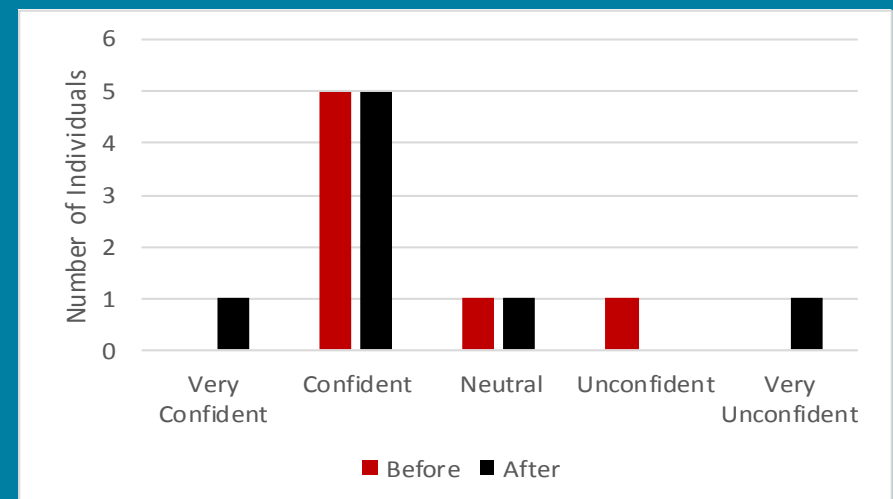
During the round table session, individuals expressed interest in increased education regarding food choices and labelling, a campus run café and market, introducing composting, and increasing food quality.

FREDERICTON SUSTAINABLE FOOD RESULTS

How do you feel UNBF is performing in the area of sustainable food before and after the presentations.

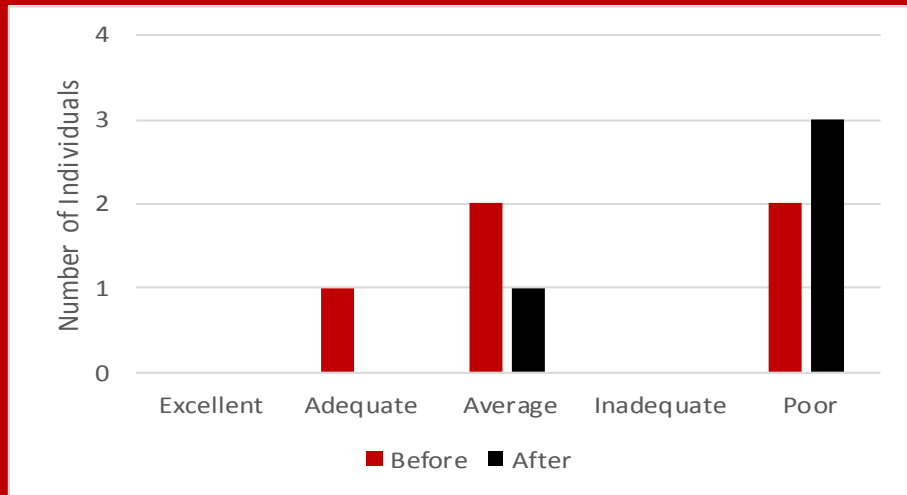


How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of sustainable food before and after the presentations.

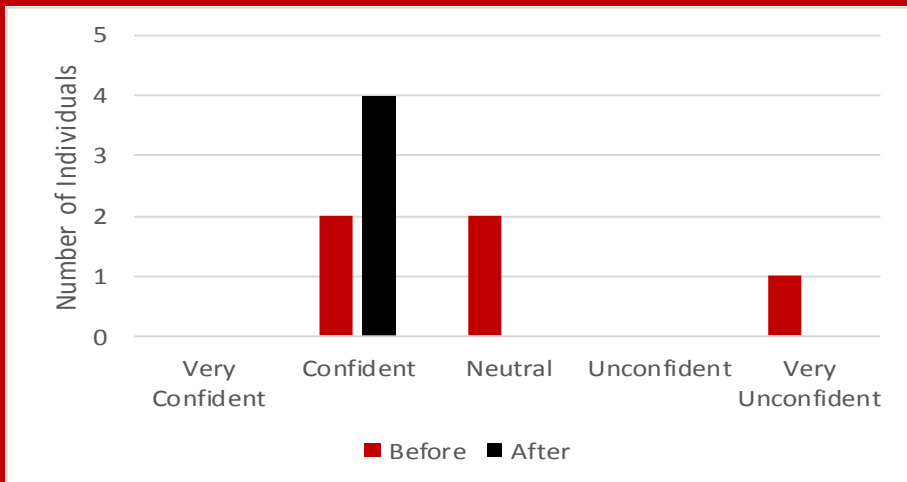


SAINT JOHN SUSTAINABLE FOOD RESULTS

How do you feel UNBSJ is performing in the area of sustainable food before and after the presentations.



