

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



Early 1970s - 2013





Mountain Equipment Company

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

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

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

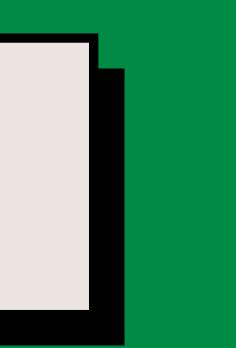
100% of cotton in MEC Label clothing is organically grown

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

Key Takeaways



MScSM

Alena Blanes Sustainability Intern

Did you know?

• 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

