

Environmental Achievement Award

Blake Dunphy

Recipient of the 2022 Environmental Achievement Award, Blake Dunphy has been in the food business for 26 years and was the store manager at Leduc Co-op from 2016 to 2022 before moving on to the company's head office.

Noting the vast quantities of waste produced by grocery stores, Blake was keen to look for alternatives to landfill disposal. Under his direction, the store implemented organic waste diversion programs that made Leduc Co-op a community leader in environmental consciousness.

The first program was a partnership with GFL Environmental, which started delivering bins for organic waste that could be used for composting. Next, Blake partnered with six local farmers who arranged to pick up older produce to feed their livestock. Food that is close to expired but still safe to consume is donated to the Food Bank and the Leduc Hub. A recently implemented program diverts cooking oil from the deli and bakery for use as biofuel. Collectively, these efforts have allowed Leduc Co-op to reduce its waste collection from once every week to once every three weeks.

Blake's efforts at Leduc Co-op raised environmental awareness and implemented positive change. He hopes to use his experience to promote corporate sustainability on a larger scale, encouraging other stores to implement similar programs.