How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of sustainable food before and after the presentations.



Greg Puncher, a post doctorate and faculty representative for the Green Society, provided a presentation on sustainable food systems on the UNB Saint John campus. Before the presentation, majority of individuals indicated that the campus is performing average. After the presentation however, majority of individuals indicated that the campus performance is poor. Following the presentation, all participants felt confident in their ability to rank the focus area.

During the round table session, individuals discussed the opportunity for proper composting, reduction in packaging and waste, banning water bottle sales, increase of fair trade products, on campus food production, and raising awareness and creating a culture around food education.



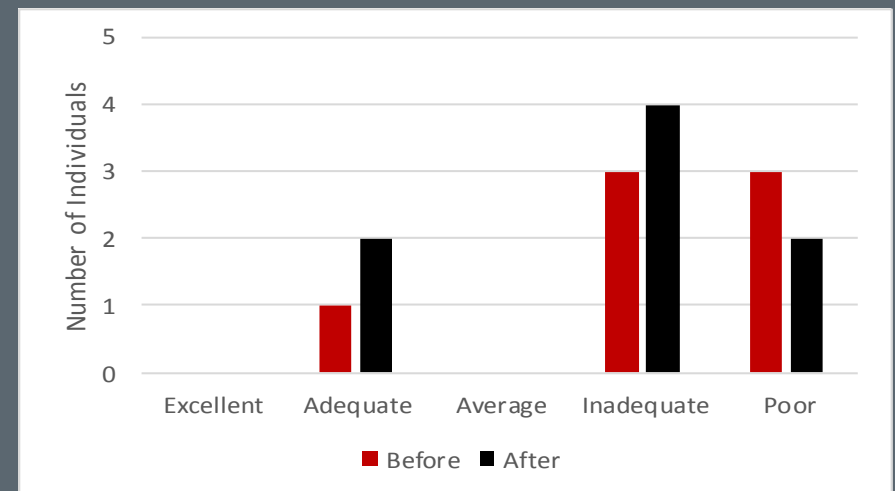
Jill Pelkey, the Climate Change Officer on the UNB Fredericton campus, provided a presentation on waste management within the City of Fredericton and the City of Saint John, as well as a summary of waste initiatives on both campuses. When individuals on the Fredericton campus were asked how they felt the campus was performing with relation to waste management, majority of individuals indicated either inadequate or poor performance both before and after the presentation. Majority of individuals felt confident in their ability to rank waste management based on observation.

During the round table session, individuals indicated the need for education surrounding bin use on campus and city wide opportunities for recycling, introducing composting, reduce the number of single garbage bins and increase the number of 3 sort bins, and increase the use of electronic documents.

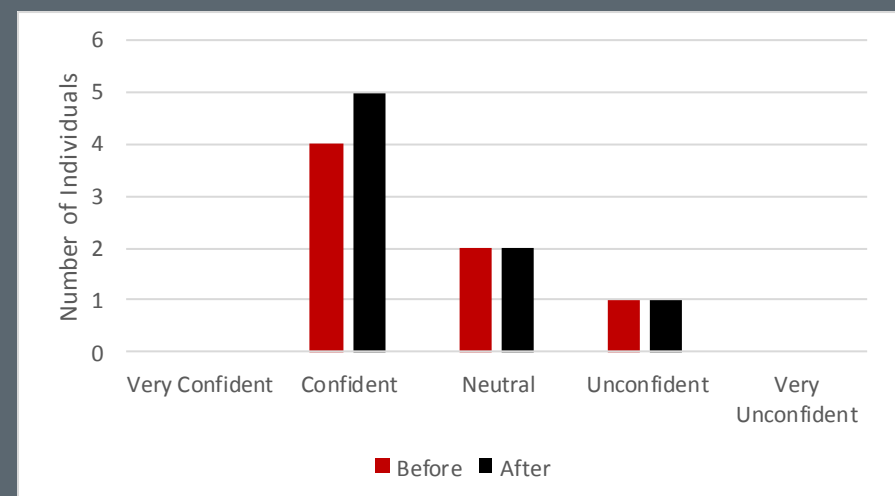


FREDERICTON WASTE MANAGEMENT RESULTS

How do you feel UNBF is performing in the area of waste management before and after the presentations.

