

About MEC

Established in 1971, MEC is Canada's go-to place for technical outdoor gear, know-how and inspiration. Combining high-quality apparel and equipment with expert advice and firsthand experience, MEC supports a wide range of activities, including camping, snowsports, watersports, cycling, climbing, hiking, running and travel.

Internship Achievements

- Over 16,110 kilometres logged for Bike to Work Week
- Amassed over 1,845 views on 10 internal blog posts
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative survey on waste contamination across MEC stores
- Researched and proposed potential sourcing statements for 60 countries



- Sourced 100 Canadian vendors for MEC's repair and reuse program
- Supported IT department in donating 59 computers that diverted e-waste
- Achieved over 65 active participants for MEC Plastic Free July Challenge

Roles & Responsibilities

- Managed Store Sustainability Ambassadors (SSA) program across 21 store locations
- Researched country sourcing risks for MEC Label and wholesale brands
- Supported in MEC's adoption of the Higg Index
- Researched and wrote 10 internal blog posts on sustainability news and resources
- Developed repair program vendor resources



- Organized and executed sustainability engagements for 1,500 staff across Canada
- Supported organizing internal Lunch & Learn on GHG emissions
- Developed internal Sustainability webpage on SharePoint

Did you know?

Since 2008, MEC has disclosed the names and addresses of factories manufacturing MEC Label products

100% of cotton in MEC Label clothing is organically grown

By 2025, 50% of MEC Label clothing will be made in a Fair Trade Certified factory. Right now, we're at 14%

MEC had the first and second retail stores in Canada to comply with a Natural Resources Canada C2000 Green Building Standard

MEC eliminated single-use shopping bags from stores in 2008

Challenges in Retail

- Navigating human/environmental compliance and reporting challenges within the supply chain
- Managing employees across multiple time zones
- Limited leverage with wholesale partners to impact GHG emissions/waste/material targets
- Limited human and financial capital to work with
- Changing legislative environment

Key Takeaways

- Sustainability within the retail landscape is challenging due to competing stakeholder interests
- Waste reduction and management in retail are essential but often limited based on store jurisdiction
- Social and environmental concerns within the supply chain require continued advocacy, support and resources
- Consumers are ready for retail sustainability and are looking to stores like MEC to lead



Early 1970s - 2013

2013 - 2021

2021

"We inspire and enable everyone to lead active outdoor lifestyles."