CIVE230 – Engineering and Sustainable Development: ebook

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I teach engineering and sustainable development and the course introduces big topics like the United Nation Sustainable Development goals and the Canadian Engineering Grant Challenges, but also introduces very granular topics around air and land and water and waste. And so there was an opportunity to create a sense of community in the class, but also give students a learning activity where they have more tangible understanding of sustainability, explore a city of their choice where sustainability issues come together. And so students were tasked with making a contribution to sustainability by providing one slide that forms the basis for this e-book.

The slide was a template that was provided to them with instructions to include a title, the city and location, an image, and some bulleted points that demonstrate the sustainability challenge. And they were encouraged to be very quantitative in that description. Every student submitted one slide and they were compiled together to form the e-book called The Sustainability Contribution Project, which is published free and open source on Open Education Resource Commons, OER Commons.

This allowed a great opportunity for the class to come together. It was an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning because they saw each other's contributions, but it was also an opportunity not just for the students to come together, but the teaching team and the class reps as well. And in addition to this e-book, there were quotes that were pulled from a survey of the students at the beginning of the course and it gave an opportunity for reflection and these quotes also formed the basis for every chapter in that e-book.

Overall, students co-created content together. And as a bonus of this activity, every student took so much pride in putting together their one slide, knowing that it would make it to the e-book that would eventually be published.