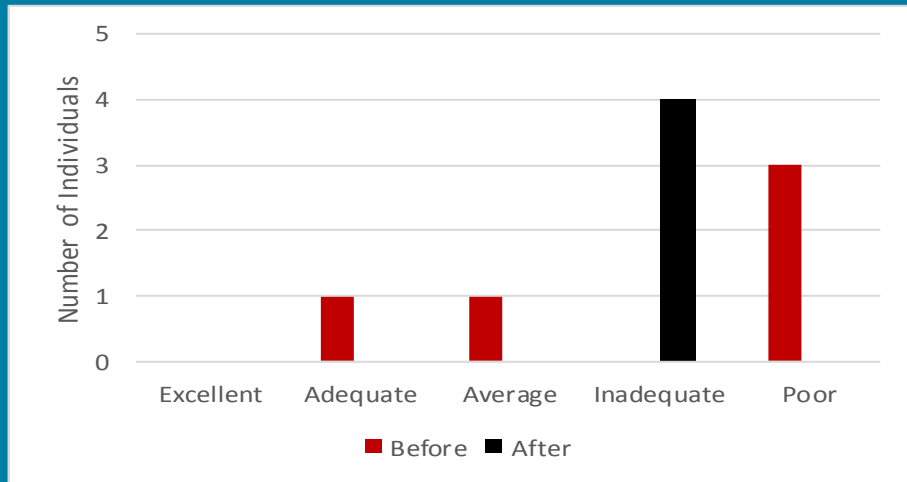


How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of waste management before and after the presentations.

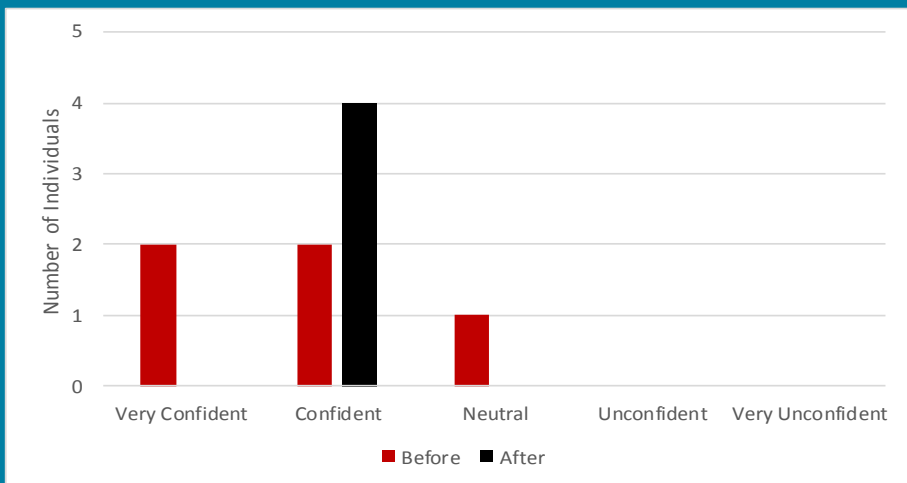


SAINT JOHN WASTE MANAGEMENT RESULTS

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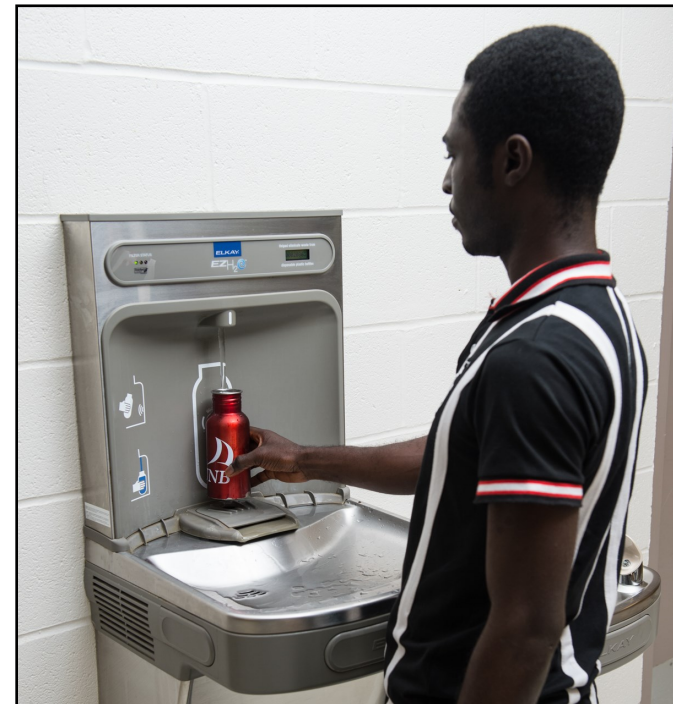


How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of waste management before and after the presentations.



Individuals were asked how they felt the Saint John campus is performing in the area of waste management. The initial response was that the campus is performing poorly. Following the presentation by Jill Pelkey, majority of individuals ranked waste management as performing inadequate. Overall, individuals felt more confident in their ability to rank waste management after the presentation. This ranking was largely based on personal experience with waste management on campus.

During the round table session, individuals indicated the potential to expand composting on campus, development of an incentive plan with campus coffee providers to encourage individuals to bring their own mug, more recycling bins, increasing centralized bins, and increase in frequency of the campus electronic waste recycling event.



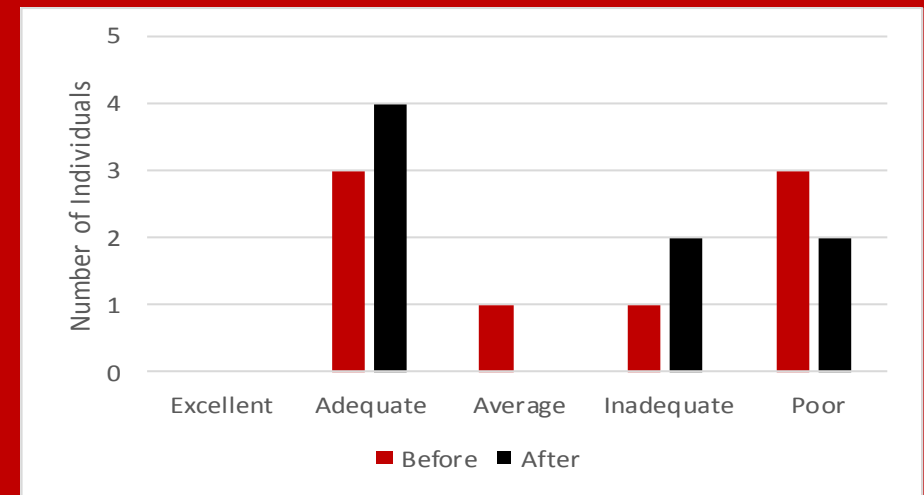
Danielle Smith, the UNB Sustainability Coordinator on the Fredericton campus, provided a presentation on education and programming available on both UNB campuses and in the province. The presentation was focused around opportunities to increase education on climate change and related programming that is accessible. Before the presentation, individuals felt that education and programming opportunities on the Fredericton campus as split between poor and adequate. After the presentation, majority of individuals ranked the educational opportunities on campus as adequate. Overall, majority of individuals felt confident with their ability to rank education both before and after the presentation. These rankings were based on personal interactions with programming on campus.

During the round table session individuals expressed interest in competitions among faculties to make environmental changes, increase environmental education in every faculty, and increasing the opportunity for experiential learning through practicums and useful experiences in classes.

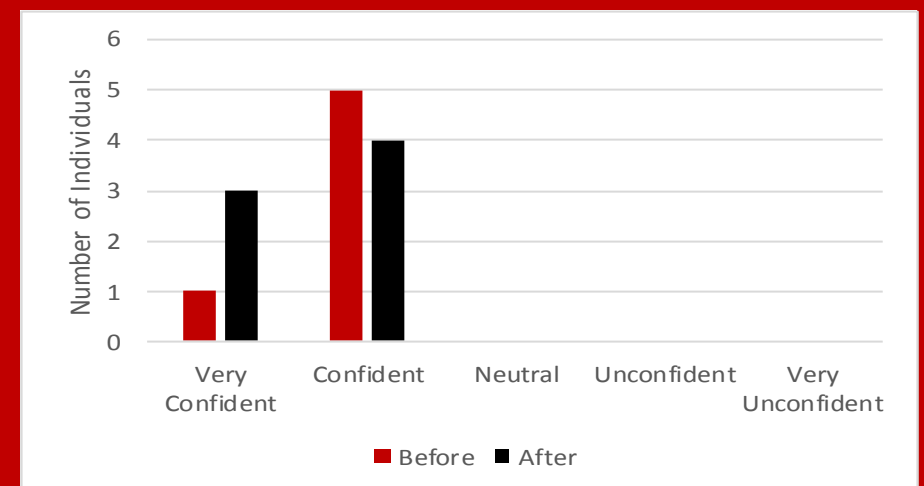


FREDERICTON EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING RESULTS

How do you feel UNBF is performing in the area of education and programming before and after the presentations.

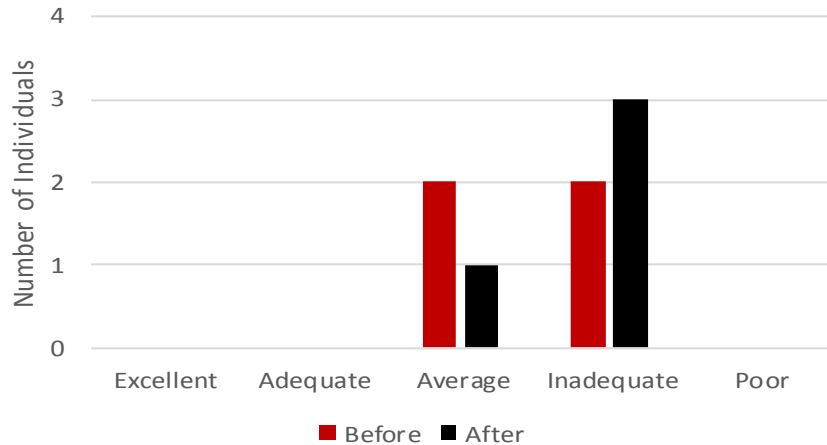


How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of education and programming before and after the presentations.

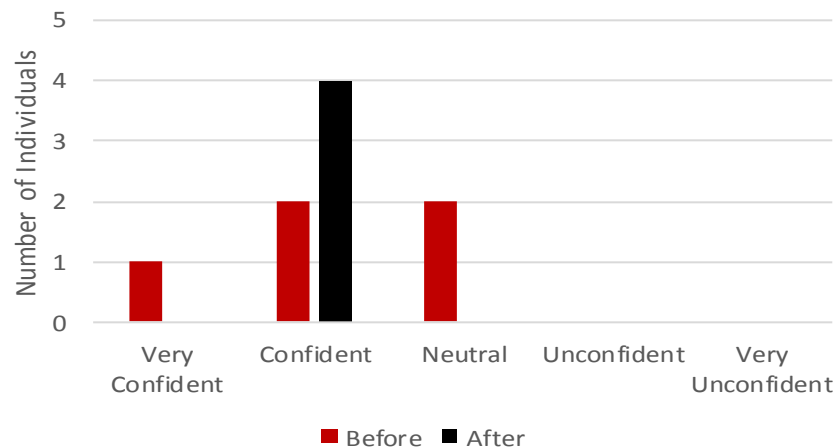


SAINT JOHN EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING RESULTS

How do you feel UNBSJ is performing in the area of education and programming before and after the presentations.



How confident are you in your ability to rank the area of education and programming before and after the presentations.



Individuals were asked how they felt the Saint John campus is performing in the area of education and programming. The initial response was split between performing average and inadequate. Following the presentation by Danielle Smith, majority of individuals ranked education and programming as performing inadequate. Overall, individuals felt more confident in their ability to rank waste management after the presentation. This ranking was largely based on personal experience with education and programming on campus.

During the round table session individuals discussed the opportunity to implement innovative ways of engaging students on issues and educating, increasing environmental awareness events, hosting Lunch and Learn events, and organizing sustainable campus tours.

PRIORITIES FOR BOTH CAMPUSES

Individuals were asked both before and after the presentations to prioritize the following five focus areas based on how important they are in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation: energy, transportation, sustainable food systems, waste management, and education and programs.

SAINT JOHN

BEFORE:

Energy
Education & Programs
Waste Management
Food Systems
Transportation



AFTER:

Energy
Waste Management
Education & Programs
Food Systems
Transportation

FREDERICTON

BEFORE:

Education & Programs
Energy
Food Systems
Waste Management
Transportation



AFTER:

Education & Programs
Energy
Transportation
Food Systems
Waste Management

CONCLUSION

On the Saint John campus, energy was deemed a top priority to focus on to mitigate and adapt to climate change. During the round table session, individuals indicated the need for lights to be turned off when not in use, heat control, weather sensors for automatic heat adjustment, and powering down electronics when not in use.

On the Fredericton campus, education and programming was deemed the top priority to focus on to mitigate and adapt to climate change. During the round table session individuals expressed interest increasing environmental education in every faculty and increasing the opportunity for experiential learning through practicums and useful experiences in classes.

UNB Sustainability would like to thank the Environmental Trust Fund for making this project possible!

The Climate Change Action Plan Committee will take this information into consideration during the next stage of creating the institutional Climate Change Action Plan. During the 2017-2018 year, the committee will be focused on establishing targets and strategies for each campus. The projected completion date of the plan is April 2019.



Visit our website at www.unb.ca/green
If you have any questions, please reach out to us at sustain@unb.ca